

Contact

Dr. Antonia Bosanquet

DFG Center for Advanced Study
“RomanIslam – Center for Comparative Empire
and Transcultural Studies”
Universität Hamburg
E: antonia.bosanquet@uni-hamburg.de

Katharina Mewes

DFG Center for Advanced Study
“RomanIslam – Center for Comparative Empire
and Transcultural Studies”
Universität Hamburg
Phone: +49 40 42838-2944
E: katharina.mewes@uni-hamburg.de

In order to attend online or in presence please
register by Feb. 5, 2022 with
antonia.bosanquet@uni-hamburg.de

More: www.romanislam.uni-hamburg.de



The conquests of the Arab armies in the 7th and 8th centuries made Islam the dominant force in a region that extended from the Iberian Peninsula as far as the Tarim Basin. However, it has increasingly been recognized that this dominance was political and administrative rather than demographic.

Conversion by the conquered populations was a slow process and it often took centuries before Islam became the majority religion. The Arab historical sources convey the political domination of Islam, suggesting that Islamization met little resistance from the indigenous population, and that social and political advancement was contingent upon conversion to Islam.

The workshop looks behind this depiction, examining the continuation of local non-Muslim social and religious structures and their political adaptation or resistance to the new reality of the Arab-Islamic Empire by nuancing the understanding of Islamization, exploring conversion to a form of Islam other than the Islam of the conquerors, and considering this as a means of resistance to the political dominance of the new regime.

Through close reading of Arabic texts or on the basis of non-Arabic written sources or material culture, we will consider how populations retained their religion as a form of resistance, or accepted Islam but embraced or developed beliefs that were distinct from those of their conquerors.

In addition to Ibādism, Ṣufrism and Shi‘ism as key features of the religious landscape of early Islamic North Africa, the spread of the teachings of the Mu‘tazila school also played a role in the development of religious ambivalence. Rather than open resistance, can religious diversity be understood as a nuanced regional acceptance of or resistance to the new status quo? We are interested in how social groups adapted to the new political and religious circumstances, without fully submitting to Islamic imperial rule.



NOT THE CONQUERORS’ RELIGION: LOCAL BELIEFS VS. IMPERIAL RELIGION



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FEB. 10-11, 2022
UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

HYBRID WORKSHOP

Thurs., Feb. 10, 2022

Room 221 (ESA O)

- 12.00 Registration
- 12.15 **Antonia Bosanquet & Stefan Heidemann (Universität Hamburg)**
Welcome/ Introduction

The Conquerors' Religion: An Imperial Religion?

- 12.45 **Eugenio Garosi (Universität Hamburg/Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität)**
Negotiating the Conquerors' Religion: Shifting Boundaries of Islamic Expressions in the Early Islamic Empire
- 13.30 **Philip Wood (Aga Khan University – London) - online**
Cooperation, Offers of Employment and Armed Resistance: Christians in the Abbasid Caliphate, 750-850 CE
- 14.15 Lunch Break
- 14.45 **Eduardo Manzano Moreno (CSIC – Madrid) - online**
Grounding the Capital: The Arab Conquest of Cordoba and its Consequences

Christianity: A Local Belief

- 15.30 **Javier Albárran Iruela (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)**
A Common Past for all Religious Communities? Christians and the Writing of History in Umayyad al-Andalus

- 16.15 **Kati Ihnat (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)**
- online
Martyrs Making Martyrs in Medieval Córdoba

17.30 Concluding Remarks

19.00 Dinner

Fri., Feb. 11, 2022

Room 221 (ESA O)

Local Nuances of the “Conquerors’ Religion” Local Beliefs

- 12.00 **Stefan Heidemann (Universität Hamburg)**
Opening
- 12.15 **Yassir Benhima (Sorbonne Nouvelle/UMR 5648-CIHAM)**
Les Pouvoirs zaydites et mu'tazilites au Maghreb occidental: structures et discours politiques VIIIe-IXe s. (The Zaydis and Mu'tazilites in the Western Maghreb: Doctrinal and Political Characteristics 8th – 9th Century)
- 13.00 **Cyrille Aillet (Université Lumière Lyon 2/UMR 5648-CIHAM)**
“Berbers”, “Kharijites” and “Knowledge Bearers”: How the Ibadis Shaped a Counter-Memory of the Islamic Conquest of North Africa

13.45 Lunch Break

14.15 **Antonia Bosanquet (Hamburg Universität)**
What was the Conquerors' Religion? Mu'tazilis, Murji'is and Qādiris in Aghlabid Ifrīqiya

15.00 **Ismail Warscheid (CNRS – Paris/University of Bayreuth)**
Remembering the Past as a Jurist: The Construction of Deviation in Post-Formative *Mālikī* Jurisprudence

15.45 Coffee Break

16.00 **Conor Dube (Harvard University) -online**
Rereading the Religion of the Barghawāṭah

16.45 Roundtable Discussion

17.15 **Antonia Bosanquet & Stefan Heidemann (Universität Hamburg)**
Final Words – Future Outlook

17.30 End of the Conference

19.00 Dinner