



## Invitation

**Tuesday, 11th March 2008, 6 p.m.**

### Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33  
14129 Berlin

**Lecture in Cooperation with Centre Marc Bloch,  
Berlin**

## **The Myth of Reformism and the Authoritarian Exercise of Power in Tunisia**

**Lecture: Dr. Béatrice Hibou (CERI-CNRS, Paris)**

In her reading of the transformations of the Tunisian economy, Béatrice Hibou focuses on the ambivalence of the modernization process, for example in the banking sector, and the coexistence of economic liberalization impulses with what she calls unsurpassable archaisms. Her research deals with the political economy of repression in Tunisia. Dr. Hibou's work consists of an analysis of the features of authoritarian power, using Weberian categorizations and the Foucaultian conception of power. With her concept of "dependency through indebtedness", she presents collective participation as integration in a fictional world, where various facets of state activism are mixed into the network of converging interests. For her, these mechanisms are nothing but the perpetuation modalities of an implicit social order composed of both constriction and adhesion. Béatrice Hibou calls this order a meticulous grid or net of fear sustained by the omnipresence of the police and the role of the Party, which results in the confinement of any expression of "independent civil society".

**Dr. Béatrice Hibou** is a Research Fellow at Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales (CERI-CNRS). She holds degrees from the Paris Institut d'Etudes Politiques (IEP) and a PhD in political economy from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris. Dr. Hibou was member of the editing board of "Critique internationale" from 1998 to 2003 and of "Politique africaine". She gives lectures on the political economy of reforms in developing countries at the IEP in Paris. Moreover Béatrice Hibou is a founding member of the Fonds d'analyse des sociétés politiques (FASOPO). In 1996 she published "L'Afrique est-elle protectionniste? Les chemins buissonniers de la libéralisation extérieure" (Paris, Karthala, serie "Les Afriques") and in 2006 "La Force de l'obéissance. Economie politique de la répression en Tunisie" (Paris, La Découverte). As an editor Dr. Hibou released "Privatising the State" (London/New York, Hurst & Company/Columbia University Press, 2004) (french edition, 1999) and "La privatisation des Etats" (Paris, Karthala, 1999). Together with J-F. Bayart and S. Ellis, she published "The Criminalisation of the State in Africa" (London, James Currey and Indiana, 1998) (french edition, 1997) and "La criminalisation de l'Etat en Afrique" (Bruxelles, Complexe, serie "Espace international", 1997).

Further information: <http://www.ceri-sciences-po.org/cerifr/cherlist/hibou.htm>

Der Vortrag findet im Rahmen der Vortragsreihe des Centre Marc Bloch "Nouvelles cuisines. Neue Trends der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften in Frankreich" statt.



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