

The Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies
presents

Jasser Auda

Center of Islamic Legislation and Ethics, Qatar Foundation

The Arab Uprisings, Islam, and Equal Citizenship: Current Debates

The phenomenal political success of Islamic groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood and Salafis in Egypt and Tunisia has prompted a vigorous discussion about the role and limits of religion in politics in the Arab world. Secular groups and religious minorities in particular have expressed concern about the impact on personal and religious freedoms of a renewed emphasis on the need to implement shari'ah law. For their own part, Islamists have expressed commitment to the idea of a "civil state with an Islamic reference"--but what does this actually entail in practice? In this talk, Jasser Auda will provide an overview of the current debates in Egypt and broader Islamic circles with respect to this question, with a focus on the question of ensuring equal citizenship. He will tease out the often subtle but important distinctions between Muslim Brotherhood thinkers, proponents of Salafism, and traditional religious institutions such as Al-Azhar.

Jasser Auda is an Associate Professor and Deputy Director of the Center of Islamic Legislation and Ethics, Faculty of Islamic Studies, Qatar Foundation. His latest books printed this year are *Maqasid Al-Shariah as Philosophy of Islamic Law: A Systems Approach*, and *Between Shariah and Politics: Questions in the Post-Revolutions Era*.



Tuesday Sept. 4, 4:30 pm
Johnson Center
Dewberry Hall
George Mason University
Fairfax Campus