



Universität Hamburg  
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FAKULTÄT  
FÜR WIRTSCHAFTS- UND  
SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN

## UHH Political Science Lecture Series

European Crisis in Global Perspective – Local Changes and Global Developments

Thursday, 2 June 2016, 4-6pm

ESA 1(Main building), Hörsaal A, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1

#UHHPoWiLectures

**Prof. Fawaz Gerges**

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

# Making Sense of ISIS: A Post-Al Qaeda Generation in the Middle East and Europe

The Islamic State has stunned the world with its savagery, destructiveness, and military and recruiting successes. What explains the rise of ISIS and what does it portend for the future of the Middle East? In this lecture, one of the world's leading authorities on political Islam and jihadism sheds new light on these questions as he provides a unique history of the rise and growth of ISIS. In contrast to Al Qaeda, ISIS initially focused on the "near enemy". But in a tactical shift ISIS has now taken responsibility for spectacular attacks in Europe and other places beyond the Middle East, making it clear that the group is increasingly interested in targeting the "far enemy" as well. The lecture addresses how decades of dictatorship, poverty, and rising sectarianism in the Middle East, exacerbated by foreign intervention, led to the rise of ISIS - and why addressing those problems is the only way to ensure its end.

**Fawaz A. Gerges** is professor of international relations and Emirates Professor in Contemporary Middle East Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His many books include *ISIS: A History* (Princeton UP), *The New Middle East* (CUP), *The Rise and Fall of Al-Qaida* (OUP), *The Far Enemy: Why Jihad went Global* (CUP), *Contentious Politics in the Middle East* (Palgrave).

Organised by Jan Wilkens (Jan.Wilkens@wiso.uni-hamburg.de)

