

## *Cooperations Across Religious and Ethnic Boundaries in the Study of the Qur'an*



The study of the Qur'ān in Europe took place in an interreligious and interethnic context. Sometimes the Quran was studied within particular religious communities: Jews, Christians, Muslims, and later- groups and individuals who did not identify as religious, but rather as secular or spiritual. This workshop examines how the Qur'an was studied between different religious groups and individuals. Well known examples are the enigmatic Muslim solely known as Muhammad who participated in the Ketton translation in the 12th century, the anonymous Muslim slave teaching Arabic to Ramon Llull in the thirteenth century, the Mudejar Isa Gidelli who cooperated with Juan de Segovia in fifteenth-century Savoy, Nicolas Clenardus and the enslaved Tunisian scholar Kharuf, and Juan Gabriel, the convert Juan Andrés, Egidio da Viterbo and Martín de Figuerola in early 16th-century Spain and Italy. But we may also think of captive Turks and enslaved Muslims collaborating with Central European scholars.

How did such encounters come about? Who determined places and times? What was voluntary collaboration and what was done under duress? Who decided in such settings about the process, which sorts of texts were used (e.g. tafsīr, asbāb al-nuzūl, polemical sources)? What were the social and political fields in which these encounters took place? What can be said about the agency of the participants? What were the written results of such encounters? What is the meaning of such encounters for our general understanding of the place of the Qur'an in the cultural history of Europe between the Middle Ages and the middle of the nineteenth century?

University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)  
6-7 March 2025

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### **Programme**

**Thursday, 6 March**, 6 Raden Kartini Room, Kloveniersburgwal 48, Amsterdam

14.30-15.00

Welcome by the dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Marieke de Goede.  
Gerard Wiegers, Mercedes García Arenal and Roberto Tottoli, welcome and introduction.

### **Panel 1: Middle Age Cooperations: Historical or Fictional**

Chair: Mercedes García-Arenal

15.00-15.30

Davide Scotto, University of Pavia, *Paper Muslims. Legitimizing the Study of the Qur'an in Latin Christendom.*

15.30-16.00

Gerard Wiegers (University of Amsterdam), *Forced Cooperation in the study of the Qur'an: the enslaved Muslims Muhammad al-Qaysī and 'Abd Allāh al-'Asīr in fourteenth-century Lérida and the South of France.*

16.00-16.30 **Break**

Chair: Ulisse Cecini

16.30-17.00

Jan Loop (University of Copenhagen), *Engaging Muslims with Bibliander's edition of the Qur'an*

17.00-17.30

Paul Babinski (University of Copenhagen), *Reading Together: A French Orientalist and a Morisco Muslim Annotate the Qur'an*

17.30-18.00: General Discussion

19.00. Dinner (Speakers).

**Friday, 7 March, Belle van Zuylenzaal, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam**

9.30-10.00

Arrival, coffee

### **Panel 2 Europe and the Mediterranean World at large**

Chair: John Tolan

10.00-10.30

Katarzyna K. Starczewska (ILC-CCHS-CSIC, Madrid), *Juan Gabriel and his glosses to the Qur'an. Apologetics and Interreligious exchanges*

10.30-11.00

Maxime Sellin (Nantes University), *Egidio's Latin translation of the Qur'an: a Morisco translation.*

11.00-11.30 **Break**

11.30-12.00 Chair: Gulnaz Sibgatullina

Kentaro Inagaki (University of Copenhagen), *Reading the Qur'an in Seventeenth-Century Istanbul: Levinus Warner and his collaboration with Muḥammad b. 'Umar al-'Urḏī al-Ḥalabī.*

12.00-12.30

Roberto Tottoli (Università degli Studi de Napoli L'Orientale), *The 'ghost' informants in Paganini's and Moncada's Qur'ans*

12.30-13.00

Federico Stella (Università degli Studi de Napoli L'Orientale), *Eastern Christian Readers of the Qur'an in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Rome*

Lunch 13.00-14.30

### **Panel 3: Back to Iberia and the Muslim West**

Chair: Mònica Colominas Aparicio

14.30-15.00

Mercedes García-Arenal (ILC-CSIC, Madrid), *Diego de Urrea as translator of the Qur'an*

15.00-15.30

Fernando Rodríguez Mediano (ILC-CSIC, Madrid), *Practicing the Caballa sarracénica in Granada in 1658? Father Tomás de León, S.J., and his Knowledge of Islam*

15.30-16.45 **Break**

15.45-16.15

Irene Vicente López de Arenoso (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), *Franciscans, Ṭalbes, and Theological Discussions: The Study of the Qur'an Among Spanish Franciscans and Their Diplomatic Role in 17th-Century Marrakesh*

16.15-16.45

Stefania Pastore (Scuola Normale Superiore Pisa), *A European Bestseller and Morisco Culture in Sixteenth-century Venice: The Confusione della setta machometana*

16.45-17.15

Jan Loop, *General Comments and Conclusions*

17.15-17.45

*Afterword, thanks, and discussion of next steps*