ABSTRACT:
Caught up in the middle of a civil war, the Muslim community of Sri Lanka is also struggling with its identity - the tension between being part of the Muslim Umma while also being ‘Sri Lankan’. This presentation will introduce the Muslim community of Sri Lanka and focus on the biggest Muslim political party, the Sri Lankan Muslim Congress (SLMC), which has been represented in the Sri Lankan parliament since 1989. In recent years scholars have noticed ‘the Muslim factor’ in Sri Lankan politics; this talk will problematize the issue of how the kinds of politics pursued by a religious minority party are characterized or categorized. Is the conception of the SLMC as being an Islamist party totally wrong?

BIO:
Andreas Johansson is a PhD Candidate in History of Religion at Lund University in Sweden, from which he also has an M.A. in Islamic Studies. He is currently a Visiting Research Scholar of the Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies.

May 31, 2012
Thursday, 12:00pm
Orfalea Center Seminar Room
1005 Robertson Gym