

## New Director of Research (IAIS)

Dr William Gallois has been appointed Director of Research, with effect from 1st August. He will guide the Institute's research strategy as we look towards REF2020, and will coordinate research grant applications.

## Research grant awards

### GW4 Initiator Funding (£19,345)

Professor Rob Gleave will be the Principal Investigator of the URL: Understanding Religion and Law project. The project is an initial, short collaboration (October 2015 to February 2016) bringing together scholars from the universities of Bristol, Bath, Cardiff and Exeter to examine the past interaction of religion and law. Through a series of seminars and public lectures, we will explore how religion has inspired modern legal systems, and how debates around the relationship between religion and law might be better informed.

Much of the current focus is on the problematic role of Shari'a, but these issues are not specific to Islam. In Britain and internationally, the preservation of freedoms (including religious freedom) are contested and debated; human rights as universal moral and legal standards are questioned, often from a religious perspective. The GW4 scholars in URL (ranging from doctoral students to established scholars) will provide a focus for enhanced public understanding of this critical contemporary issue.

### ESRC IAA (Impact Acceleration Account)

A Social Policy Network grant of £1,957.68 has been awarded to Dr Eleanor Gao for her project *It's a perfect match: "Matchmaking" between FCO and DFID practitioners and academics in the use of Randomised Control Trial.*

### Awards

**Dr Leonard Lewisohn** won the 25th Annual Midwest Book Award in the category of Religion/Philosophy for his recent book *The Philosophy of Ecstasy* [www.amazon.co.uk/The-Philosophy-Ecstasy-Tradition-Perennial/dp/193659742X](http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Philosophy-Ecstasy-Tradition-Perennial/dp/193659742X)

## Publications

**Mustafa Baig (2015)** 'The Non-Military Aspects of Kitab al-Jihad' in *Twenty-first Century Jihad: Law, Society and Military Action*, I.B. Tauris, pp. 97-111

**John P Cooper, Dionisius A. Agius, Tom Collie, Faisal al-Naimi (2015)** 'Boat and ship engravings at Al Zubarah, Qatar: the dāw exposed?', *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies*, volume 45, pp. 35-47

**Alex Mallett (2015)** 'A Neglected Piece of Evidence for Early Muslim Reactions to the Frankish Crusader Presence in the Levant: The "Jihad Chapter" from Tuhfat al-Muluk', in D. Pratt et al (eds), *The Character of Christian-Muslim Encounter: Studies in Honour of David Thomas* (Leiden: Brill), 96-111

**Ian Richard Netton (2014)** 'The Islamic Pilgrimage as Mirror and Realization of the Eschaton: Typology and Mimesis', *Sacred Web: A Journal of Tradition and Modernity*

[International Canadian Journal], no.34 (December 2014), pp. 113-140

**Sajjad Rizvi (2015)**, 'Mulla Shamsa Gilani and his treatise on the incipience of the cosmos', in Mulla Shamsa Gilani, *The Incipience of the Cosmos [Huduth al-'alam]*, eds G Dadkhah and A Asghari, Costa Mesa: Mazda Publishers, pp. 1-42

**Sajjad Rizvi (2015)** 'Between Hegel and Rumi: Iqbal's Contrapuntal Encounters with the Islamic philosophical traditions', in H C Hillier and B Koshul (eds), *Muhammad Iqbal: Essays on the Reconstruction of Modern Muslim Thought*, Edinburgh University Press, pp. 112-141

**Emily Selove (2015)** 'Making men and women. Arabic commentaries on the Gynaecological Hippocratic aphorisms in context', *Annales islamologiques*, 48.1, 2014, pp. 239-62.

## Visiting Speaker Series – Term 1

14 October: **Professor Dirk MOSES** (European University Institute, Florence, Italy) **International Law and Palestine**

Tuesday 20 October: **Professor Roham ALVANDI** (London School of Economics) **Nixon and the Shah: The United States and Iran in the Cold War** Sponsored by the Centre for Persian and Iranian Studies

4 November: **Professor Blain AUER** (Lausanne University, Switzerland) **What Islamic History (in India) Says about History** Sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Islam

18 November: **Professor Sami ZUBAIDA** (Birkbeck College, London) **Discourses of Middle Eastern Food and Identity**

25 November: **Dr. Gabriele vom BRUCK** (SOAS) **Genealogy of Violence in Yemen since 2011** Sponsored by the Centre for Gulf Studies

2 December: **Dr. Emmanuel BLANCHARD** (University of Versailles, France) **Control and Police Violence towards Algerians of France, from the 1920s until now** Sponsored by the Middle East Humanities Cluster

9 December: **Prof. Jon HOOVER** (University of Nottingham) **Did Ibn Taymiyya confess to being an Ash'ari?** Sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Islam

# Conferences, seminars, workshops

## Forthcoming events

**4-7 October 2015:**

**Uncovering the Divine Law: New research in classical and modern *uṣūl al-fiqh*.** A workshop of the ESRC Islamic Reformulations project, it will explore classical and contemporary trends in Muslim legal theory, as developed in works of *uṣūl al-fiqh*. In this workshop, scholars working at the cutting edge of study of Islamic legal theory will outline their own research and identify the priorities for future scholarship. The workshop will include research presentations and experiments in the translation of passages of *uṣūl* works to see how the complexity of Islamic legal theory might be made accessible to a wider audience.

## Centre for the Study of Islam

The Centre for the Study of Islam, based in the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, brings together the core teaching staff in Islamic Studies, other staff who have an interest in Islamic culture and civilisation, and all interested postgraduate students (at MA and PhD level).

We sponsor visiting speakers in Islamic Studies, hold regular seminars and conferences, and convene the Islamic Arabic Texts group. All are welcome to our events, though those aiming to attend the Text group's session should be aware that competence in reading classical Arabic and Islamic texts in Arabic is assumed. To join the group and be on the mailing list, you should email Rob Gleave at [r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk). Attendees receive a copy of the Arabic text one week in advance of the class (by pdf email attachment). Participants are expected to have read the text before attending.

## Autumn Term 2015-16

### Timetable of Activities (most events happen on a Wednesday)

**Wednesday 30 September, 13:30-14:30:** Islamic Arabic Texts Reading Group: Rob Gleave looking at a text of *uṣūl al-fiqh*

**Wednesday 14 October, 13:30-14:30:** Islamic Arabic Texts Reading Group: Sajjad Rizvi looking at a philosophy text.

**Wednesday 4 November, 13:30-14:30:** Islamic Arabic Texts Reading Group: Istvan Kristo-Nagy reads a text on the Devil with us.

**Thursday 12 November, Evening Symposium:** Rethinking Muslim and Catholic Theology: Vatican II 50 years on.

**Wednesday 25 November, 13:30-14:30:** Islamic Arabic Texts Reading Group: Alex Mallet – Research Fellow in the Institute – leads a session on a magical text.

**Wednesday 9 December, 13:30-14:30:** Islamic Arabic Texts Reading Group: Professor Jon Hoover (University of Nottingham visits and will lead a texts class reading Ibn Taymiyya

**Wednesday 9 December, 17:30:** Visiting Speaker: Professor Jon Hoover (University of Nottingham) 'Did Ibn Taymiyya confess to be an Ash'ari?'

## Past events

**8 September 2015: History Educators International Research Network [HEIRNET] 12th International Conference** Held at UCL Institute Of Education, London. Dr Nadia Naser-Najjab presented a paper 'Zionist Settler Colonialism: Hegemony Over Palestinian Education' (based on a co-authored chapter in a book with Ilan Pappé: 'Shared Histories In Transnational And Intranational Post-Conflict Settings')

**15 April 2015** As part of the AHRC research on Magic in 1605, a panel of experts from Universities of Exeter, London, Oxford and Paris explored different aspects of the magic in daily life, Christian-Muslim relations, and the workings of the Roman Inquisition at a special event on 15 April 2015 in the Palazzo Santa Sophia, Mdina, Malta. Professor Dionisius A. Agius FBA, led the debate panel with Dr Alex Mallett, Research Fellow at IAIS and Dr Catherine Rider, a historian and expert on medieval magic. The debate panel was attended by 80 members of the public.

## PhD awards

**Saleh Owaid Alharbi, *The Image of the West in Saudi Poetry 1920-1990*** – supervised by Ian Netton

**Muhammad Alhazmi, *Maritime terms on the Saudi Red Sea Coast: Lexical Semantic Study*** – supervised by Dionisius A. Agius

**Fahad Alsharif, *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Undocumented Labour in Saudi Arabia, the Case of Jeddah*** – supervised by Tim Niblock

**Ramzy Baroud, *History from Below: Writing a People's History of Palestine*** – supervised by Ilan Pappé

**Hadi Borhani, *Israel/Palestine: analysis of the questions history in anglophone universities*** – supervised by Ilan Pappé

**Michael Calabria, *The Foremost of Believers: The Egyptians in the Qur'an, Islamic Exegesis and Extra-Canonical Texts*** – supervised by Ian Netton

**Rhiannon Conner, *From Amuq to Glastonbury: Situating the Apocalypse of Shaykh Nazim and the Naqshbandi Haqqaniyya*** – supervised by Ian Netton

**Elif Gozler, *Turkey's First Participatory Constitution-making Attempt and Its Reflections on Ethnic and Religious Communities*** – supervised by Gareth Stansfield

**Tajul Islam, *Scholastic Traditional Minimalism: a critical analysis of intra-Sunni sectarian polemics*** – supervised by Ian Netton

**David Janczak Hogarth, *A Bayesian Risk Assessment of the Post 9/11 Saudi Arabia Oil Supply Chain*** – supervised by Gareth Stansfield

**Efsevia Lasithiotaki, *The Muslim Greek Speaking Community of Syria and Lebanon: Constructions of Greek Identity in the Middle East*** – jointly supervised by Christine Allison and Sophie Richter-Devroe

**Marjetka Pezdirc, *The Terrorism Complex*** – supervised by Gareth Stansfield

**Bianka Speidl, *The Conceptualisation of Power in the Thought of Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah*** – supervised by Rob Gleave