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Tunisia

In what way is the minority an active democratic principle?

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Nadia Marzouki is a Research Fellow in the Mediterranean Program at the RSCAS. She received her PhD in political science from Sciences-Po, Paris in 2008. She has been a Postdoctoral fellow at the Council on Middle Eastern Studies, Yale University (2008-2010), and a visiting scholar at the University of Berkeley (2004-2005) and at Princeton University (2005-2006). Her work examines public controversies about Islam in Europe and the United States, and about Evangelical Christianity and religious freedom in North Africa. She is the author of *L'Islam, une religion américaine?* (Paris, Le Seuil, 2013). She is also co-editing a book with Olivier Roy, on *Religious conversions in the Mediterranean World*, (Palgrave/Macmillan, publication planned for Winter 2013).

Zoom

***Religious Conversions in the Mediterranean World* (Seuil, 2011)** with Olivier Roy (*Palgrave Macmillan, 2013*)

While globalization and the European construction increasingly undermine the model of the nation-state in the Mediterranean world, conversions reveal the capacity of religion to disrupt, and unsettle previous understandings of political and social relations. Converts' claims and practice are often met with the hostility of the state and the public while converts can often be perceived either as traitors or as unconscious and weak tools of foreign manipulation.

Based on first-hand ethnographical research from several countries throughout the Mediterranean region, this book is the first of its kind in studying and analyzing contemporary conversions and their impact on recasting ideas of nationalism and citizenship. In doing so, this interdisciplinary study confronts historical, anthropological, political science and sociological approaches which offers an insight into the national, legal and political challenges of legislating for religious minorities that arise from conversions. Moreover, the specific examination of contemporary religious conversion contributes more widely to debates about the delinking of religion and culture, globalization, and secularism.

Bibliography

***Religious Conversions in the Mediterranean World* (Seuil, 2011)** with Olivier Roy (*Palgrave Macmillan, 2013*)