Multi-lingual Qur'anic Material from the Three First Centuries after Hijra/Seventh to Ninth Century CE

The aim of this seminar is to create an inter-disciplinary discussion on the role of other languages in the early Islamic world. New interests in the multi-lingual situation of various medieval entities call for an investigation into the various languages in use under the first caliphs, through the Umayyad period and into the beginnings of the ‘Abbâsid reign. North African coins bearing a fragmentary rendering of the Shahâda in Latin, the early Greek translation of the Qur'ân, as well as the purported translation into Persian by Salmân al-Fârisî, the companion of the Prophet, are only some samples of the multilingual Qur’ânic material that may be addressed in this seminar. Epigraphic, legal, and administrative, but also historiographical, biographical and liturgical texts containing Qur'anic snippets, phrases or even whole verses, have in many instances been disregarded, as exceptional aberrations from the norm, and scholarship has therefore contributed to the common notion that Arabic was the only accepted language for the Qur'an from the outset. By bringing these ‘exceptions' together a more consistent pattern, reflecting actual practices, becomes attainable. Papers will deal with any languages other than, or in addition to, Arabic, and from all geographical areas and social strata.

The seminar will take place at the Centre for Medieval Literature, the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, on September 30 – October 1, 2014.

Programme:

September 30, 2014

14:00   Welcome Tea & Coffee

14:30   Lars Boje Mortensen (Odense): Welcome

14:45   Christian Høgel (Odense) and Matthias M. Tischler (Barcelona): Introduction

Persia and Syria

15:00   Michele Campopiano (York/Amsterdam): Wicked Laws: Purity and Danger in Pahlavi Literature in the Early Islamic Period (7th–10th Centuries)

15:30   Christian Høgel (Odense): Greek-Arabic Protocols from the Umayyad Period: The Greek Text

16:00   Anne Regourd (Paris): Greek-Arabic Protocols from the Umayyad Period: The Papyri

16:30   Discussion

19:00   Dinner

October 1, 2014
Byzantium

9:00  Hassan Hesham (Athens): *The Byzantine Qur‘an as a Polemic Weapon: New Ethnogenesis Genre in the 7th and 8th Centuries*

9:30  Manolis Ulbricht (Berlin): *The Greek Translation of the Qur‘an (8/9th century CE) and its Use by Nicetas of Byzantium for his ‘Refutation of the Qur‘an’ (9th century CE) – a Heresiological Approach*

10:00  Discussion

10:30  Tea & Coffee Break

al-Andalus

11:00  Ann Christys (Leeds): *The Qur‘an as History for Muslims and Christians in al-Andalus*

11:30  Matthias M. Tischler (Barcelona): *Preaching Christ from a Transreligious Standpoint: The Unknown Qur‘anic Background of Luculentius’ Homiliary and Other Christian Apologetic Texts from the Western Mediterranean*

12:00  Final Discussion

13:00  Lunch and Farewell

After the seminar, we intend to have the contributions published in our new *Journal of Transcultural Medieval Studies* (JTMS; de Gruyter): [http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jtms](http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jtms)

Christian Høgel, associate professor
Centre for Medieval Literature
University of Southern Denmark, Odense
hogel@sdu.dk
www.sdu.dk/cml

Matthias M. Tischler, professor
Institut d'Estudis Medievals (IEM)
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Matthias.Tischler@uab.cat
[http://centresderecerca.uab.cat/iem/content/matthias-m-tischler-0](http://centresderecerca.uab.cat/iem/content/matthias-m-tischler-0)