

# Graveyard of the Clerics: Islamism in Saudi Suburbia

Pascal Menoret, Professor of Anthropology, Brandeis University



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## Tinkham Veale University Center Senior Classroom

How and why did Saudi activists embrace Islamism, since they already live in what claims to be an Islamic state? How do they organize and mobilize followers in a highly repressive environment? This talk will answer these two questions by looking closely at the 2005 municipal elections, which were won in the major cities by Islamist lists. What network made the elections? How did Islamists mobilize despite a draconian electoral code? What is the importance of local elections in the longer history of Saudi Islamism?

### About the Speaker:

Pascal Menoret is the author of *Joyriding in Riyadh: Oil, Urbanism, and Road Revolt* (Cambridge University Press 2014), of *Arabia, from the Incense Road to the Oil Era* (Gallimard 2010, in French) and of *The Saudi Enigma: A History* (Zed Books 2005). An ethnographer and historian, he conducted four years of fieldwork in Saudi Arabia and has lived in Yemen, in Egypt, and in the United Arab Emirates. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Paris and is currently a professor at Brandeis University.