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Squeezing too hard: The Islamic Council of Norway and the challenge of representing Islam in Europe

Bakgrund/Frågeställning

In several European countries the authorities have sought to empower Muslim or Islamic representative councils that can function as interlocutors between Muslim communities and society at large. These councils have often not functioned particularly well, however. Many have been marked by conflicts, splits and defections. Based on an in-depth historical case study of the Islamic Council of Norway and a comparison with similar councils in other countries, I argue that Islamic Representative Councils in Europe are being squeezed too hard from the outside. The pressure they are facing makes it difficult to arrive at compromises which can be palatable to the various factions and groups they are organizing internally. The result is instability and internal conflict, and an institutional representation of Islam that may fail to live up to its promise.

Metod och Resultat

Konklusion