The study group examines shared perspectives of Jews and Muslims for Europe. It investigates five specific controversies which illustrate the linkage of Muslim and Jewish culture and religion in a European context: Male circumcision, halal food and ritual slaughter, Islamophobia and Antisemitism, questions of identity in Europe and politics of memory. By bringing together scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds and national contexts, the initiative aims to uncover the philosophical, historical, theological, sociological and political layers of these controversies. The study group is based on the premise that the ongoing controversy on Islam and Muslim life in Europe cannot be seen as separate from debates on Jewish religion and culture. The group explores new pathways of living together in diverse societies and rethinks concepts of identity which link and divide religious and ethnic communities in Europe.

The study group is a joint project of the Istanbul Policy Center - Sabancı University - Stiftung Mercator Initiative and The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and has been initiated by Nilüfer Göle and Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin. The event is the second in a series of at least four events in Istanbul, Berlin, Jerusalem and Paris in 2014 and 2015.

Draft Program

09:45 - 10:00  Welcome
Cilly Kugelmann (Jewish Museum Berlin)
Daniel Grütjen (Istanbul Policy Center)
Gabriel Motzkin (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

10:00 - 11:00  Lessons Learned: Revising the Controversy on Male Circumcision
Introductory statements by
Nilüfer Göle (EHESS; 2014-15 Mercator-IPC Senior Fellow)
Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)
Cilly Kugelmann (Jewish Museum Berlin)

11:00 - 11:15  Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:30  Discussion: The Controversy on Halal and Kosher Foods and Ritual Slaughtering in Europe
With introductory statements by
Shai Lavi (Tel Aviv University)
Yasemin Shooman (The Jewish Museum Berlin)
Discussant
Gabriel Motzkin (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

12:30 - 14:15  Lunch break and tour of the exhibition “SNIP IT! Stances on Ritual Circumcision”

14:15 - 16:30  Discussion: Reconceptualizing Religious Norms, Rights and Practices in Europe

16:30 - 17:30  Open discussion between the group and curator Martina Lüdicke

17:30 - 18:00  Concluding Remarks
Participants in alphabetical order

1. Fatih Abay (European University Viadrina; EHESS)
2. Schirin Amir-Moazami (Free University Berlin)
3. Sultan Doughan (University of California, Berkeley)
4. Yochi Fischer (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)
5. Nilüfer Göle (EHESS; 2013-14 Mercator-IPC Senior Fellow)
6. Daniel Grütjen (Istanbul Policy Center)
7. Adam Klin-Oron (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)
8. Cilly Kugelmann (Jewish Museum Berlin)
9. Shai Lavi (Tel Aviv University)
10. Gabriel Motzkine (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)
11. Kerem Öktem (University of Graz)
12. Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)
13. Yasemin Shooman (The Jewish Museum Berlin)
14. Gökçe Yurdakul (Humboldt University of Berlin)