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Jocelyne Cesari

“Islam and Democratization: Lessons Learned from the Arab Spring”

February 19, 2013

6:00 p.m.

2008 Richmond Center

With the demise of the Ben Ali and Mubarak regimes in Tunisia and Egypt, Islam's role in future regimes is a topic under considerable discussion. In light of current events, Dr. Cesari makes two counter intuitive claims. First, she broadens the approach of religion beyond ideas or beliefs by adopting an institutional approach. Second, she introduces State's actions and policies as a factor in the politicization of Islam. She will ground her demonstration in original data produced in 2011-2012 as the Minerva Chair at the National War College. The findings shed new light on secularity and the role of Islam in democratization process.

College of Fine Arts; Departments of Comparative Religion and Foreign Languages; Gender and Women's Studies Program; Office of the Provost.



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Jocelyne Cesari, Professor at the French National Center for Scientific Research in Paris, holds the 2011-12 Minerva Chair at the National Defense University in Washington DC.