UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI L'ORIENTALE | DAAM DIPARTIMENTO ASIA, AFRICA E MEDITERRANEO

Centro Studi su Asia Centrale, Caucaso, Turchia, Tibet, Iran

CSACTI LECTURES (Autumn Semester 2026)

Restless Quietists

Muslim Forms of Life in Russia's Volga Region

Matteo Benussi (Ca' Foscari University)

26 novembre 2026, giovedì, ore 12.30-14.30

Pal. Corigliano, Antisala degli Specchi



(Image: Evgeny Feldman, Novaya Gazeta)

How does Islamic virtue become attractive to young urbanites in predominantly secular societies? What makes religion perturbing in the eyes of temporal authorities? Matteo Benussi explores both questions by putting the vicissitudes of grassroots scripturalist Islamic milieus in Russia's Tatarstan Republic in resonance with anthropological reflections on ethics and insights from post-Marxist and autonomist theory. Benussi provides a fine-grained ethnographic exploration into how post-Soviet pietists maneuver between imperial legacies, resurgent authoritarianism, and newfound economic opportunities, hankering for self-realization "in both this world and the next" through the pursuit of halal ways of living.

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