

# WORKSHOP

## THE EUROPEAN QUR'AN

**“European perspectives on the Qur'an  
(16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> C.): polemics and beyond”**



**2-3 December 2021**

*Maison des Sciences de l'Homme  
Nantes - France  
<https://euqu.eu>*



The project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program (grant agreement no. 810141).



## THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER 2021

- ◇ From 9h30: Welcome coffee and biscuits
- ◇ 10h15: Opening of the workshop
- ◇ 10h30-12h45: **Panel 1: Visions of Islam in European contexts**

**Chaired by : Jan LOOP**

- **Emilie PICHEROT**, “Désislamiser l’islam : un projet minoritaire de la pensée humaniste”
- **Gianni PAGANINI**, “Prophet, Legislator or Imposter? Mahomet and Islam in early modern clandestine philosophical manuscripts.”
- **Marc SEDGWICK**, “Reading Islam as Mystical Theology: Sufism and Spinoza”
- **Ferenc TÓTH**, “Réception du Coran parmi les émigrés hongrois dans l’Empire ottoman au tournant des XVII<sup>e</sup> et XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles”

- ◇ 13h-14h30 : *lunch break*

- ◇ 14h30-16h45: **Panel 2 : The Qur'an in polemical settings**

**Chaired by : Houari Touati**

- **Mercedes GARCÍA-ARENAL**, “Diego de Urrea as translator of the Qur'an”
- **Javier DE PRADO**, “Un grammairien chez les Maures: le récit de Clénard comme source pour la polémique et la prédication dans le *De procuranda salute omnium gentium* (1613)”
- **Paul SHORE**, “Where Three Faiths Meet: Jewish Scholarship and an Early Latin Translation of the Qur'an by a Jesuit”
- **Jesús GÓMEZ**, “Lex Mahomettana: an example of the Bacchanalian rites in Onofre Micó”

- ◇ 19h30 Meeting point in the MSH Hall
- ◇ 20h00 Restaurant *Chez Félix*

## FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 2021

◇ 8h30-10h45 : **Panel 3: Translation: Practices and Contexts**

**Chaired by : Maxime SELLIN**

- **Katarzyna K. STARCZEWSKA**, “Philological Undertones in Egidio da Viterbo’s Qur’ān”

- **Ulisse CECINI**, “Dominicus Germanus de Silesia’s approach to the Qur’an”

- **Paul BABINSKI**, “Reading the Qur’an between Du Ryer and Maracci: BnF, ms Arabe 468”

- **Emmanuelle STEFANIDIS**, “The Qur’an as an oriental tale? An unpublished adaptation found among Antoine Galland’s papers”

◇ Short Break

◇ 11h15-13h30 : **Panel 4: Scholarly practices and interests**

**Chaired by : Maurizio BUSCA**

- **Nabil MATAR**, “John Gregory and the Quran, 1646”

- **Giovanni MARTINI**, “Athanasius Kircher's reflection on the Qur’an in his *De Cabala Saracenica*”

- **Kentaro INAGAKI**, “Reading the Qur’ān for ‘ethnography’: Levinus Warner and his study on the pre-Islamic Arabs”

- **Claire GALLIEN**, “Collecting and Cataloguing Qur’ān and Islamic Foundational Literature at the Bodleian Library—The Bernard (1692) and Uri (1787) Catalogues Compared ”

◇ Lunch

◇ 15h00-16h45: **Panel 5: Enlightenment shifts?**

**Chaired by : Alain MESSAOUDI**

- **Mouhamad(oul) KHALY WÉLÉ**, “Erudition on Islam in Huguenot circles: the case of David Durant (1680?-1763)”

- **Asaph BEN-TOV**, “David Friedrich Megerlin (1698-1778) and his German Qur’an, or: On the importance of failures”

- **Yaser GÜN**, “Une approche diplomatique du Coran? Mouradgea d’Ohsson et son *Tableau général de l’Empire Othoman*”

◇ 16h45 – 17h15 : Concluding round table with **Jan LOOP, Emmanuelle STEFANIDIS and John TOLAN**





## Speakers

**Paul BABINSKI** (PhD, Princeton 2020) studies the history of early modern oriental philology, with a focus on the formative role of Ottoman scholarship in seventeenth and eighteenth-century oriental studies. In his research, he surveys early modern collections of Islamic manuscripts to reconstruct the libraries and scholarly practices of orientalist. As part of the EuQu project in Copenhagen he will study the provenance and readers' notes of Qur'an manuscripts in early modern Northern European collections to trace how early modern orientalist read the Arabic Qur'an text.

**Asaph BEN-TOV** (PhD Jerusalem 2007, habil. Erfurt 2019) studies early modern history of ideas and cultures of scholarship, especially the history of oriental studies and the Classical tradition in early modern Germany. He is the author of *Lutheran Humanists and Greek Antiquity* (2009) and, most recently, of *Johann Ernst Gerhard (1621-1668): The Life and Work of a Seventeenth-Century Orientalist* (2021). He is a post-doc researcher within the ERC Synergy Grant EuQu project at the University of Copenhagen.

**Maurizio BUSCA** achieved in 2017 a joint PhD in French Literature at the Università degli Studi di Torino and the Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3. Within the framework of the ERC EuQu project, Maurizio Busca studies the information on Islam and the Qur'an contained in travel narratives of the Early Modern period. Through the indexation of the collected data and the constitution of a digital library, he aims to analyze the dynamics of circulation and transformation of this information.

**Ulisse CECINI** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) obtained in 2010 a PhD in Medieval Latin from the Erlangen University (Germany). His research interests cover cross-cultural contacts between Christians, Muslim and Jews in the Middle Ages, especially through translations of Sacred Texts. His last main publications are "Latin Christianity Engaging with the Qur'an", in *Christian-Muslim Relations*, Volume 15. (Leiden, 2020), *Masā'il 'Abdallāh ibn Salām* (Wiesbaden 2021), and "Qur'an Quotations in the *Liber de Doctrina Mahumet*". in: John Tolan – Cándida Ferrero Hernández (Eds.), *The Latin Qur'an, 1143-1500* (Berlin 2021).

**Javier DE PRADO GARCIA** is a PhD student within the EuQu project at the University of Nantes and the University of Barcelona (UAB). His thesis will result in a modern critical edition of the X<sup>th</sup> book of the *De procuranda salute omnium gentium* (1613) by Spanish Carmelite Tomás de Jesús.

**Claire GALLIEN** is Senior Lecturer at the University of Montpellier 3 and member of the CNRS research centre IRCL. She published *L'Orient anglais* in 2011 and has since then authored and edited numerous articles, chapters, volumes, and special issues (see: <https://univ-montp3.academia.edu/ClaireGallien>). She is completing a monograph titled *From Corpus to Canon: Appropriating and Reconfiguring Eastern Literary Traditions in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Britain* and a co-edited volume on *Islam and New Directions in World Literature* (Edinburgh UP). She is currently a doctoral candidate and tutor at the Zentrum für Islamische Theologie, Tübingen U.

**Mercedes GARCÍA-ARENAL** is a Research Professor at Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid and one of the world's leading expert on Muslim minorities in Iberia. Her work focuses on the religious history of the Muslim West, mainly on religious minorities: conversion, polemics, messianism, religious dissidence, and dissimulation. She is the main Principal Investigator (PI) of the ERC Synergy Grant project "The European Qur'an" EuQu.

**Jesús GÓMEZ** is a Phd student of Islamolatina group, graduated in Estudios de Español y de Clásicas from the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona. He is studying the work *Lex euangelica contra Alcoranum* of the valencian trinitarian Onofre Micó (1637-1702), a 18<sup>th</sup> century text that has not been studied so far and it has only been revised by Ferrero Hernández (2014). In his research, he edits, translates and offers a philological, historical and cultural study of a work of great theological richness, reflection of the encounter in Europe of the Christianity with another of the capital religions of monotheism: Islam.

**Yaser GÜN** is a PhD student within the EuQu project at the University of Nantes. He obtained a BA degree in Sociology (Université de Nantes) and a Master's Degree in Religious Studies (Université d'Artois, France). Within the EuQU project, his PhD-thesis will focus on The place of the Qur'ān in the 'Tableau Général de l'Empire Othman', written by historian, orientalist and diplomat Ignace Mouradgea d'Ohsson (1740-1807). d'Ohsson's *Tableau Général* deals with Ottoman's religion (creed, religious laws and practices, mosques, tombs and so on), institutions and history.

**Kentaro INAGAKI** is a Ph.D. fellow at the Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen, and a fellowship holder at the Leibniz Institut für Europäische Geschichte Mainz (07-11. 2021). After he earned a bachelor's and a master's degree at the University of Tokyo, he joined the EuQu Copenhagen team. He is currently writing a Ph.D. thesis on Levinus Warner and his reading of the Qur'an, the Hadith collection, and Arabic poetry.

**Mouhamad(oul) KHALI WÉLÉ** is a PhD Candidate at the Université Lumière Lyon 2. He is co-director, with Tristan Vigliano, of the website *Qur'an 12-21*. He is preparing a doctoral dissertation in Comparative Literature under the supervision of Ziad Elmarsafy (King's College London) and Tristan Vigliano (Aix-Marseille Université). His research focuses on the first French and English translations of the Qur'an (1647-1880).

**Jan LOOP** is a leading expert in the history of European scholarly interactions with the Islamic world and the Arabic language and has significantly advanced awareness of the entanglement of Islamic and Arabic studies and the process of confessionalisation in early modern Europe. His teaching and research interests are in the intellectual, religious and cultural history of Europe and the Near East, with a special focus on Western knowledge of the Arab, Ottoman and Persian world between 1450 and 1800. Based at the University of Copenhagen, he is one of the PI of the ERC Synergy Grant project "The European Qur'an" EuQu.

**Giovanni MARTINI's** (PhD, Un. "L'Orientale" Naples, 2014) main research area is Islamic intellectual history with a special focus on Sufism, Occult Sciences and their intersection with Qur'anic disciplines. His publications include the book *'Alā' al-Dawla al-Simnānī between Spiritual Authority and Political Power. A Persian Lord and Intellectual in the Heart of the Ilkhanate* (Brill, Leiden-Boston 2018). As a post-doc researcher within the EuQu project in Naples, he will first investigate Athanasius Kircher's (d.1680) knowledge of Islamic sources and his reflections on the central role of the Qur'an in the definition of 'Islamic magic' according to his work entitled *De Cabala Saracenica* (Rome 1653), and secondly prepare a study on Gustav L. Flügel's (d.1870) very influential edition of the Qur'an (*Corani Textus Arabicus*, Leipzig 1834).

**Nabil MATAR** is Professor of English and of Religious Studies at the University of Minnesota. He holds the Samuel Russell Chair in the College of Liberal Arts. His most recent publication is "Mediterranean Captivity through Arab Eyes, 1517-1787" (Brill, 2020). The paper he is presenting is from his forthcoming book: "Luther and the Papacy through Arab Eyes, 1517-1798" (Palgrave, 2023).

**Alain MESSAOUDI** is assistant professor in contemporary history at the University of Nantes, attached to the Centre de recherches en histoire internationale et atlantique (CRHIA). His research focuses on the history of Orientalism in the field of Arabic studies (*Les arabisants et la France coloniale (1780-1930)*. Savants, interprètes, médiateurs, Lyon, ENS Éditions, 2015) and on the modalities of the European perception of Islam in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. He is currently developing a research on the development of fine arts in North Africa, especially in Tunisia, since the nineteenth century.

**Gianni PAGANINI** (Università del Piemonte Orientale), fellow of the Research Centre of the Accademia dei Lincei (Rome), edited with G. Canziani the first atheist clandestine manuscript : *Theophrastus redivivus* (1659). He is also the author of *Skepsis. Le Débat des modernes sur le scepticisme*, Paris, Vrin, 2008, awarded by the Académie Française. In 2010 he received the prize for his work in history of philosophy by the Accademia dei Lincei (Rome). His current research regards 17th century philosophy (Gassendi, Hobbes, and clandestine philosophy) and the Enlightenment (Emilie Du Châtelet, Hume, and Diderot).

Currently a junior member of the IUF and maître de conférence in comparative literature (Université de Lille), **Emilie PICHEROT** is interested in contacts between Arabic, Spanish and French literature in early modernity. She published a book on Muslims in Spain in 2019 (Classiques Garnier). She co-founded with Carole Boidin the “General and Comparative Literature – Arab Worlds” network, and now investigates on the teaching and dissemination of Arabic in Western Europe in the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**Mark SEDGWICK** professor of Arab and Islamic studies at Aarhus University, Denmark, and convenor of the European Network for the Study of Islam and Esotericism. He is by training a historian, and works on Sufism among other topics. His most recent book is on the topic an edited collection, *Anarchist, Artist, Sufi: The Politics, Painting, and Esotericism of Ivan Aguéli* (London: Bloomsbury, 2021), and his most recent monograph is *Western Sufism: From the Abbasids to the New Age* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).

**Maxime SELLIN** is a PhD student within the EuQu project at the University of Nantes. He wrote his dissertation on San Clemente of Toledo, a royal mozarabic nunnery between the 12th and the 13th centuries. Currently, he is studying the Qur'an of Bellus, a manuscript copied in 1518 near Valencia. This manuscript contains many annotations in different languages which can be studied from different points of view (historical, theological, linguistical).

**Paul SHORE** has held teaching and research posts at Saint Louis University, Harvard Divinity School, Oxford University, the University of Edinburgh, and Trinity College Dublin. He is a Life Member of Wolfson College, Cambridge University, and Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Regina. The author of several publications, he has lectured on topics from the history of religion in many cities, including Moscow, Jerusalem, Rome, Vienna, and Toronto.



**Katarzyna K. STARCZEWSKA** is a EuQu post-doctoral researcher based at the Spanish National Research Council (CCHS-CSIC) in Madrid. She has worked on a number of topics which revolve around the theme of explaining Muslim culture in Latin. In parallel to the research on the relationships between religious controversy and the transmission of knowledge in early modern Spain and Italy, she has started analysing the impact of Tatar written culture on European intellectual history. She is an author of numerous articles and a book titled *Latin Translation of the Qur'ān commissioned by Egidio da Viterbo*, published by Otto Harrassowitz Verlag, in 2018.

**Emmanuelle SREFANIDIS** is a post-doc researcher within the ERC Synergy Grant EuQu project at the University of Nantes. She studied anthropology, history and Arabic in Edinburgh, Paris and Cairo. She recently completed her PhD in Arabic Studies at Sorbonne-Université (2019). Within the framework of the EuQu project, Emmanuelle is studying the reception of Qur'anic narratives in early modern Europe. Focusing on France, and in particular on the works of Barthélemy d'Herbelot and Antoine Galland, her project traces the emergence of a new literary and philological curiosity for Qur'anic and other "oriental" stories in the Grand siècle.

**John TOLAN** is a leading expert in medieval European anti-Muslim polemics and in the history of European perceptions of Islam. He is currently Professor of Medieval History at the University of Nantes and a member of the Academia Europæa. His latest book 'Faces of Muhammad: Western Perceptions of the Prophet of Islam from the Middle Ages to Today' is available from Princeton University Press. He is one of the PI of the ERC Synergy Grant project "The European Qur'an" EuQu.

**Ferenc TÓTH**, Hungarian historian and romanist. He studied history and French language and literature in Hungary at the University of Szeged (1986-1991) and then at the University of Sorbonne in Paris (1992-1995) where he defended a doctoral thesis on the social integration of Hungarian immigration into France during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Currently, he works as a senior research fellow at the Institute of History of the Research Center for the Humanities (former Hungarian Academy of Sciences) in Budapest. In 2014 he defended a thesis at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in which he presented a biography of Baron Tott (1733-1793). He is the author of several scientific works: <https://mta.academia.edu/DrFerencTóth>.

**Houari TOUATI**, who is director of studies at EHESS, holds the Chair "Histoire and anthropologie des pratiques lettrées dans le monde musulman médiéval". He is also the director of the international journal *Studia Islamica*.

# The ERC EuQu Project

Launched at the beginning of 2019 and programmed for 6 years, «The European Qur'an: Islamic Scripture in European Culture and Religion» (EuQu) is a research project funded through a synergy grant from the European Research Council (ERC).

This project is studying the ways in which the Islamic Holy Book is embedded in the intellectual, religious and cultural history of Europe between the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. We conduct research on how the Qur'an has been translated into European languages, how it circulates in European intellectual circles, and how it is understood, commented on, used and reinterpreted by European intellectuals (Christians, Jews, Muslims, deists, atheists, or others).

The EuQu project produces interdisciplinary research through conferences and workshops in various European cities, the creation of a GIS-database (Geographic Information System) gathering bibliographic information on manuscripts, translations, works of exegesis and other works about the Qur'an. Ph.D. theses and monographs will allow a better knowledge of the Qur'an in order to inform debates and broaden knowledge. Finally, the fruits of this research will be accessible to non-academic audiences through an innovative exhibition, in various European cities and online, on the place of the holy book of Islam in the European cultural heritage.

Its four principal investigators (and host institutions) are:

- \* **Mercedes GARCÍA-ARENAL** (Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, CSIC, Madrid, Spain),
- \* **Roberto TOTTOLI** (Università di Napoli l'Orientale, Italy),
- \* **Jan LOOP** (University of Copenhagen, Denmark),
- \* **John TOLAN** (Université de Nantes, France)

