

*The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD)
has the pleasure to invite you to the lecture:*

**”From Religious Association to Ethnic Community:
Syriac Orthodox Identity Today and in the Past”**

- Lecture by R.B. ter Haar Romeny -



Prof.dr. R.B. ter Haar Romeny: of the Leiden Institute for Religious Studies, Faculty of Humanities; Leiden University.

Tuesday, April 21st, 2009, 19:00h at the NIASD

Among those who opposed the Council of Chalcedon in 451, the Syriac Orthodox Christians were probably least likely to form a national or ethnic community. Yet a group emerged with its own distinctive literature and art, its own network, and historical consciousness. In an intricate process of adoption and rejection, the Syriac Orthodox selected elements from the cultures to which they were heirs, and from those with which they came into contact, thus defining a position of their own.

This lecture presents the results of the Leiden project on the identity formation of the Syriac Orthodox in the period before 1300, and looks forward to a new project in which we study how present-day eastern Christians perceive their own image and identity, using elements from the past as well as new ones.

Language: *English only*
Location: *NIASD, Farabi Sreet 85, East Mezzeh (near the Greek Embassy)*
Time: *19:00h*
Information: *Telephone: 6117622, Email: assistant@niasd.org*