

## **Reading is Believing? Sacred Texts in a Scientific Age**

Academic Colloquium  
The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion,  
in collaboration with the Divinity Faculty, University of Cambridge  
Venue: Clare College, Cambridge  
26-28 March 2018

### **Programme**

#### **Monday 26 March**

16.00-17.00    **Registration**

17.00-17.30    **Tea/coffee**

17.30-19.00    **Keynote address**

John Barton (University of Oxford) '*Scientific Criticism and the Authority of Scriptural Texts*'

19.00-21.00    **Cafeteria dinner, Clare College Buttery**

#### **Tuesday 27 March**

9.00-10.40    **Panel 1: *Creation Texts***

Mark Harris (University of Edinburgh) '*Creating a Science of the Flood: Science versus theology in the Biblical flood narrative*'

Sohaib Saeed Bhutta (SOAS University of London) '*What's at Stake? Arab Linguists Debate an Evolutionary Reading of the Qur'an*'

Peter Gent (University of Oxford) '*Can a Text Change the Weather?*'

10.40-11.10    **Coffee break**

11.10-12.40    **Panel 2: *Hermeneutics and Epistemology***

Colin Turner (Durham University) '*The cosmos as text: Bediuzzaman Said Nursi and the universe as kitāb-i kā'ināt (book of creation)*'

Dru Johnson (University of St Andrews and The Herzl Institute, Jerusalem) '*Deep Connections: Sober Science and Biblical Epistemology*'

Tyler Tully (University of Oxford) '*"And the Word Became Flesh": How deep is the Incarnation in light of biological evolution?*'

12.40-14.00    **Lunch**

14.00-15.30    **Panel 3: *Social Scientific Approaches to Scripture***

Amy Unsworth and Elaine Ecklund (The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge; Rice University, Houston) '*Evangelicals and Evolution in Texas and London*'

Fabio Vicini (Istanbul 29 Mayıs University) *'Reading is Transcending: Islam, Modernity and Reflection'*

Damian Guzek (University of Silesia in Katowice and University of Edinburgh) *'Refugee Crisis, Facebook Users and Scripture's Argument'*

15.30-16.00 **Coffee break**

16.00-17.30 **Panel 4: *Tafsīr and Ethics***

Ayman Shabana (Georgetown University, Qatar) *'The Relationship between Science and Religion in Modern Works of Tafsīr'*

Melanie Guenon (University of Hamburg) *'The Embryo and the Expert: Medicine, Religion and the Struggle for Authority'*

Reza Hashemitaba (Rice University, Houston and Tehran University) *'Cosmetic Surgery, Islamic Doctrine, and Piety in Iran'*

18.30-19.00 **Drinks reception**

19.00-21.00 **Conference dinner, Clare College Small Hall**

### Wednesday 28 March

9.30-11.10 **Panel 5: *Scripture, Exegesis and Culture***

Shuruq Naguib (Lancaster University) *'Truth and Meaning in Qur'an interpretation: The competing approaches of scientific and literary exegesis'*

Deborah F. Sawyer (Loyola University, Chicago) *'The Woman's Bible: A vestige of modernity or a legacy for contemporary gender equality?'*

Shoaib Ahmed Malik (Zayed University, Dubai) *'Hermeneutics of New Atheism: Quran and Hadiths on Trial'*

11.10-11.40 **Coffee break**

11.40-13.10 **Keynote address**

Salman Hameed (Hampshire College MA), *'The Role of Qur'an in the Acceptance or Rejection of Biological Evolution'*

13.10-14.00 **Lunch and depart**