

[The Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies](#) invites you  
to attend the fourth in its 2011 Public Workshop Series:

**‘Towards a Post-Islamist Religious Secularism in the Muslim World’**

**Associate Professor Lily Zubaidah Rahim, University of Sydney**

*Date: Wednesday 10 August, 2011*

*Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm*

*Venue: [Bankstown Campus](#) Building 23.G.41*

**ABSTRACT**

The political advancements of Muslim-majority secular-oriented states such as Indonesia and Turkey and ongoing protest movements in the Middle-East have highlighted the need for a conceptualisation of the socio-political shifts sweeping the Muslim World. These shifts are not exclusively secular or religious but represent an eclectic blurring of the secular and sacred. They also highlight a yearning for a political paradigm that accommodates the religious aspirations of Muslims whilst promoting democratic governance based on the principles of popular sovereignty and social justice. Recent political developments in the Muslim World highlight a deep disillusionment with and resistance to authoritarian modes of governance - both Islamic and secular. Significantly, various global surveys and qualitative studies on Muslim attitudes suggest that an eclectic form of religious secularism located within the post-Islamist framework of the quasi-secular democratic state are strongly endorsed by the Muslim masses. In keeping with these ideational shifts, many Islamist political parties appear to have pragmatically moderated their political stance. The presentation will examine the global shift in Muslim aspirations - in particular the dynamic phenomenon of post-Islamist religious secularity

**SPEAKER**

Associate Professor Lily Zubaidah Rahim teaches Southeast Asian Politics and Reformist Islam at the Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney. The Singapore Dilemma: The Political and Educational Marginality of the Malay Community, (Oxford University Press, 1998/2001) established her as a leading researcher on political and social developments in Singapore. The policy significance of The Singapore Dilemma led to its translation in 2004 by the Malaysian National Institute for Translation to the Malay language. Her second sole-authored book Singapore in the Malay World: Building and Breaching Regional Bridges (Routledge, 2009) focuses on Singapore’s mercurial relations with neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia. She is currently engaged in a global project on reformist Islam and secularism.

A Singaporean national, Lily Zubaidah’s international exposure includes extended periods of teaching and research in Malaysia, Singapore and The Netherlands. Her multidisciplinary research interests have been published in numerous international journals and book chapters. They include an eclectic range spanning from governance in authoritarian states, democratisation, ethnicity, regionalism and political Islam.