



**The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary  
Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia**

**Mr. Daniel Gerlach  
and  
Dr. Naseef Naeem**

**"How is the Syrian Regime Constituted?  
The Enigma of a Security State"**

**Friday, October 14  
12:00 noon  
102 Jones Hall**

**Daniel Gerlach** holds degrees in History and Middle Eastern Studies from the universities of Hamburg and Paris IV Sorbonne. He is the editor in chief of *Zenith Magazine*, a special interest periodical on North Africa, the Middle East and the Muslim world encompassing first-hand reporting and tangible analysis on society, economics, culture and current affairs in the region. He wrote and directed several documentary films on the history of Islam and the Middle East for German public television, ZDF. In 2008, he co-founded the publishing house Deutscher Levante Verlag in Berlin. Mr. Gerlach is also a writer and Middle East analyst with a current research focus on Syria, Iraq and the Levant. In 2014, he co-founded and since then chairs the independent Candid Foundation in Berlin, a think tank which implements media and technology related cooperation projects across the Mediterranean region. In addition to this work, Mr. Gerlach directs the Middle East research and consulting unit Zenith Council. Among his recent publications are a book on the Syrian conflict, a biographical dictionary of the Middle East for the German Federal Agency of Civic Education, and an *Atlas of the Arab Spring*, which he co-edited.

**Dr. Naseef Naeem** is one of the foremost experts on the Syrian legal system and the Syrian security state. He holds bachelors and masters degrees in Law from the Universities of Aleppo and Damascus, respectively, and a Ph.D. in Law from the University of Hannover in Germany. He worked as a research assistant at the University of Damascus and practiced as an attorney in Syria for more than four years. He has many publications in the field of constitutional law in Arabic and is co-editor of the law journal: *The Yearbook for Constitution, Law and State in the Islamic Context* (published by Nomos). Dr. Naeem recently completed his second book (*Habilitation*) on the organization of the state in the Arab world and its recent development. He has taught comparative constitutional law focused on Arab countries at the universities of Göttingen and Berlin. Dr. Naeem generally works as a consultant on issues of constitutional and state transformation in the Middle East, especially in his function as the research director of the Zenith Council, a think tank on the Middle East based in Berlin.

A light lunch will be available