



# Lecture Series in Social Anthropology

Full  
Semester  
2025

Tuesday 7 October 2025 | 4.15 p.m. | Room AND-4-06

## Muslims Laboring for Islam: A Salafi Preaching Community in Niamey, Niger

**PD Dr. Abdoulaye Sounaye (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient)**

In their attempt to live and popularize the tradition of the Prophet Muhammad (*Sunna*), *Salafi* groups known locally as *Sunnance* (followers of the *Sunna*, people of the *Sunna*), have resorted to *wazu*, a gathering that brings them together to call to Islam (*da'wa*), but also to perform religious labor (*aikin adini*) in support of Salafism (*taimakon adini*). Focusing on a *Sunnance* group I have been following for the last ten years, I will discuss how *aikin adini* and *taimakon adini* acquire social materiality and translate as qualitative performance of religiosity. I will introduce the social organization of the group and the ways in which each of its segments understands its role and performs *aikin adini* / *taimakon adini*. I will argue that through these two concepts, *Sunnance* show social engagement and conceptual creativity. Their case reminds us of the significance of both conceptualization and translation as religious ideas and ideals are given social and historical materiality. How the *Sunna* of the Prophet, a key reference of Muslim religiosity across the world, is understood and put to work is a question that will be central to my presentation.

### Organization:

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Entrance free of charge.

Subject to change. For details see: <https://t.uzh.ch/1s7>

