



Seminar on:

**Dismantling the “Islam State”?
Religion and State Institutions in 21st-Century
Europe and the Muslim**

**THURSDAY, 20 JUNE 2013
15:00 – 16:30**

*LAI Library room
Via Angelo Brunetti 9 – Third Floor – Rome*

The recent breakthrough of Islamist parties into government in Turkey and across North Africa poses the increasingly urgent question of Islam’s place in the post-Arab Awakening order. Until now, contemporary Muslim governments in the region have effectively exercised “civilian control” over religion. They actively defend a monopoly over public prayer and religious education by way of Islamic Affairs ministries, investing heavily in a network of infrastructure and services that make up “the Islam State”. Liberals demand the abolition of the Islam State because it violates the separation of religion and state; Islamists detest it for its repressive qualities. What will become of the enormous Islamic Affairs ministries that Islamist parties have inherited – the hundreds of thousands of public servants of state Islam across the region, the tens of thousands of mosques and thousands of religious schools? I draw on the experience of Muslim governments in the competitive field of state-Islam relations in European countries to explore the new practices of official Islam and the limits of “Islamic politics” in North Africa and Turkey.

15.00/15.10 – Welcome remarks by **Nathalie Tocci**, IAI Deputy Director

15.10/15.55 – Presentation by **Jonathan Laurence**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Boston College and Nonresident Senior Fellow, Center on the US and Europe, The Brookings Institution

15.55/16.30 – Discussion and end of the Seminar