

Conference organisers: Nadja Abuhussein, Ana Davitashvili, and Valentina A. Grasso

Epigraphy, the Qur'ān, and the Religious Landscape of Arabia

This three-day international conference brings together specialists in epigraphy as well as scholars of the Qur'ān and historians of early Islam. It aims at exploring how recent epigraphic and archaeological findings and research have been changing our understanding of the Qur'ān and the Arabian religious, cultural, and political landscape.

This conference is organised within the ERC funded project, 'The Qur'an as a Source for Late Antiquity' (QaSLA), directed by Professor Holger Zellentin.

QaSLA considers the Qur'ān as witness to the history of Judaism and Christianity. It examines the Qur'ān as a primary literary source that facilitates the study of the religious landscape of the Arabian Peninsula, and investigates the Qur'ān's testimony to the religious culture of Judaism and Christianity throughout Late Antiquity from a new perspective.

Cover image: A Christian Arabic inscription featuring a cross and Aramaic dots over the dāls, see Younis al-Shdaifat et al. "An Early Christian Arabic Graffito Mentioning 'Yazīd the King'," <https://doi.org/10.1111/aae.12105>



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Evangelische-Theologie Fakultäten/Seminar für
Religionswissenschaft und Judaistik/Institutum Judaicum

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Epigraphy, the Qur'ān, and the Religious Landscape of Arabia

Seminar Room 12, Theologicum,
Liebermeisterstrasse 12-18, 72076,
Tübingen

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Conference Timetable

SEPTEMBER 8

15:30: Group Activity: Guided city tour
18:00: Dinner (Zum Alten Fritz)

SEPTEMBER 9

08:55: Welcome and introduction

Panel 1: Naming God in pre-Islamic Arabia

Chair: Nadja Abuhussein (University of Tübingen)

09:00: Christian Robin (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) – The God of Najrān
09:25: Moderated discussion
09:45: Break
09:50: Laïla Nehmé (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) – On Some Specific Ways of Naming God in Northwest Arabia in Antiquity and Late Antiquity
10:15: Moderated discussion
10:35: Break
10:40: Maria Gorea (University of Paris 8) – From the Aramaic *rahmānā*’ to *rahmānān* and *al-rahmān*
11:05: Moderated discussion
11:25: Response: Michael Macdonald (University of Oxford)
12:00 – 13:30: Lunch

Panel 2: Religious Identities and Religious Landscape

Chair: Mehmetcan Akpınar (University of Tübingen)

13:30: Ahmad al-Jallad (University of Groningen) – Religious Identity in Paleo-Arabic Inscriptions
13:55: Moderated discussion
14:15: Break
14:20: Basema Hamarneh (University of Vienna) – The Spatial Construction of the Religious Landscape in Arabia
14:45: Moderated discussion
15:05: Break
15:10: Iwona Gajda (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) – Jews, Judaizers, Christians and Royal Power in pre-Islamic South Arabia
15:35: Moderated discussion
15:55: Response: Zishan Ghaffar (University of Paderborn)
16:30: Close of day
17:45: Dinner (Ludwigs)

SEPTEMBER 10

Panel 3: Cultic Continuity

Chair: Ana Davitashvili (University of Tübingen)

09:00: Suleyman Dost (University of Toronto) – Pilgrimage in Pre-Islamic Arabia: Continuity and Rupture from Epigraphic Texts to the Qur’ān

09:25: Moderated discussion
09:45: Break
09:50: Peter Webb (Leiden University) – Hajj before Muhammad: Pilgrimage and Poetry in Pre-Islamic Arabia
10:15: Moderated discussion
10:35: Break
10:40: Valentina A. Grasso (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World) – Slavery in First Millennium Arabia: Epigraphy and the Qur’ān
11:05: Moderated discussion
11:25: Response: Holger Zellentin (University of Tübingen)
12:00 – 13:30: Lunch

Panel 4: Ethnicity and Literacy

Chair: Mark Hoover (University of Tübingen)

13:30: Robert Hoyland (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World) – Arabicization before ‘Abd al-Malik
13:55: Moderated discussion
14:15: Break
14:20: Marjin van Putten (Leiden University) – The Hijazi Spelling Reform
14:45: Moderated discussion
15:05: Response: Andrew Marsham (University of Cambridge)
15:40: Closing Remarks