



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Constructing mosques : the governance of Islam in France and the Netherlands

Maussen, M.J.M.

Publication date
2009

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Maussen, M. J. M. (2009). *Constructing mosques : the governance of Islam in France and the Netherlands*.

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Acknowledgements

This dissertation has taken more time and effort to be completed than I had initially foreseen. I would not have been able to complete it at all without the support of a great number of people who have been present in my professional and personal life over the past years.

When beginning to develop the research project I have benefited from discussions with senior colleagues in the field, I mention especially Herman Beck, Nico Landman, Jean-Marie Donégani, Jan Rath and Flip Lindo. I am indebted to Jos de Beus who helped me develop the project at the early stages. Frank Buijs assisted me in formulating my research questions and allowed me to use his research material. I very much regret that because of his untimely death he will not read the final product.

I am indebted to the many respondents in Rotterdam and Marseilles who were willing to give their time to make this research possible. During the time spent in Marseilles, I was happy to find an academic environment at the Institut de Recherche et d'Études sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman (IREMAM) in Aix-en-Provence. I am greatly indebted to Vincent Geisser who introduced me to religion and politics in Marseilles and who put me into contact with many key actors. I also thank my friends in Marseilles, especially Mireille, Christophe and Marc.

The Amsterdam School for Social Science Research (ASSR) provided the financial support and academic context for my PhD. I am indebted to Hans Sonneveld and José Komen for their professionalism and support. I thank Teun Bijvoet, Anneke Dammers, and Miriam May for all their help. During my time spent at the ASSR, I have enjoyed the friendly interactions with my fellow PhD-students, I mention especially Anouk, Bowen, Eric, Imrat, Kamenko, Marieke, Rachel, Pia and Courtney. I have enjoyed the lively academic discussions with my fellow students who were working on related issues and who participated in the discourse reading club. Thank you Christian, Kateryna, Marianne, Mira and Tamara!

During most of the time I have been working on this dissertation I have been teaching at the Department of Political Science. I am indebted to the first-year students who have been a constant source of encouragement and inspiration. Special thanks to Jeanine, Victoria and Wahideh who helped collect and organise some of the research material. My colleagues at the department have encouraged me at several occasions along the way, special thanks to Erik Besseling, Marijke Mossink and Peter Kievoet. Since 2006 my research interests and projects have brought me to work at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES). I thank my colleagues there for their warm welcome and look forward to our future collaboration after my appointment as assistant professor. My affiliation with IMES has also allowed me to participate in the international IMISCOE network of excellence. I thank Ralph Grillo and John Bowen for their comments and encouragements.

Writing the dissertation has not been a constant source of happiness. I was fortunate to have many friends who have supported me when I was losing my confidence. Special thanks to Karel for having the patience to listen to endless talks about mosques and taking care of Loewie when I disappeared for weeks to write. Thank you also Andries, Bart, David, Dionijs, Elena, Maartje, Regina and Tom. I thank my father Norbert Maussen and my sister Daniëlle for their support over the years. Inês Trigo de Sousa was there during almost the entire period, and I thank her for her encouragements in many moments of despair and for the good times spent together.

I have been fortunate to have had numerous attentive readers of the manuscript at various stages. Johan Meuleman, Thijl Sunier and Veit Bader read a first version of the entire manuscript. I have greatly benefited from their comments. Special thanks to Veit who's personal interest and academic work have been an important inspiration for this dissertation. I thank Frances Gouda who carefully read the draft chapters on French and Dutch colonial rule and who encouraged me to further develop this aspect of the research. Thanks also to Floris Vermeulen who read several chapters and helped me to clarify my argument.

I am greatly indebted to my thesis supervisors who have had the patience and endurance to help me complete this project. Maarten Hajer encouraged me to focus on the politics of representation of mosques. His approach to the study of policy-making processes has been an important source of inspiration for the dissertation. I thank him for his perceptive comments and for encouraging me to continue searching for a perspective on the topic that I could call my own. Meindert Fennema stepped in half-way the project to help prevent, in his words, that it would come to a "smoking stand-still". His humor, sharp comments and friendly support have undoubtedly helped to prevent that from happening. I am thankful to the members of my PhD commission, who were kind to take up the task of assessing my dissertation.

Towards the end, several people have helped me to actually complete the book. I thank Boris Slijper for many hours of talking over many issues and for his time and efforts in the final phase. Thanks to James Brown who did a first round of English editing and to Arjen Fortuin who helped me to improve and abridge the text of the entire manuscript. I thank Gary Price for his English editing and support in the final stages. Helder Mendes helped with the lay-out and designed the cover.

As it turned out, completing the PhD required longer periods of self-chosen isolation in Limburg. I thank Hetty, Ger, Marie-José and Dot for their support. Finally, many special thanks to my mother, An van Os. She helped create the perfect environment for me to work and continue writing in the summer of 2007 and 2008. I thank her for the support and many encouragements along the way and dedicate the PhD to her.

Marcel Maussen

January 2009