

Conference organiser: Ana Davitashvili

The Qur'ān and Syriac Christianity: Recurring Themes and Motifs

This three-day international conference pioneers in its focus on the relationship between the Qur'ān and pre-Islamic Syriac Christianity. It brings together specialists in Syriac Christianity and comparative theology, as well as scholars of the Qur'ān. The conference explores how the Qur'ān reacts to pre-Islamic Syriac traditions and the extent to which it serves as a historical witness to Syriac Christianity in Arabia.

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.



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Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät/Lehrstuhl für
Religionswissenschaft und Judaistik/Institutum Judaicum

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The Qur'ān and Syriac Christianity: Recurring Themes and Motifs

Alte Aula, Münzgasse 30, 72070,
Tübingen

Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät/Lehrstuhl für
Religionswissenschaft und Judaistik/Institutum Judaicum



Conference Timetable

DECEMBER 5

11:30: Welcome & Introduction

Session One

Chair: Lejla Demiri (University of Tübingen)

11:40: Muriel Debié (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Université PSL) – “Syriac or not Syriac: The Background to the Qur’ān”

12:10: Moderated discussion

12:30: Emran El-Badawi (University of Houston) – “Revisiting Q 5:82 in light of 6th Century Syriac Literature”

13:00: Moderated discussion

13:20: Julien Decharneux (Université libre de Bruxelles) – “Being *‘ibād* of God: A Syriac Pun in the Qur’ān?”

13:50: Moderated discussion

14:10 – 15:10: Lunch

Session Two

Chair: Theresa Jäckh (University of Tübingen)

15:10: Christian Lange (University of Würzburg) – “Concepts of Christian Life as a Constant Struggle for the Believers in Syriac Literature – A Template for the ‘Great *Jihād*’?”

15:40: Moderated discussion

16:00: Dmitrij Bumazhnov (University of Göttingen) – “Thirst for Killing and Being Killed in the Syriac ‘Eusebius Narrative’ and in the Qur’ān”

16:30: Moderated discussion

16:50: Johanne Louise Christiansen (University of Southern Denmark) – “Unbelief, Protection, and Containers: Dark Metaphors between the Qur’ān and Syriac Christianity”

17:20: Moderated discussion

17:40: Close of day

18:00: Dinner

DECEMBER 6

Session Three

Chair: Heidrun Eichner (University of Tübingen)

09:00: Adrian Pirtea (Max Planck Institute Berlin/BBAW) – “Messengers of God’ – Prophethood, Apostleship and Typological Thought in Late Antique Syriac Christianity”

09:30: Moderated discussion

09:50: Jacob M. Kildoo (University of Notre Dame) – “On Qur’ānic Prophetology and Syriac Christian anti-Jewish Polemic”

10:20: Moderated discussion

10:40: Break

11:00: Zishan Ghaffar (University of Paderborn) – “Covenant Theology and anti-Jewish Polemic in the Qur’ān and in the Syriac Tradition”

11:30: Moderated discussion

11:50: Mohammad Ghandehari (Independent scholar) – “On the Temporal Sequence of the Jonah Story in the Qur’ān and Ephrem the Syrian’s Hymns”

12:20: Moderated discussion

12:40: Break

13:00 – 14:30: Lunch

Session Four

Chair: Daniel Schumann (University of Tübingen)

14:30: Daniel Bannoura (University of Notre Dame) – “Concerning the Redaction of Material by Ephrem of Edessa in the Qur’ān”

15:00: Moderated discussion

15:20: Ana Davitashvili (University of Tübingen) – “The Fall of Humanity in the Qur’ān and pre-Islamic Syriac Christianity”

15:50: Moderated discussion

16:10: Break

16:30: Nestor Kavvadas (University of Bonn) – “A Talking New-born (Q 19:30), Aaron’s Sister (Q 19:28), Mary who is not God (Q 5:116): Qur’anic Cruces and their Syriac Intertexts”

Conference Timetable

DECEMBER 6

17:00:	Moderated discussion
17:20:	Ryann Craig (Georgetown University) – “You crucified him and you killed him; except that God raised him”: Creedal Patterns and the Qur’ānic Crucifixion”
17:50:	Moderated discussion
18:10:	Close of day
18:30:	Dinner

DECEMBER 7

Session Five

Chair: Nadja Abuhussein (University of Tübingen)

10:00:	Sarah Yona Zweig (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) – “Mapping the Edge of the World – The Cosmographies of Q 18:86”
10:30:	Moderated discussion
10:50:	Lasse Løvlund Toft (University of Oslo) – “Damned Accusers and Fueled Fires – On the Syriac Reception of Daniel 3 and the <i>Aṣḥāb al-Ukhdūd</i> in Q 85:4–10”
11:20:	Moderated discussion

11:40:	Mark Hoover (University of Tübingen) – “Washing after Sex and Menstruation in the Syrian Tradition and the Qur’ān: Beyond the <i>Pseudo-Clementines Homilies</i> and the <i>Didascalia Apostolorum</i> ”
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12:10: Moderated discussion

12:30: Break

12:50 – 14:00: Lunch

Session Six

Chair: Holger Zellentin (University of Tübingen)

14:00: Mohammad Haghani Fazl (University of Paderborn) – “A Reading of the Qur’ānic Narrative of the Birth of Moses Based on Syriac and Midrashic Sources”

14:30: Moderated discussion

14:50: Gavin McDowell (CNRS, Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes) – “The Syriac *Cave of Treasures* and the Qur’ān: A Reappraisal”

15:20: Moderated discussion

15:40: Aaron Butts (University of Hamburg) – “Christians in the Qur’ān’s Milieu: Why Syriac?”

16:10: Moderated discussion

16:30: Round table discussion

17:00: Tübingen Christmas Market