

## The Qur'ān in its Milieu of Origin

Possibilities of the Historical Reconstruction  
of the Qur'ānic Revelation

8–10 November 2019 |

Picture Credit: private



- 10:45      **Session VIII: Linguistic Structures I**
- 10:45-11:05 | Georges Archer (Iowa State University):  
*Squaring the Circle: The Historical Values  
and Problems of Qur'ānic Ring Structures*
- 11:05-11:25 | Ghasem Darzi (Shahid Beheshti  
University, Iran):  
*The Language of the Qur'ān's Approach to  
Gender Discourses; Toward Historical Re-  
construction of Qur'ān's Context*
- 11:25-11:45 | Akif Koç (Ankara University):  
*An example for the conflict between the sabab  
al-nuzūl meanings and the other meanings of  
verses: "Khudhū zīnatakum wa kulū wa'shrabū  
wa lā tusrifū"*
- 11:45-12:15 | *Roundtable Discussion*  
**Chair: Magda Al Sibai**
- 12:15-13:15 | *Lunch break*
- 13:15      **Session IX: Linguistic Structures II**
- 13:15-13:35 | Mohammed Hamza (University of Sousse):  
*The Historical Order of the Qur'ān Between  
the Context of Revelation and the Require-  
ments of Understanding*
- 13:35-13:55 | Abraham Silo Wilar (ICRS Yogyakarta):  
*A Preliminary Research on Truth in Inter-  
preting the Qur'ān: A Case of Qs.33:40*
- 13:55-14:15 | *Roundtable Discussion*  
**Chair: Nabila Chababi**
- 14:15-14:45 | *Coffee break*

- 14:45      **Session X: Themes and History**
- 14:45-15:05 | Ahmad Mughzi Abdillah  
(Ankara University):  
*Cultural Anthropological Reading of  
Abū Al-Su'ūd's Tafsīr (Discussion on  
Qur'ānic Verses that Refer to Violence)*
- 15:05-15:25 | Nazim Ben Ibrahim  
(University of Mannouba):  
*The Historical Reading of Verses of Violence*
- 15:25-15:55 | *Roundtable Discussion*  
**Chair: Catharina Rachik**
- 15:45-16:30 | **Outlook**  
Resumée/Dismissal
- 17:30      | *Dinner*

### ORGANISATION

Center for Islamic Theology and the Cluster of Excellence  
"Religion and Politics" of the University of Muenster

Prof. Dr. Mouhanad Khorchide  
Tel. +49 251 83-26107  
khorchide@uni-muenster.de

Catharina Rachik, M.A.  
Tel. +49 251 83-26088  
catharina.rachik@uni-muenster.de

Annabel Gering, B.A.  
a\_geri05@uni-muenster.de

### VENUE

Johanniter Gästehaus  
Weißenburgstraße 60–64  
48151 Münster  
Germany

### CONTACT

Center for Islamic Theology  
Hammer Straße 95  
48153 Münster  
Tel: +49 251 83-26110  
Fax: +49 251 83-26111  
zitm@uni-muenster.de

Exzellenzcluster „Religion und Politik“  
Johannisstraße 1  
48143 Münster

Tel. +49 251 83-23376  
Fax +49 251 83-23246  
religionundpolitik@uni-muenster.de

## THE QUR'ĀN IN ITS MILIEU OF ORIGIN

Different ways of the interpretation of the Qur'ān, often almost diverse, have existed side by side ever since the emergence of the Muslim community. With the beginning of the modern age, Islamic scholars advocated to rethink traditional ways of interpretation by means of the adaptation of a 'critical' exegesis in order to understand the Qur'ānic message within modern circumstances. As a reaction to a widespread literal interpretation of the Qur'ān, being more focused on the wording than locating the Qur'ān in its historical context, an increasing number of contemporary scholars of the Qur'ān argue for a contextualizing interpretation, placing the holy text in its milieu of origin, into the historical context of 7<sup>th</sup> century Arabia. The aim of the conference is to establish a vivid international discourse as well as to create an academic network in which open discussions will be able to develop or to improve scholarly methods for the contextual interpretation of the Qur'ān.

## Programme

### Friday, 8 Nov. 2019

#### Greetings and Keynote

16:30–17:00 | *Arrival and Coffee*

17:00 | **Greetings and Introductory Remarks**  
Mouhanad Khorchide (Director of the Center for Islamic Theology)

17:15 | **Keynote**  
Aziz al-Azmeh (Central European University, Budapest):  
*Issues of Paleo-Qur'ānic composition*

17:45–18:00 | *Discussion*

18:00 **Session I: The Historical Reconstruction of the Qur'ān in Modernity**

18:00–18:20 | Mehmet Paçacı (University of Ankara/ University of Ibn Haldun):  
*Historical Setting vs. Modern Reading of the Qur'ān*

18:20–18:40 | Oliver Leaman (University of Kentucky):  
*How Useful is History in Understanding the Qur'ān?*

18:40-19:15 | *Discussion: Expectations and Perspectives*  
**Chair : Kamil Öktem**

20:00 | *Dinner at the Center for Islamic Theology*

### Saturday, 9 Nov. 2019

#### Roundtable Sessions

09:30 **Session II: Pre-Islamic Sources and Intertexts I**

09:30-09:50 | Heidar Eyvazi (University of Religions and Denominations URD, Qom):  
*The Evolution of an Imagery in Semitic Languages. From Akkadian – Aramaic Texts to the Qur'ān*

09:50–10:10 | Emran El-Badawi (University of Houston):  
*Is There a Female Origin to Qur'ānic Revelation?*

10:10–10:40 | *Roundtable Discussion*  
**Chair: Raid al-Daghistani**

10:40–11:10 | *Coffee break*

11:10 **Session III: Pre-Islamic Sources and Intertexts II**

11:10–11:30 | Mehdi Azaiez (Catholic University of Leuven):  
*New Insights on Qur'ānic First Addressee*

11:30–11:50 | Sahiron Syamsuddin (Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta):  
*The Story of Noah in the Bible and the Qur'ān: In Search for its Original Meaning and its Contemporary Significance*

11:50–12:10 | *Roundtable Discussion*  
**Chair: Dirk Hartwig**

12:10–13:10 | *Lunch break*

13:10 **Session IV: Pre-Islamic Society and Historical Reconstruction**

13:10–13:30 | Munirul Ikhwan (Kalijaga State Islamic University (UIN), Yogyakarta):  
*Islamic Monotheism and the Emerging Public Sphere in Late Antique Arabia*

13:30–13:50 | Zahra Mohagheghian (Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, Tehran):  
*The Daughters of Allah: Possibilities of the Historical Reconstruction in the Qur'ānic Revelation*

13:50-14:10 | Mohammed Ali Tabatabaei (Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, Tehran):  
*Who, When and Where Composed the Qur'ān? The Historical Implications of the Cosmological Themes of the Qur'ān*

14:10-14:40 | *Roundtable Discussion*  
**Chair: Stephan Kokew**

14:40-15:10 | *Coffee break*

15:10 **Session V: Pre-Islamic Poetry and Early Islamic Sources**

15:10-15:30 | Aida Gasimova (Baku State University):  
*Occult Lore in Pre- and Early Islamic Texts*

15:30-15:50 | Johanna Pink (University of Freiburg):  
*Historicity, Heritage and Piety. The Contemporary Exegetical Genre of 'Tafsir in the Order of Revelation'*

15:50-16:10 | *Roundtable Discussion*  
**Chair: Yassine Yahyaoui**

16:10-16:20 | *Short break*

16:20 **Session VI: Chronology**

16:20-16:40 | Karim Elsaïad (Cairo University):  
*History of Revelation and Revelation of History The Phenomenological Deconstruction of Historicism in Qur'ān Interpretation*

16:40-17:00 | Muammar Zain Qadafy (University of Freiburg):  
*Different Chronology, Different Story? Evaluating Traditional Narratives of Qur'ānic Revelation*

17:00-17:20 | Irma Makharadze (Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa):  
*Ahl al-Kitab in the Light of Qur'ānic Chronology*

17:20-17:50 | *Roundtable Discussion*  
**Chair: Recep Aktas**

17:50-18:30 | *Hosted Roundtable Discussion*

18:45 | *Dinner*

### Sunday, 10 Nov. 2019

#### Roundtable Sessions

09:30 **Session VII: Bridge-Building**

09:30-09:50 | Natana de Long-Bas (Boston College):  
*From 'Sources and Origins' to 'Conversation Partners': Reframing the Historical Construction of the Qur'ān*

09:50-10:10 | Joseph Lumbard (Hamad bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar):  
*Reconsidering Izutsu's 'Philosophical Semantics' of the Qur'ān*

10:00-10:30 | *Roundtable Discussion*  
**Chair: Dina El Omari**

10:30-10:45 | *Coffee break*