



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO  
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET  
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Dr Tuomas Martikainen  
Åbo Akademi  
presents his work

## Immigrant Religions and Neoliberal Governance

at the  
CEREN Colloquium  
Monday 30 March 2009, 4:15–5:45 p.m.  
at Pohjoinen Hesperiankatu 15 A (buzzer “SSKH”)  
Welcome!

Issues related to migration, security and integration are currently among the top priorities of European states. Lately, ‘religion’ as something separate from ‘culture’, ‘ethnicity’, ‘nationality’ and ‘race’ has emerged to the discussions of integration and security. Collective religious activity is among the most common forms of social organisation of immigrants. Immigrant communities have been analysed from a multiplicity of perspectives, but one area that has until recently received little attention is the relationship between local and national authorities, the welfare state and religious organisations of immigrant-origin. Martikainen casts doubt on existing, cutting-edge interpretations of religion in contemporary Europe, and asks whether these suffer from methodological nationalism and underestimate the role of minority religion governance structures. Furthermore, he argues that we are moving towards a neoliberal governance of religion that is based on a novel emergence of collective religious identities and communitarianism, urban groupism and the decreasing role of the state as the main governance structure. The emergence of large, migrant-origin communities of Muslims in Europe has speeded up the process.

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