



The Construction of the Palace of Khawamaq in Hīrah by Kamāl ud-Dīn Behzād (1450–1535); Wikimedia Commons

“Qur’ān and Arab Christianity: Religious Themes and Motifs in Pre-Qur’anic Arabic Poetry”

The two-day workshop aims at exploring the Qur’ān’s Arabian milieu, mainly as represented in pre-Qur’anic poetry attributed to Christian and Pagan poets. Scholars have long noted that poetry attributed to pre-Qur’anic poets contain religious ideas and sentiments comparable to some that appear in the Qur’ān. References to God and to religious beliefs are found within the corpus of poetry ascribed to both Pagan and monotheistic Arab poets. As promising as this material sounds, it was long viewed as an unreliable source in the investigation of the Qur’ān’s milieu due to its codification long after the advent of Islam and the question of authenticity this raises. However, the importance of pre-Qur’anic poetry has been increasingly recognized in recent years, and scholars have adopted some methods to verify its genuineness and to employ it in their efforts to examine the theological scene of pre-Islamic Arabia. Topics to be addressed by the workshop include:

1. Monotheism in Arabia prior to the rise of Islam

2. Religious themes and motifs in pre-Qur’anic poetry and how they compare to the Qur’ān
3. Al-Hīra as a center of Late Antique Christianity and as a literary hub
4. Possible affinities between late antique Arabic poetry and Judeo-Christian texts
5. Innovative methodological approaches to the study of pre-Qur’anic poetry, especially those addressing authenticity.

Organizer: Nadja Abuhussein
nadja.abuhussein@uni-tuebingen.de
Director: Holger Zellentin
Holger.Zellentin@uni-tuebingen.de

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www.qasla.eu

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Alte Aula
Münzgasse 30
72070 Tübingen



Workshop Timetable

September 24

10:30: Welcome and Introduction

Session One

Chair: Holger Zellentlin (University of Tübingen)

10:45 Nicolai Sinai (University of Oxford)

“Pagan Monotheism and Pre-Islamic Arabia”

11:45 Break

12:00 Raashid S. Goyal (University of Tübingen)

“The Internecine War (*ḥarb al-fasād*) of the Tayyī”

13:00 Lunch

Session Two

Chair: Stefanie Rudolf (University of Tübingen)

14:00 Suzanne Stetkevych (Georgetown University)

“Except for Sulaymān”: Ritual and Religion in the Court Poetry of al-Nābighah al-Dhubyānī

15:00 Break

15:15 Nadja Abuhusseïn (University of Tübingen)

“God, the King, and the Poet: Faith and Forgiveness in

‘Adī Ibn Zayd al-‘Ibādī’s Apology Poems to the Lakhmid Ruler al-Nu‘mān Ibn al-Mundhir“

16:15 Break

16:30 Iyas Nasser (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

“Christian Motifs in the Poetry of ‘Adī Ibn Zayd al-‘Ibādī, an Arab Christian Pre-Islamic Poet”

18:00 Dinner

September 25

Session Three

Chair: Ana Davitashvili (University of Tübingen)

10:00 Nora Schmid (University of Tübingen)

“Methodological Approaches to the Qur’an and Pre-Islamic Christian Poetry”

11:00 Break

Session Four

Chair: Raashid S. Goyal (University of Tübingen)

11:15 Maxim Yosefi (University of Göttingen)

“The Pre-Qur’ānic Notions of Fate as Reflected in Early Arabic Poetry and Their Influence on the Qur’ānic Representation of Allah”

12:15 Break

12:30 Ruben Schenzle (Freie Universität Berlin)

“Riding with the Jinn: Pre-Islamic Spirituality and Its Islamic Transformations”

13:30 Lunch

14:30 Alexander Foreman (University of Chicago)

“No God but *Rahmānān*: On a South Arabian Monotheistic Theonym in Pre-Islamic Arabian Poetry and Epigraphy”

15:30 Conclusion



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