



RELIGION AND IDEAS ROUNDTABLE

MODERN THINKING IN ISLAM SERIES 2019



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & COMMUNICATION ARTS

Religion and Society Research Cluster,
School of Social Sciences & Psychology,

By Dr Milad Milani (WSU) & Dr Vassilis Adrahtas (Macquarie)

Presenter: Dr Aydogan Kars

TITLE: *Sorush between Tradition and Innovation*

ACADEMIC PROFILE: Aydogan Kars received a BSc in Economics and an MA in Philosophy in Ankara, Turkey. He earned an MA and a PhD in Religion at Vanderbilt University, USA. His primary research field is medieval Islamic intellectual history with a focus on Sufism and theology. Since 2016 Aydogan has been serving as a Lecturer in the Centre for Religious Studies and the Coordinator of the Islamic Studies Program at Monash University.

ABSTRACT: Abdulkarim Soroush's ideas have been sparking both enthusiasm and debate for decades. His evolving understanding of liberal Islam is underpinned by an epistemological pluralism, critique of clericalism, sacral defence of secular leadership, and 'minimalism of religion'. This study aims to approach him from the perspective of intellectual history and situate him within the heritage of Islamic thought in order to trace his continuities and discontinuities with traditional Islamic political theologies. Many captivating ideas of Soroush that are often labelled 'foreign' or 'revolutionary', including his defence of post-prophetic continuation of revelation and of secular leadership, have sustained roots, and even prominence, in the intellectual heritage of Iran. Approaching Soroush as an intellectual self-consciously standing on the shoulders of an accumulated heritage, rather than a lone wolf, would depict a more comprehensive and historically-grounded picture of Soroush in context.

LOCATION AND TIME: Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus, The Female Orphan School, PS-EZ.1.57 (Geoffrey Roberson Boardroom); Friday, 3 May, 10.00am – 12.00pm