The “Relaxed Muslims”: How Ethnic Minority Role Models Are Used by the Danish State

Sofie Pedersen

Thursday, June 22nd
11:00 am- 12:00 pm
UVic, Hickman Building, Room 110

In Denmark, the state sends ethnic minority youth, who are largely Muslim, into schools, where they are used strategically to inspire other ethnic minorities to “do like us”. This lecture addresses the main question of which role religion may play when minority youth are acting as officially sanctioned role models for the Danish state. It is an investigation of state-prescribed forms of being a “good Danish Muslim,” and how this notion is influencing the young Muslims taking part in the campaigns.

Sofie Pedersen is a PhD researcher at the Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark. In her PhD project The Welfare State and Visions of the Good Life – Subjectivity Formation among Young Muslim Students in Denmark, she explores the interaction of individual identity constructions with templates of being a good citizen given by the context of Danish welfare state.