



The Institute of Ismaili Studies



Robe (laga) (detail), Nigeria, 20th century. 194.3002. ©Textile Museum of Canada

Approaches to the Qur'an in sub-Saharan Africa

20-21 MAY 2011 • TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA • 55 CENTRE ST. TORONTO

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Friday, 20 May 2011

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| 9:00-9:30 | Opening remarks
Zulfikar Hirji (York University) |
| 9:30-11:00 | SESSION 1: The pen/voice: <i>tafsir</i> and translation
Moderator: Amila Buturovic (York University)

Tal Tamari (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris)
Qur'anic exegesis in Manding language and culture (Guinea, The Gambia, Mali)

Dmitry Bondarev (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)
Arabic and Old Kanembu <i>tafsir</i> tradition in Borno (northeast Nigeria) as represented
in the early Qur'an manuscripts and modern-day Qur'an recitation |
| 11:00-11:30 | Break |
| 11:30-13:00 | SESSION 2: In letter/spirit: contested readings of the Qur'an
Moderator: Omar Ali-de-Unzaga (Institute of Ismaili Studies)

Adeline Masquelier (Tulane University)
Prayer, piety, and pleasure: contested models of Islamic worship in Niger

Terje Østebø (University of Florida)
The revenge of the <i>jinn</i> : Salafism and perceptions of change in contemporary Bale (Ethiopia) |
| 13:00-14:30 | Lunch (for workshop scholars and moderators)
Exhibition walk-through with Patricia Bentley (Senior Curator, Textile Museum of Canada) |
| 14:30-16:00 | SESSION 3: Imagining/imaging the Word
Moderator: Sarah Fee (Royal Ontario Museum)

Ruba Kana'an (York University)
'And God will protect you from the people' (Q. 5:67): Qur'anic text on a talismanic shirt
from West Africa (Burkina Faso)

Patricia Bentley (Textile Museum of Canada & York University)
The patterned imagination: a study of West African textiles in museum collections
with regard to the magic squares represented on them

Beth Buggenhagen (Indiana University, Bloomington)
Muslim visual cultures and the image economy in global Senegal |
| 17:00-19:00 | Exhibition Opening Reception |
| 19:30-21:00 | ARTISTS' PANEL: The manifest and the hidden
(Co-sponsored by Subtle Technologies and the Textile Museum of Canada)
Moderator: Zulfikar Hirji (York University) |

Dialogue-presentations by Jamelie Hassan, Hamid Kachmar, Alia Toor and Tim Whiten

Workshop, Exhibition Opening, Public Lecture & Music Performance are free with entrance fee to the Textile Museum.
To purchase tickets for the Artists' Panel go to: www.magicsquares.eventbrite.com

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Saturday, 21 May 2011

9:00-9:30 **Opening remarks**
Zulfikar Hirji (York University)

9:30-11:00 **SESSION 4: Ritual prescriptions/scriptural repercussions**
Moderator: Janice Boddy (University of Toronto)

Susan J. Rasmussen (University of Houston)
The woman who did not become possessed: Tuareg Islam
and the problem of gendered knowledge and power in a visitational dream (Niger)

Kjersti Larsen (Museum of Cultural History University of Oslo)
By way of the Qur'an: soothing emotional and mundane matters in Zanzibar (Tanzania)

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-13:00 **SESSION 5: Re/circulating the Word**
Moderator: Wesley Jordan Oakes (York University)

Scott S. Reese (Northern Arizona University)
Missionising the umma: Sufi writings and the dissemination of 'orthodoxy'
in early 20th century Somalia

Chanfi Ahmed (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)
The contribution of West African 'ulama' in the spread of the *wahhabiyya* teaching
in Saudi Arabia

13:00-14:00 Lunch (for workshop scholars and moderators)

14:00-15:30 **SESSION 6: Voicing/reading religious authority**
Moderator: Selma Zecevic (York University)

Joseph Hill (American University, Cairo)
Women who are men: daughters of Shaykh Ibrahim Ñas and the paradoxes of
women's religious leadership in Senegal

Kai Kresse (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)
Swahili Islamic pamphlets: case studies from Mombasa (Kenya)

15:30-16:00 Break & Dinner (for workshop scholars and moderators)

16:00-17:30 **SESSION 7: Trans/formative transmissions**
Moderator: Remi Warner (York University)

Andrea Brigaglia (University of Cape Town)
From the tablet to paper leaves: Islamic metaphysics and the symbolism of
traditional Qur'anic education in Hausaland (Nigeria)

Ryan Thomas Skinner (Ohio State University)
In the name of God: Islam and the interpellation of (im)moral subjects in
Malian popular music

17:30-19:30 Break & Dinner (for workshop presenters and moderators)

19:30-22:00 **PUBLIC LECTURE & MUSIC PERFORMANCE**
Preserving/mediating the Word
Moderator: Ruba Kana'an (York University)

Abdel Kader Haidara (Director, Mamma Haidara Library)
The Manuscript Library of Mamma Haidara, Timbuktu (Mali)

Rahim S. Rajan (Independent) & Harlan Wallach (Northwestern University
Advanced Media Production Studio)
From *naskh* and hides to digital bytes - developing digital surrogates of
Timbuktu's historic manuscripts

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Waleed Abdulhamid Ensemble
Devotional music inspired by Muslim Africa

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