

International conference “Understandings of the Qur`an – Muslim researchers in dialogue”, 02.-04.11.2018

Conference schedule

In Qur`anic Studies as a discipline of Islamic theology, various, often utmost diverse methods, approaches and techniques are applied to the Qur`anic text. Scholars from all over the world (Asia, Europe, Near and Middle East, North Africa, and North-America) are engaged in the study of the Qur`an, following traditional trails, and paving new paths for an understanding of the Qur`an in the contemporary world, paying tribute to its spiritual radiance and legal impact. The diversity of opinions, presuppositions and results are equally diverse, including literalist, conservative, traditional, modern, liberal, and reform-oriented understandings of Islamic Scripture. It is, thus, even more regrettable that no international platform has yet been created, in which various researchers, driven by mutual interest, honest religious devotion and academic thirst, could meet and openly debate issues in Qur`anic Studies, not shying away from controversial topics. Therefore, the “Roundtable Qur`anic Studies - traditional and modern approaches to the Qur`an in dialogue” was launched in 2018, to provide a secure space of intra-religious debate. This research platform provides a forum for academic exchange among Muslim scholars, applying different approaches to the Qur`an, entering the inner-Islamic debate about traditional methods, new hermeneutical understandings, and challenging readings of traditional texts. Thus, the platform is seeking to establish a common ground and to create scholarly progress.

The point of departure for this international platform will be paved out by the inaugural conference “Understandings of the Qur`an – Muslim researchers in dialogue” which will be held in Muenster from 02.-04. November 2018. It will be organized jointly by the Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics" and the Centre for Islamic Theology Muenster. At the conference, internationally prominent scholars will present their ideas, techniques, methods and preliminary results, often controversial, always certainly thought-provoking. In a secure space, they will be able to engage in a debate with colleagues from all over the world, challenging their approaches to the Qur`an and its meaning in past and present. Bringing together Muslim scholars, who rarely engage in dialogue, will establish the platform, linking diverse hermeneutical approaches. The conference will be held in English and Arabic (translation will be provided).

Gefördert durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages

Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Fr, 02. NOV.	Greetings and Panel I
16:00–16:30	Arrival and Coffee
16:30	Greetings Cluster of Excellence Prof. Dr. Mouhanad Khorchide (Director of the Centre for Islamic Theology)
17:00–18:00	Panel I: Reading the Qur'an in Modern Times
17:00–17:30	Mouhanad Khorchide (University of Muenster): <i>The Qur'an as a Revelation by God in Human Word. The Attempt of an Epistemic Bridge between the Theological and Historical Critical Access to the Qur'an</i>
17:30–18:00	Emran El Badawi (University of Houston): <i>Diversity and Divergence between the Ancient Qur'an and Contemporary Reality</i>
	Chair : Raid al-Daghistani
Sa, 03. NOV.	Panels
9:00–10:00	Panel II: The Qur'an between Written and Oral Culture
09:00–09:30	Nader Hammami (University of Carthago): <i>The Islamic Revelation and the Debate of Historical Positivism within the Boundaries of Historical Approaches and their Backgrounds</i>
09:30–10:00	Asmaa al-Amawy (Cairo University): <i>The Methodology of Interpreting the Qur'an before the Genesis of the Text (arab. Muṣṣḥaf)</i>
	Chair : Ali Hamdan
10:00–10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:30–12:00	Panel III: Fundamentals of Tafsīr
10:30–11:00	Karim El Saiad (Cairo University): <i>Fundamentals of Qur'anic Exegesis: Critical Analysis</i>
11:00--11:30	Abdulla Galadari (Khalifa University) (via Skype): <i>The Language of Meaning or the Meaning of Language: Approaches to Qur'anic Exegesis</i>
11:30–12:00	Necmettin Gökkır (Istanbul University): <i>Thematic Classifications of the Qur'an in Classical and Modern Tafsir</i>
	Chair : Catharina Rachik
12:00–13:00	<i>Lunch break*</i>
13:00--14:30	Panel IV: Exegetical Methods in Classical Islamic History
13:00–13:30	Akif Koç (Ankara University): <i>aṭ-Ṭabarī's (d. 310/923) Admiration for al-Farrā's (d. 207/822) Grammatical Preferences</i>

13:30–14:00	Anne-Sylvie Boisliveau (University of Straßbourg): <i>Fluctuating Polemics in the Qur'an</i>
14:00–14:30	Tariq Jaffer (Amherst College): <i>Bāqillānī on Miracles and Other Extraordinary Acts</i> Chair: Dirk Hartwig
14:30–15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:00–16:00	Panel V: Exegetical Methods
15:00–15:30	Abdelrady Mohamed Abdelmohsen Radwan (Cairo University): <i>The Cognitive Methodology of the Holy Qur'an</i>
15:30–16:00	Walid Saleh (University of Toronto): <i>New Editions of Qur'an Commentaries</i>
16:00–16:30	Hmida Ennaifer (Zitouna University): <i>Hamīd Allāh and the Orientalists: For a „Spiritual“ Approach to the Qur'an</i> Chair: Ahmad Abd-Elsalam
16:30–17:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
17:00–18:30	Panel VI: Bible, Qur'an and Methods of Islamic Studies
17:00–17:30	Abdul Rahim Afaki (University of Karachi): <i>The Prophetic-Phenomenological-Hermeneutic Approach to the Qur'an and the Semiotic-Semantic Transformation of Plato's Allegory of the Cave</i>
17:30–18:00	Yusuf Rahman (Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta): <i>Indonesian Muslim Responses to Non-Muslim Approaches to Qur'anic Studies</i>
18:00–18:30	Mehdi Azaiez (University of Leuven): <i>Reading the Qur'an Today: How to Consider the Relation between a Historical Critical Method of Readings and a "Confessional" Readings?</i> Chair: Stefan Zorn
Su, 04. NOV.	Panels
9:00–10:30	Panel VII: Women in the Qur'an
09:00–09:30	Syafiq Hasyim (RSIS-Nanyang Technological University (NTU)): <i>Women in the Qur'an: Contesting Qur'anic Interpretation in the Modern Contexts of Indonesia</i>
09:30–10:00	Masoumeh Velayati (Al-Maktoum College): <i>Liberation Theology: Re-visiting the Polygamy Verses from a Gender Perspective</i>
10:00–10:30	Dina El Omari (University of Muenster): <i>The Couple in the Qur'an as a Sign of Divine Creation</i> Chair: Emre Ilgaz
10:30–11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00–12:00	Panel VIII: Religious Diversity

11:00–11:30	Haifaa Jawad (University of Birmingham): <i>Intra-Muslim Relations: A Strategy for Rapprochement</i>
11:30–12:00	Hossein Godazgar (al-Maktoum-College): <i>Religious Pluralism? Insights into Sunni and Shi'ite Exegeses of the Qur'an with Reference to (Physician Assisted) Suicide</i> Chair: Recep Aktas
12:00–13:00	<i>Lunch break*</i>
13:00–14:00	Panel IX: Non-Muslims and the Qur'an, Violence and Peace
13:00–13:30	Mustafa Öztürk (Marmara University): <i>Reflections of the Socio-Politic Process in the Qur'anic Discourses with the Jews</i>
13:30–14:00	Musharraf Hussain (Nottinghamshire): <i>Muslim-non-Muslim Relations as Portrayed in the Quran</i>
14:00–14:30	Rashied Omar (University of Notre Dame): <i>Qur'anic Ethics of Violence and Peace: A Contextual Approach</i> Chair: Kamil Öktem
14:30–15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:00–16:00	Panel X: Christians and the Qur'an
15:00–15:30	Hosn Abboud (American University Beirut): <i>From the Spirit of the Tree to the Spirit of the Mihrab: the Image of Mary and Christ in the Holy Quran and its Intertextual Reading</i>
15:30–16:00	Hadiye Ünsal (Ankara University): <i>Process Analysis of Muslim-Christian Relations in the Qur'an</i> Chair: Catharina Rachik

*Lunch is not included

Conference venue

Dek 67.2

Nieberdingstraße 12

48155 Münster

Conference coordination

Prof. Dr. Mouhanad Khorchide

Director of the Center for Islamic Theology

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