



CALL FOR PAPERS
Modern Hadith Studies Between
Arabophone and Western Scholarship
09-10 January 2017

Organised by:
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Hadith literature is part and parcel of disciplines related to Islam and Muslim societies. At some point during their research scholars are likely to encounter primary sources containing hadith material related to history, law, sociology, or the complex science of *kalam*. However, hadith studies present two significant challenges. First, the hadith corpus is immense and large parts of it remain insufficiently explored. Second, it has bifurcated the world of Islamicists to a sceptic and a sanguine.

Many academic scholars in the Arab world continue to view the study of hadith in Western secular universities as a colonialist project that aims to attack the tenets of Islam. The inverse also holds, whereby scholars in secular universities in the Anglophone view Islamic scholarship on the hadith corpus as biased and uncritical. The absence of proper scholarly interaction between both scholarly communities is deplorable and unnecessary, given that some of their premises, methods, and results actually exhibit significant convergence.

This conference therefore invites scholars from Arabophone and Western institutions to discuss current research on the hadith corpus, aiming to bridge the divide between Anglophone and Arabophone research in hadith studies. It is based on the belief that the absence of any engagement of the scholarly communities with one another inhibits any significant methodological convergence. A more sustained dialogue and debate between scholars from various disciplines would bring to light further areas of historiographical and methodological agreement, provide stimuli for further research, and facilitate a mutually beneficial exchange of expertise. It is hoped that this initial step towards linking these two largely self-contained academic communities will help gauge the potential for further scholarly exchange and collaboration.

Keynote Speakers:

Prof. Hamza al-Malaybari, College of Islamic and Arabic Studies in Dubai
Prof. Jonathan Brown, Georgetown University
Dr Andreas Görke, University of Edinburgh

The conference welcomes papers from scholars and graduate students whose research connects to the conference theme. Please submit paper abstracts (no more than 300 words) and a brief CV (no more than two pages) to belal.alabbas@orinst.ox.ac.uk by **15 October 2016**. Please note, presenters will be expected to submit their papers for circulation to conference panellists in advance of the conference. Attendance is free. All participants will be provided with lunch and dinner during the two days of the conference. Small bursaries may be available for doctoral students.