

Mehdi Azaiez

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR – ISLAMIC STUDIES

(Since september 2014)

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES – KU LEUVEN

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EDUCATION

- Postdoc** **Laboratoire d'Excellence, University of Paris IV Sorbonne**
 2013/14 Coordinator of a research project on Medieval Religious Polemics in Mediterranean Region.
- Postdoc** **University of Notre Dame, Indiana, U.S.A**
 2013 Co-director of The Qur'ān Seminar (The Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Grant)
 Advanced Textual Reading Groups: Syriac, Classical Ethiopic, Biblical Hebrew.
- Ph.D.** **University of Aix-Marseille, Aix-en-Provence**
 2012 Doctoral Dissertation: *Polemics in the Qur'ān: An Analysis of Counter-Discourse and Riposte*
(in french) *(High Distinction)*
- M.A.** **University of Aix-Marseille, Aix-en-Provence**
 2008 Master's Thesis: *An Introduction to Counter-Discourse in the Qur'ānic Text* *(in french)*
(High Distinction)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

The Qur'ān Seminar Commentary: a Collaborative Study of 50 Qur'ānic Passages

Co-editor and contributor with G.S. Reynolds, T. Tesei and H.M. Zafer, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2016.

Le contre-discours coranique

Berlin, Walter de Gruyter, coll. Studien zur Geschichte und Kultur des islamischen Orients, 2015.

Le Coran, Nouvelles approches

Ed. Mehdi Azaiez, Collab. Sabrina Mervin, Paris, CNRS Editions, 2013.

ARTICLES

The Qur'ānic First Addressee and the Final Stage of the Qur'ānic Redaction. Some preliminary remarks.

« Les Etudes sur le Coran : vers une herméneutique plurielle », Midéo, 31, 2016

Nieuwe perspectieven op Koranonderzoek. Bronnen, methoden en vragen

Tijdschrift voor theologie jaargang 55/3 (2015), 270–293.

Les contre-discours eschatologiques dans le Coran et le traité du Sanhédrin Eds. François Déroche, Christian Robin, Michel Zink, *Les origines du Coran. Le Coran des origines*, Paris, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, 2015, p. 111-128.

Eschatological counter-discourse in the Qur'ān and the Talmud (Translation of my previous article) Ed. Holger Zeltin, *Return to the Origins: the Qur'an's Reformation of Judaism and Christianity*, 2016

Le contre-discours coranique et la construction d'une figure de l'opposant
Ed. Rippin A. & Tottoli R., Brill, 2015, p. 132-143.

Le contre-discours coranique : approches d'un corpus

Le Coran, Nouvelles approches, Ed. Mehdi Azaiez, Collab. Sabrina Mervin, Paris, National Center for Scientific Research Editions (CNRS), 2013, p. 257-290.

Muhammad, une relation coranique

Religions & Histoire, 2011, p. 48-53.

Les thèses consacrées au Coran en France depuis les années soixante-dix. Une note bibliographique

Arabica, 56 (2009), p. 107-111.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA ENTRIES

Hypocrites, Bahārā, Kalām

Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions, 2016.

REVIEWS

M.M. Bravmann M.M., *The spiritual background of early Islam: studies in ancient Arab concepts by M.M. Bravmann ; with and introduction by Andrew Rippin*, Leiden ; Boston, Brill, ("Brill classics in Islam ; vol. 4"), 2009, XV+336 p. *Bulletin Critique Annales Islamologiques*, 29 (2015).

Rosalind Gwynne Ward, *Logic, Rhetoric, and Legal Reasoning in the Qur'ān, God's arguments*, New York, Routledge/Curzon, 2004, XV+251 p. *Bulletin Critique Annales Islamologiques*, 26 (2010), p. 19-20.

Michel Cuypers, *Le Festin, Une lecture de la sourate al-Mâ'ida*, Paris, Lethielleux (Rhétorique sémitique ; 4), 2007, IV+453 p. *EHESS/IISMM*, online since 07/31/2009.

Yehuda D. Nevo, Judith Koren, *Crossroads to Islam. The Origins of the Arab Religion and the Arab State*, Amherst, New-York, Prometheus Books, 2003, 462 p. *Bulletin Critique des Annales Islamologiques*, 24 (2008), p. 101-103.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (2012- 2016)

Faculty of Theology, KU Leuven (2014-16)

Introduction to the Qur'ān

This course is an introduction which explore Qur'ānic structure, History, Exegesis and cultural influence.

Introduction to the History of Islamic Theology

This course deals with the origins and the early development of 'Ilm al Kalām, its forms, concepts and content. It introduces to mediæval and modern theological debates in Muslim countries.

Introduction to the Hadith

This course is an introduction to the Ḥadīth which is defined as reports of the prophet's words and deeds and considered as the second most important source of Islamic Law.

Islamic Ethics

This course will be an introduction to the Islamic Ethics, its language concepts and its relation with legal reasoning.

Islamic Law & Fiqh

This course is an introduction to Islamic Law and presents an overview of its development from the rise of Islam until today.

Christianity and Islam

This seminar will consider Islam's encounter with Christianity, from the Islamic conquests of the 7th century to the internet age (and vice-versa).

Islam and Modern Thinkers

This seminar is a survey of the varied ways in which modern Muslim thinkers have grappled with challenging modern questions

Université Catholique de Louvain la Neuve (2016)**La Sīra: Histoire, Traditions et Interprétations (CDER)**

This course is a critical examination of the sīra literature and of "the evolution of the images of Muhammad as portrayed by his community across the centuries"

Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame (2012-13)**Islam and Christian Theology**

Seminar on Christianity's encounter with Islam and how various historical contexts have affected Christian understanding of Muslims and Islam.

Advanced Arabic Reading

Qur'ānic and Classical texts reading for PhD students in Islamic Studies.

The Islamic Challenge to Christian Theology (Teaching Assistant)

Lecture on Islam and a survey of major aspects of the Muslim faith.

ACTIVITIES

2015 & 2008

Creator and Administrator of 2 Academic Websites on Quranic Studies:

"IQSA Qur'ān Seminar": <http://www.iqsa-quranseminar.org> (Since 2015).

"Qur'ān and Early Islam": <http://www.mehdi-azaez.org> (Since 2008).

2012-13

Co-Director: The Mellon-Saywer Grant Qur'ān Seminar

Collaborative academic project with 28 Scholars from North America and Europe

www.quranseminar.nd.edu

2012

Founding Member: International Qur'ānic Studies Association (Learned Society)

الجمعية الدولية للدراسات القرآنية

<http://iqsaweb.wordpress.com/people/>

2009

Conference Co-Director: "Les études coraniques aujourd'hui. Méthodes, Enjeux, Débats",

International Colloquium on Qur'ānic Studies, EHESS, Paris, 2009.

MAIN LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS (after 2014)

- 2016 **Monotheism And Its Complexities** (Washington D.C, 5-11 may)
University of Georgetown (Seminar)
- 2016 **Les études coraniques contemporaines** (Carthage, January 8)
Académie des Sciences et des Lettres de Tunisie, Beit al Hikma.
- 2015 **Qur'ān Seminar** (Atlanta, November 20-24)
International Quranic Studies Association (IQSA)
- 2015 **Les origines de l'Islam et du Coran** (Gent, September 11)
Conference *In search of the origins of religions*, Association BABEL
- 2015 **Readings of Q. 3, 1-7 by the Qur'ān Seminar** (Paris, July 8)
Premier Congrès du GIS Moyen-Orient et Mondes Musulmans (6-9 juillet 2015)
- 2015 **The counter-discourse in the Qur'ān** (London, June 25)
The Institute of Ismaili Studies, Qur'ānic Studies Department
- 2015 **Eschatological counter-discourse in the Qur'ān and the Talmud** (Milan, June 15)
Enoch Seminar: Early Islam: The Sectarian Milieu of Late Antiquity?
- 2015 **Reading the Qur'ān Today** -Inaugural lecture- (Leuven, April 21)
Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pu2XLUfhqjY>
- 2014 **Qur'ān Seminar** (co-direction of the panel with Tommaso Tesei)
International Quranic Studies Association (IQSA)/SBL, San Diego
- 2014 **Qur'ānic counter-discourse and its theological implication**
Zentrum für Islamische Theologie (ZITH), University of Tübingen
- 2013 **Unity and Fragmentation in the Standard Text of the Qur'ān: The Prophet as First Addressee and Dialogic Argumentation**
The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2015 Interview and contribution for « Jésus et l'Islam / Jesus und der Islam », European Television (ARTE)
<http://www.arte.tv/magazine/jesusetislam/fr>
- 2014 Interview for « Culture d'Islam » (French radio) by Abdelwahab Meddeb titled « Séminaire coranique 1 »
<http://www.franceculture.fr/emission-cultures-d-islam-le-seminaire-coranique-1-2014-02-28>

LANGUAGES

- Advanced Classical:** Arabic (Advanced)
- Advanced Modern:** French (Native); English (Advanced); Tunisian (Fluent)
- Reading Knowledge:** Syriac; Biblical and Mishnaic Hebrew; Classical Ethiopic