

Dear Madam, Sir,

During the Hivos Knowledge Week 2008 academics and practitioners jointly offer you a wide array of activities to debate, inspire, rethink and critically reflect on international cooperation in transition. You are cordially invited to attend a public lecture organised by the Hivos/ Kosmopolis Knowledge Programme on Promoting Pluralism:

Pluralism or Unitarianism? Perspectives from the Qur'an.

by Professor Nasr Abu Zayd

Date: Tuesday 2nd of December 2008
Venue: Theater De Regentes, Weimarstraat 63, The Hague.

Central question addressed in this lecture is *to what extent the Qur'an worldview endorses or inhibits Pluralism*. Professor Abu Zayd will present and analyse the existing tension and contradictions in the Qur'anic passages and statements from a historical perspective. He will offer a critical explanation of the post-Qur'anic classical views – legal, theological as well as mystical and philosophical – to see if a new interpretation of the Qur'an is plausible.

Mr. Halim El Madkouri (FORUM) will react on Professor Abu Zayd and relate this lecture to current debates on pluralism, religion and the public domain in the Netherlands. The audience is then invited to join the discussion.

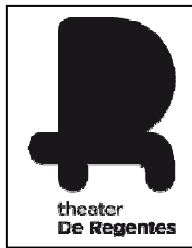
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| Programme: | 15.00 | Arrival, coffee and tea |
| | 15.30 - 16.00 | Lecture by Professor Nasr Abu Zayd |
| | 16.00 - 16.25 | Discussant: Mr. Halim El Madkouri |
| | 16.25 - 16.45 | Discussion |
| | 16.45 - 16.55 | Launch website Knowledge Programme on Promoting Pluralism |
| | 17.00 | Drinks |

If you would like to attend this lecture, you are kindly requested to send an e-mail to info@hivos.net. For more information on the Knowledge Programme on Promoting Pluralism, see http://www.hivos.nl/english/english/themes/knowledge_programme



Professor Nasr Abu Zayd (1943, Tanta, Egypt) holds the *Ibn Rushd chair* on Humanism and Islam at the University for Humanistics (Utrecht). He is an internationally recognised expert on modern Islamic thought, critically approaching classical and contemporary Islamic discourses. He aims to suggest a theory of hermeneutics that might enable Muslims to build a bridge between their own tradition and the modern world of freedom, equality, human rights, democracy and globalisation. Professor Nasr Abu Zayd got political asylum in the Netherlands in 1995, after several years of severe religious prosecution and finally a formal court decision that led to his apostasy in Egypt.

Directions to *De Regentes*



Theater De Regentes
Weimarstraat 63
Den Haag
Phone: 070-3637798
www.deregentes.nl

Public Transport

From The Hague Central Station you can take Tram line 3 (to Loosduinen). The tram leaves from the platform upstairs; above the train platforms. They run every ten minutes, at 14.22h or 14.32h. Take off at stop *Conradkade Zuid*, which is on the Laan van Meerdervoort. Then walk for 6 minutes to Weimarstraat.

