The battle which took place in the narrows of the Yarmuk, the largest tributary of the Jordan River, in A.D. 636/A.H. 15 came to be regarded in both the Greek and the Arabic traditions as the turning point in the early confrontation between the Byzantine Empire and the Arabs, which opened the way to the rapid conquest of the Middle East by the latter and the creation of an Islamic Empire. Historical records of this stage of the conflict were also kept by Syrian and Armenian Christians and are of great value.

In 2003, W. E. Kaegi wrote: “One of the principal tasks for modern historians is the weighing and comparing of non-Muslim and Muslim sources [...] in the search to evaluate the authenticity of separated bits of memory from the merely spurious.” While this may not always be possible, the organizers of this conference hope to bring together, among others, Byzantinists and Arabists to engage in a shared debate on the history and reception of the events attached to a specific memory space.
9:00-9:10 Welcome

9:10-9:30 Introduction
Theresia Raum (Tübingen)
The Middle East ca. 636

9:30-10:50 Byzantine Approaches
Luise Marion Frenkel (São Paulo/Erfurt)
Arab Conquerors in Greek Ecclesiastical
Sources from Sozomen to the Lateran
Council (649): Between Heresiology and
Ethnography

Federico Montinaro (Tübingen)
Anastasios of Sinai and the Battle of
Yarmuk according to the Middle Byzantine
Historians

10:50-11:20 Coffee Break

11:20-12:00 The Arabic Historical
Tradition
Yoones Dehghani Farsani (Göttingen)
The Battle of Yarmuk in Early Arabic
Conquest Narratives: New Readings

12:00-13:20 Lunch Break

13:20-14:40 The Arabic Historical
Tradition (Continued)
Mehmetcan Akpınar (Chicago/Tübingen)
The Battle of Yarmuk in Ibn ‘Asākir’s
Tārīkh Madīnat Dimaq

Perrine Pilette (Louvain-la-Neuve)
The Seventh Century in the History of the
Patriarchs of Alexandria and Related Texts

11:40-15:00 Coffee Break

15:10-16:30 Western Syria,
Greater Syria
Andy Hilkens (Antwerp)
The Battle of Yarmuk: The Syriac Sources

Federico Montinaro & Fabian Völzing
(Tübingen)
Post-Conquest Byzantine Coin Finds in
the Levant: A Reappraisal

16:30 General Discussion

19:00 Dinner