



IMAM BUKHARI INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CENTER, SAMARKAND  
ERC-SYNERGY PROJECT EUQU – THE EUROPEAN QUR'AN  
UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI L'ORIENTALE

Imam Bukhari International Scientific Research Center, Samarkand  
2-3 October 2025

**RELIGION AND MULTILINGUALISM:  
DISSEMINATING THE QUR'AN AND ISLAMIC LITERATURE  
IN EUROPEAN AND ASIAN SOCIETIES**

International conference

Organized by Shovosil Ziyodov, Davide Scotto, and Roberto Tottoli

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

Following the lines of research of the ERC project *The European Qur'an. Islamic Scripture in European Culture and Religion 1150-1850*, the conference aims to share results and new insights related to the multifaceted history of the Qur'an with scholars and students of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, and Central Asia on a broader level. Recent investigations of a range of Latin and vernacular sources related to the dissemination of the Qur'an in medieval and modern Europe (twelfth to eighteenth century) have shown that multilingualism was intrinsic to the approach to the sacred text of Islam embraced by Jews, Christians, converts, and non-believers of different intellectual attitudes. This is because translation was the primary method used in non-Islamic Europe to study and discuss the

Qur'an. Still, multilingualism was also essential to the approach to the Qur'an attested among European Muslim minorities in the Iberian Peninsula, the Balkans (today Bosnia and Albania), the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Belarussian regions, and other Eastern and Central European countries where Qur'an and Islamic texts were annotated, translated, and commented on in various languages for religious purposes.

If one looks at the cultural and religious history of Central Asia – Bukhara and Samarkand in particular – analogous historical dynamics can be detected and investigated. Turkish and Persian-speaking people were imbued with a multilingual culture based on the intellectual knowledge and daily use of Arabic, Persian, and Turkish languages. After the Russian conquest and the unification of territories once separated, Russian as a language was incorporated into a set of languages used for religious purposes in close connection to the cultural and political developments of new societies. The emergence of so-called national languages, which affected both Western and Eastern European regions, challenged the relation between multilingualism and religion as it had developed through the medieval and early modern times.

The conference aims to highlight and analyze the connection between religion and multilingualism in Europe and Central Asia by investigating the dissemination and reception of the Qur'an and Islamic literature on a transepochal and transgeographical level. With this research aim, we are inviting the submission of papers on specific case studies related to one or the other region.

**Notes:**

- Travel expenses to/from Samarkand, accommodation costs, and meals from 2 to 3 October 2025 will be covered by the organizing institutions.
- The submission deadline for paper proposals is January 31, 2025.
- Please send your paper proposal (one page max.) and CV (including a list of publications), both in English, to euqubukhari@gmail.com
- A response on the selection of papers will be given to applicants by mid-March 2025.