

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

16.00-17.30 **Registration and tea/coffee reception**

17.30-19.00 **Keynote address**

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

19.00-21.00 **Cafeteria dinner (Clare College Buttery)**

NOTE: All panel sessions will take place in the Latimer Room. Lunch will be served in the Great Hall.

Tuesday 27 March

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

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

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

Mr 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***

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

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

Mr 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***

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

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

Dr 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***

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

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

Mr 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 (Small Hall)**

Wednesday 28 March

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

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

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

Dr 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**

Prof 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**