



Franklin College Switzerland

is pleased to announce the

Fall 2010 Lecture Series

The Fall 2010 Lecture Series offers exciting and diverse topics

coupled with esteemed speakers who will inspire

new perspectives and challenge previous opinions.

Topics include science and philosophy, Islamic banking,

Victorian Britain, sustainability, and Islamic law.

Each lecture will take place on a Tuesday or Thursday evening from 6 -7 pm
in the Franklin College Auditorium.

After each lecture there will be a small reception for participants
where the audience can meet the speaker and discuss the evening's topic.

Please join us for the series.

The lectures are free of charge and open to the public.

For more information on the series or to update your mailing information please contact:

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Fall 2010 Lecture Series

23 SEPTEMBER
6-7pm

Wise and Reckless Philosophers: Thoughts on a "Conceived Experience of Life"

ARMANDO MASSARENTI

Writer and editor of the science and philosophy section of *Il Sole 24 Ore Domenica*, Milan, Italy

"Think as wise men do, but speak as the common people do," Aristotle said. Philosophy and wisdom pertain not only to philosophers, but also to mankind as a whole since we all ask the same questions. What is the world all about? Why do things change? Does life have a meaning, a destiny, or is it just a silly fuss about nothing? Does God exist? And, ultimately, how do we have to live? Questions, questions and more questions...

This is the spirit with which Massarenti approached philosophy in his books *Il lancio del nano ed altri esercizi di filosofia minima* (2007) and *Il filosofo tascabile. Dai presocratici a Wittgenstein, 44 ritratti per una storia del pensiero in miniatura* (2009).

His lecture will outline how thought and life (and also death) are entwined with their strange contrasts and surprising consistencies and how philosophers like Plato, Bacon, Spinoza and Schopenhauer could possibly affect our ideas about life at large and our critical sense.

Armando Massarenti has been the editor of the science and philosophy section of *Il Sole 24 Ore Domenica* since 1986, where he writes about history and philosophy of science, moral and political philosophy, and applied ethics. Since 1999, he's been the editor-in-chief of the Italian magazine *Etica e Economia*. In addition to the above-mentioned books and publications, he also wrote *Staminalia: Le cellule "etiche" e i nemici della ricerca* (2008). Lecturer in numerous Italian universities, adjunct professor at the universities of Bologna, Lugano, Siena, and Milan and member of the Einaudi Foundation Watchdog Committee on Bio-ethics, Mr. Massarenti has written widely on philosophy of science and moral philosophy, with particular reference to issues in bio-ethics. He has also edited Italian-language publications of works by J. Dewey, D. Friedman and A. Sen.



Fall 2010 Lecture Series

7 OCTOBER
6-7pm

The Emergence of Islamic Banking and Its Impact on Global Capital Flows

JOHN A. SANDWICK

Specialist in Islamic wealth and asset management, Geneva, Switzerland

In 1975 the modern world's first Islamic bank opened its doors in Dubai, followed soon after by the second in Bahrain. However, for nearly three decades Islamic banking assets were trivial compared to conventional assets in Arabia, Malaysia and other countries with large Muslim populations. That changed by the end of 2002, when a relentless increase in assets and business activity was claimed by the fast-growing and global Islamic banking sector. Now counting \$1 trillion or more in total assets, the Islamic banking industry has flourished like never before.

Today governments around the world from France to Kazakhstan to Indonesia are embracing Islamic banking. Tax laws are being revised to accommodate fair taxation of sharia-compliant assets. Governments in the United Kingdom, Japan and Korea are announcing sovereign issues of Islamic bonds, or *sukuk*. Islamic banking has made such inroads that today there is little difference in products and services when compared to conventional retail, corporate and investment banking. Switzerland, however, has been slow to adapt. Today, there are still no changes in legal systems or banking practices to accommodate Islamic banking. Why would there be in a country with so few Muslims? But, one has equally to consider Muslim clients of the vast Swiss private banking industry. Here there may be \$200 billion or more in total assets. Can these assets be managed according to the principles of sharia? Will there be a movement to satisfy spiritual as well as income and growth desires of Muslim clients? Mr. Sandwick will discuss these issues and more.

John A. Sandwick moved to Geneva in 1993, first working at Deutsche Bank (Suisse) S.A. and then Banque Leu S.A., a unit of Credit Suisse Private Banking. In 1999 he started his own conventional wealth management company, but in 2009 decided to convert his practice to entirely sharia-compliant asset management. He has been called a pioneer of Islamic banking by *Schweizer Bank* magazine and has appeared in numerous venues worldwide, including the World Islamic Economic Forum 2010. Mr. Sandwick has a Master's degree in Development Banking from the American University in Washington, D.C., and is author of numerous works on Islamic banking.



Fall 2010 Lecture Series

26 OCTOBER
6-7pm

Sir John Lubbock (Lord Avebury): Science and Politics in Victorian Britain

FLOYD PARSONS

Professor of History, Franklin College Switzerland

Sir John Lubbock (Lord Avebury) was a prominent and influential British banker, amateur naturalist and Liberal Member of Parliament. Born in 1834, three years before the accession of Queen Victoria, he died in 1913, the year before the outbreak of the First World War. During the intervening years, he was a protégé and friend of Charles Darwin and joined Thomas Henry Huxley as a public defender of the theory of evolution by natural selection and contributed to the study of both archaeology and anthropology with *Prehistoric Times* and *The Origin of Civilization*, two among his many books. Others included *The Origin and Metamorphoses of Insects* and *The Scenery of Switzerland*.

In the House of Commons from 1870 to 1900, when he entered the House of Lords, Lubbock was responsible for various bills passed into law such as the Bank Holidays Act and the Ancient Monuments Act. As an imperialist, he opposed the Irish Home Rule Bill and supported the Boer War. During his last decade, he defended free trade and opposed the New Liberalism and the People's Budget introduced by the younger radicals David Lloyd George and Winston S. Churchill. By the year Lubbock died, the environments of both science and politics had changed from when he embarked on the study of nature as an amateur and first entered Parliament as a Liberal. After the end of the First World War, his prominence and influence in Victorian Britain were largely forgotten.

Floyd Parsons has been a member of the faculty of Franklin College Switzerland, where he is a professor of history, since 1981. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge. His primary interests as a historian are the relationship between political theory and party politics and the conflict between science and religion. He has participated in historical conferences in England concerning Victorian politics and William Gladstone and has been published in the journal *Parliamentary History*. His book *Thomas Hare and Political Representation in Victorian Britain* is published by Palgrave. In the past he has spoken at the Franklin Lecture Series about William Gladstone, John Stuart Mill, Bertrand Russell, Arnold J. Toynbee, Joseph Needham and Edward Gibbon.



Fall 2010 Lecture Series

4 NOVEMBER
6-7:30 pm

Franklin College, AIESEC and USI together for the Lugano Sustainability Forum 2010 — a Panel Discussion

The Lugano Sustainability Forum 2010 (November 2-4, 2010) grew out of an idea initiated by students at the Università della Svizzera Italiana and Franklin College Switzerland. The forum consists of a three-day series of events, workshops and lectures managed by members of AIESEC (Association Internationale des Étudiants en Sciences Économiques et Commerciales) Lugano. The inspiration for the initiative was a desire to organize a professional conference with constructive output where business people and academic researchers could share their knowledge and experience with students and a broader audience. This ambition is still at the core of the project.

The closing event will take place at Franklin, hosted by the Center for Sustainability Initiatives (CSI-F). It will involve a forum-style discussion by a panel of Franklin professors who work with CSI-F (including Professors Hale and Fassl, who co-direct the organization) and invited members from the business community and other groups connected with work on sustainability.

Following a brief overview of sustainability from the different perspectives of the panel members, the discussion will be opened up for the general audience to talk about the role of sustainability in our current society, initiatives different groups are taking with respect to sustainability, and prospects for the future of the globe.



Fall 2010 Lecture Series

30 NOVEMBER
6-7 pm

Judges and Jurisconsults in Islamic Law

NAHED SAMOUR

Fellow at the Max Planck Institute, Frankfurt, Germany

This lecture will outline the two crucial figures of classical Islamic law, the judge (*qadi*) and the jurisconsult (*mufti*). While the judge acts as a state functionary and issues verdicts by being vested with binding, sanctioning and enforceable legal powers, the jurisconsult acts as a private legal scholar who, on request, issues non-binding, advisory, yet highly persuasive opinions (*fatwa*, pl. *fatawa*). Scrutinizing their roles, which complement and oppose each other, will lead to the central question of authority: who makes Islamic law?

Nahed Samour, who is a fellow at the International Max Planck Research School for Comparative Legal History, has studied law and Islamic studies at the universities of Bonn, Birzeit, London, Berlin, Harvard and Damascus, and has clerked at the Higher Court of Appeals in Berlin. She has published on both classical and modern aspects of Islamic law.