

WHY DO SOME MUSLIM CLERICS PROMOTE VIOLENT JIHAD (WHILE MOST DO NOT)?



WEDNESDAY, 23 JANUARY
3:00 P.M.
238 HRCB



Rich Nielsen

PHD CANDIDATE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Rich Nielsen is a PhD candidate in the Department of Government at Harvard University where he studies Islam, political violence, human rights, economic development, and research design. Nielsen's dissertation "Clerics of the Jihad" is a book-length project explaining why some Muslim clerics adopt the ideology of militant Jihad while most do not. Some of his other research is published or forthcoming in the *American Journal of Political Science* and *International Studies Quarterly*. He also occasionally writes for Harvard's Social Science Statistics blog. During the 2012–13 academic year, he was appointed to be a graduate fellow at the Harvard Academy for

International and Area Studies, a research fellow with the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, and a student fellow with the Association for Analytical Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies. Nielsen's research is currently supported by an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant and previously funded by the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, the Institute for Quantitative Social Science, and an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. He received a BA in political science from BYU and an AM in statistics from Harvard University. Nielsen will join MIT's faculty in the fall.