



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

**The *Holy Book* of the Ishmaelites
in the World of *Eastern Christianity***

MAY 11-12, 2022 | UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN



This event is undertaken within the framework of the project entitled *The European Qur'an: Islamic Scripture in European Religion and Culture*, which has received funding from the EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL [ERC] - Synergy Grant under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme | Grant agreement: No. 810141.



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Prolegomena

The Holy Book of the Ishmaelites was the name commonly used by Eastern Christians of various traditions to refer to the Qur'an. Since the emergence of Islam in Late Antiquity, Eastern Christians speaking Arabic, Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopic, Georgian, Greek, Church Slavonic, Russian and Syriac came in contact with Islam and its Holy Scripture. From the Mediterranean lands to Russia *via* the Balkans, Anatolia and Caucasus, the experience of Eastern Christians with their Muslim neighbors and/or rulers was shaped by diverse multicultural and multiconfessional contexts in which their approach to the Qur'an played a significant role in defining religious identity and the dynamics of communal life.

This international workshop will explore how Eastern Christians engaged with the Qur'an and its Islamic interpretations from the medieval period until the end of the eighteenth century. Bringing together different religious traditions, one of the main scopes of the workshop is to build a platform of discussion between scholars working with source material from Arabic, Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, Georgian, Greek, Church Slavonic, Russian and Syriac contexts, with a focus on how these milieus shaped Eastern Christian responses to Islam and its Holy Scripture.

How did texts on Islam and Qur'an circulate within groups and networks? How did they cross confessional boundaries? Who were their authors and intended audiences? These and similar questions will guide the discussions, and will generate – we hope – new debates for the entangled history and cross-cultural history of the Eastern Christian communities from the medieval to the dawn of modernity.

Practical information

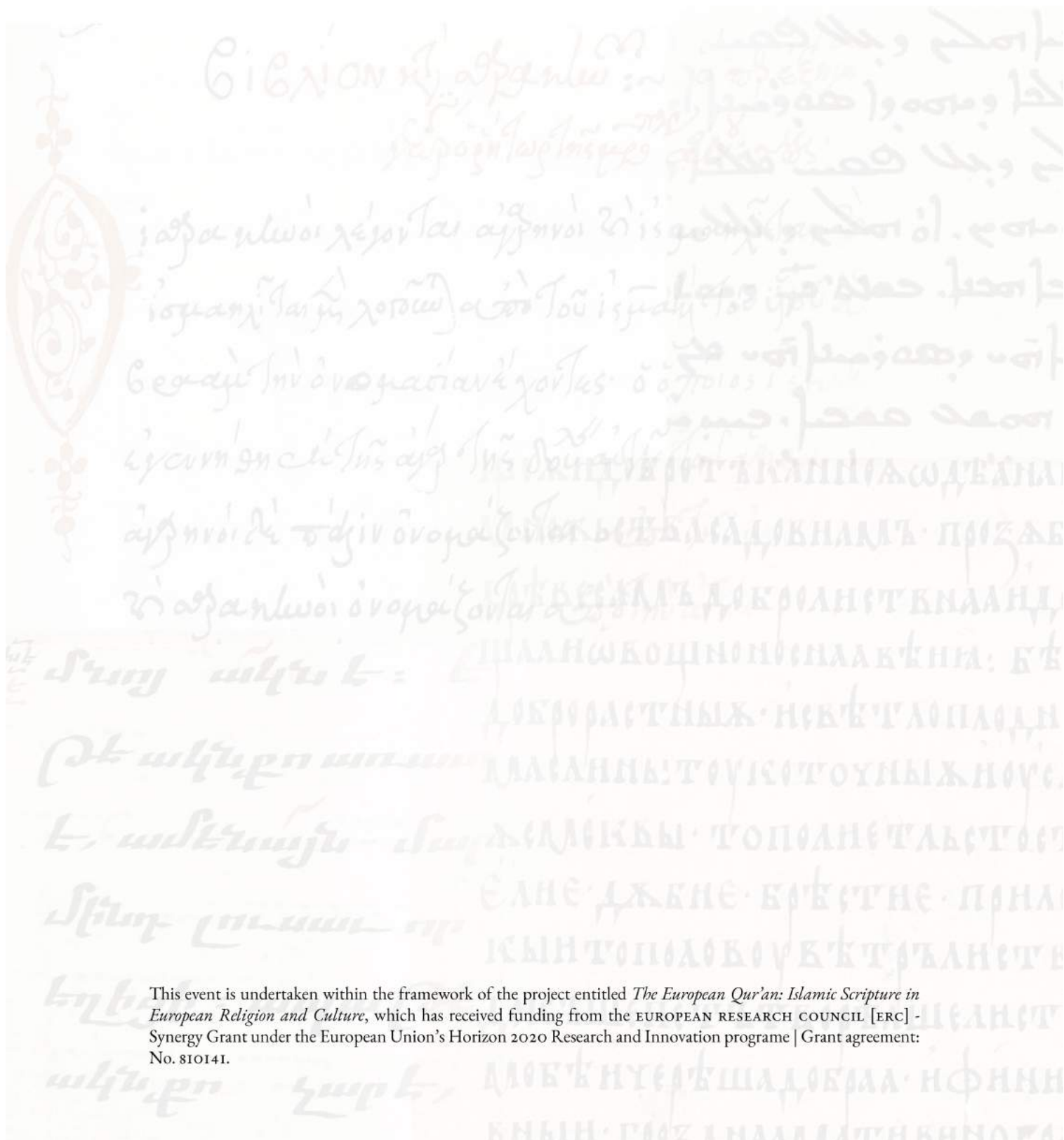
The workshop will take place on **MAY 11-12, 2022** at the Section of Biblical Exegesis, Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen [Karen Blixens Vej 16, 2300 Copenhagen]. The format of the event will be hybrid. While the speakers shall be present physically, the registered audience will be able to attend the presentations online and ask questions through the Zoom platform.

We are considering the publication of the proceedings in a collected-essays volume in the collection of the EUQU Project, entitled *The European Qur'an*, published by De Gruyter Publishing House (Berlin and Boston).

For questions and further information, please contact Octavian-Adrian Negoită at the following email address: negoita.octavian@yahoo.com.

Please register here for the event:

<https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5AqcuGspjktH93svOnXSrz5mTS1aiGf8qwc>.



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PROGRAM

**The *Holy Book* of the Ishmaelites
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WEDNESDAY | MAY 11

09:30–09:45 : Heike OMERZU, Jan LOOP & Octavian-Adrian NEGOIȚĂ
Welcome and Opening Remarks

09:45–10:00 : COFFEE BREAK

SESSION I | chair: Jan LOOP, UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

10:00–10:25 : Barbara ROGHEMA | UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE
*Qur'anic Letter versus Spirit: Ninth-Century Christian Arabic
Approaches to the Qur'an in Debates with Muslims*

10:25–10:50 : David BERTAINA | UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, SPRINGFIELD
*The Circulation of a Coptic Christian Arabic Text on the Qur'an
in Medieval Europe: Revising Data across Confessional Boundaries*

10:50–11:20 : *Discussions*

11:20–11:30 : COFFEE BREAK

SESSION II | chair: Thomas HOFFMANN, UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

11:30–11:55 : Harald SUERMANN | UNIVERSITY OF AACHEN / UNIVERSITY OF BONN
*The Fragment MS Gotha Ar. 282 with Quranic Citations:
Dialogue or Catechism?*

11:55–12:20 : Bert JACOBS | UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN
*How did Syriac- and Arabic-Using Christians
Learn about the Qur'an?*

12:20–12:50 : *Discussions*

12:50–14:00 : LUNCH



SESSION III | chair: John TOLAN, UNIVERSITY OF NANTES

14:00–14:25 : Manolis ULBRICHT | LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

*The Codex MS Athos, Lavra Ω 44: The Missing Link
between Early and Late Byzantine Anti-Islamic Literature?*

14:25–14:50 : Zofia BRZOZOWSKA | UNIVERSITY OF ŁÓDŹ

*The Holy Book of the Ishmaelites in the Medieval
(Old) Church Slavic Literature*

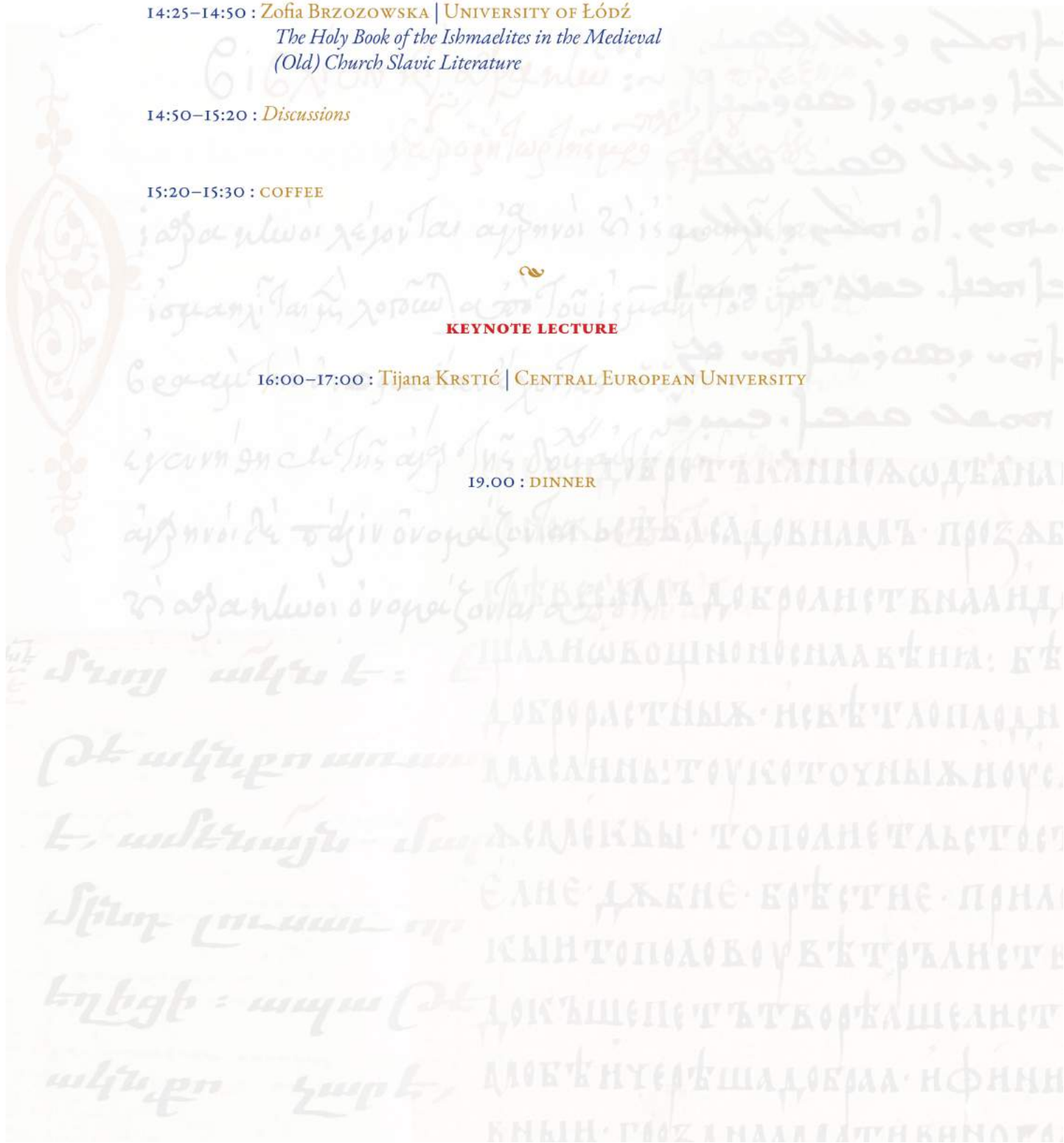
14:50–15:20 : Discussions

15:20–15:30 : COFFEE

KEYNOTE LECTURE

16:00–17:00 : Tijana KRSTIĆ | CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

19.00 : DINNER



THURSDAY | MAY 12



SESSION IV | chair: Tijana KRSTIĆ, CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

10:00–10:25 : Anna OHANJANYAN | INSTITUTE OF ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS 'MATENADARAN'

*The Polemical Function of the Armenian Confutatio
Alcorani in Pre-modern Iran*

10:25–10:50 : Octavian-Adrian NEGOIȚĂ | UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

*'Muhammad and His Book Called Koran': Polemics,
Canonization and Circulation of Knowledge in
the Early Modern Greek Orthodox World*

10:50–11:20 : *Discussions*

11:20–11:30 : COFFEE BREAK



SESSION V | chair: Octavian-Adrian NEGOIȚĂ, UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

11:30–11:55 : Ovidiu OLAR | AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

*The Prince and the Prophet: Dimitrie Cantemir (†1723)
on Muhammad, the Qur'an, and Islam*

11:55–12:20 : Nadezhda ALEXANDROVA | SOFIA UNIVERSITY 'ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI'

*The Translation of Dimitrie Cantemir's 'The Book [Called] System
or the Structure of Mohammadan Religion' in Vernacular Bulgarian
by Bishop Sofroniy Vrachanski*

12:20–12:50 : *Discussions*

12:50–14:00 : LUNCH



14:05–14:15 : Jan LOOP & Octavian-Adrian NEGOIȚĂ

Concluding Remarks