

# Program

## “Roads to Paradise”

### Eschatology and Concepts of the Hereafter in Islam

**Contact:**

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### **Wednesday, 27 May 2009**

09:00-03:00 **Registration**, Conference Office at the Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies (Seminar für Arabistik und Islamwissenschaft), located on the first floor of the historic "Heyne-Haus" building (Papendiek 16).

03:00 p.m. **Official Welcome**, Lecture Hall of the State and University Library of Göttingen (previously St. Paul's Church)

- Opening remarks by Professor Dr. Sebastian Günther, Chair of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Göttingen
- Welcome to the University of Göttingen by Professor Dr. Reinhard Kratz, Director of the Centrum Orbis Orientalis, on behalf of the President of the University of Göttingen, Professor Dr. Kurt von Figura
- Welcome address by Prof. Dr. Galal Elgemeie, Egypt's Cultural Attaché in Germany, on behalf of Professor Dr. Mahmoud Zakzouk, Egypt's Minister of Religious Affairs

03:30 p.m. **Distinguished Lecture: *Paradise Lost?*** By Professor Dr. Tilman Nagel, University of Göttingen

04:00 p.m. Coffee Break (30 minutes)

Wednesday, 27 May 2009

	<b>Panel 1: Beautiful as a Dream – Paradise and its Pleasures</b> Chair: Stefan Wild (University of Bonn)	<b>Panel 2: Comparative Eschatology</b> Chair: Josef van Ess (University of Tübingen)
04:30 p.m.	Asma Afsaruddin (University of Notre Dame): <i>Dying in the Path of God: Martyrdom, Celestial Rewards, and the Construction of Moral Excellence</i>	Sidney H. Griffith (The Catholic University of America, Washington): <i>St. Ephraem the Syrian, the Qur'an, and the Grapevines of Paradise: An Essay in Comparative Eschatology</i>
05:00 p.m.	David Cook (Rice University, Houston): <i>Dreaming of Paradise, Seeing God</i>	Beatrice Gruendler (Yale University, New Haven): <i>The Messiah in Arabic Praise Poetry</i>
05:30 p.m.	Nerina Rustomji (St. John's University, New York): <i>Beauty in the Garden: Ethics, Aesthetics, and Houris</i>	Ali Shaban (Al Azhar University, Cairo): <i>Eschatology in African Religions</i>

**08:00 p.m. Welcome Dinner** at the Archaeological Institute, University of Göttingen, including a performance of classical Arabic music by Jalal El Allouli, Académie Régionale de l'Education et de la Formation Région de Lâayoune Boujdour Sakia Al Hamra, Morocco

Thursday, 28 May 2009

	<b>Panel 3: Visualizing Paradise</b> Chair: Osama Abi-Mershed (Georgetown University, Washington)	<b>Panel 4: Travelling to Paradise</b> Chair: Lutz Richter-Bernburg (University of Tübingen)
09:00 a.m.	Karin Ruehrdanz (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto): <i>Visualising Encounters on the Road to Paradise</i>	Monika Mühlböck (University of Vienna): <i>Before Entering Paradise: Islamic Religious Norms and Cultural Traditions at the Point of Death</i>
09:30 a.m.	Simon O'Meara (American University of Kuwait): <i>Issues of Vision and Visuality in Paradise</i>	Roberto Tottoli (University of Naples): <i>Description of Paradise in Mi'raj Narratives</i>
10:00 a.m.	Silvia Naef (University of Geneva): <i>Where is Paradise on Earth? Visual Artists from the Middle East and the Construction of a Mythic Past</i>	Samar Attar (Sydney): <i>An Islamic Paradise in A Medieval Christian Poem: Dante's Divine Comedy Revisited</i>

10:30 a.m. Coffee Break (30 minutes)

	<b>Panel 5: Images, Symbols and Concepts of Eschatology</b> Chair: Susanne Enderwitz (University of Heidelberg)	<b>Panel 6: Considerations of the Hereafter in Literature and Art</b> Chair: Jens Scheiner (Free University of Berlin)
11:00 a.m.	Sebastian Günther (University of Göttingen): <i>"God does not disdain to strike a similitude" (Q 2:26): Images and Symbols from Qur'anic Eschatology as Theological Axioms</i>	Ulrich Marzolph (University of Göttingen): <i>The Hereafter in Islamic Popular Imagery</i>

11:30 a.m.	Andrew Lane (University of Toronto): <i>“Robed in Green Garments of Silk and Brocade” (Q 18:31): Qur’anic Imagery within Rationalist Exegesis</i>	Ghada Jayyusi-Lehn (American University of Sharjah): <i>The Death of a Caliph: Medieval Muslim Historians on Eschatology and Paradise</i>
12:00 p.m.	Fred Donner (University of Chicago): <i>A Typology of Eschatological Concepts</i>	Tehnyat Majeed (Cleveland Museum of Art): <i>The Char Muhammad Inscription, Shafa‘a and the Mamluk Qubba al-Mansuriyya in Cairo</i>

12:30-02:30 Lunch Break

	<b>Panel 7: (Inter-)Dependencies in Viewing the Other World</b>  Chair: Martin Jagonak (University of Göttingen)	<b>Panel 8: Shi‘i, Philosophical and Esoteric Contemplations of Paradise and the Eschaton</b>  Chair: Verena Klemm (University of Leipzig)
02:30 p.m.	Barbara Roggema (John Cabot University, Rome): <i>The Ins and Outs of the Other World: the Interdependency of 9th and 10th Century Christian and Muslim Views on the Afterlife</i>	Omid Ghaemmaghami (University of Toronto): <i>“And the Earth will Shine with the Light of its Lord” (Q 39:69): Qa’im and Qiyama in Early Twelver Shi‘ism</i>
03:00 p.m.	Walid Saleh (University of Toronto): <i>Beyond al-Qazwini: Two Unstudied Mirabella Islamic Treatises and their Depiction of the Afterlife</i>	Omar Ali-de-Unzaga (Institute of Ismaili Studies, London): <i>Spiritual Vision, Resurrection and the Adamic Drama Actualised: The Linguistic and Esoteric Understanding of the Afterlife in the Epistles of the Pure Brethren (Rasa’il ikhwan al-safa’)</i>

03:30 p.m.	Alexey A. Khismatulin (Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, St. Petersburg): <i>A Step from Paradise: Barzakh in the Ahl-i Haqq Teachings</i>	Elizabeth Alexandrin (University of Manitoba): <i>Paradise as the Abode of Pure Knowledge: Reconsidering al-Mu'ayyad's "Isma'ili Neoplatonism"</i>
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04:00 p.m. Coffee Break (30 minutes)

	<b>Panel 9: Paradise, Eschatology and Philosophical Speculations</b> Chair: As'ad Khairallah (American University in Beirut)	<b>Panel 10: The Landscape and Makeup of the Hereafter</b> Chair: Lale Behzadi (University of Göttingen)
04:30 p.m.	Hermann Landolt (McGill University, Montreal): <i>'Being-Towards-Resurrection' as a Theme of Philosophical Shi'ism</i>	Ingrid Hehmeyer (Ryerson University, Toronto): <i>The Configuration of the Heavens in Islamic Astronomy</i>
05:00 p.m.	Wilferd Madelung (Oxford University): <i>Al-Ghazali's Philosophical Interpretation of Traditional Islamic Eschatology in his Masa'il al-Madnun</i>	Jens Hanssen (University of Toronto): <i>Al-Nahda's Paradise: Aesthetics and the Botanical Imagination in the Arabic Renaissance</i>
05:30 p.m.	Thomas Würtz (University of Zurich): <i>Emphasizing the Orthodox Conception of the Hereafter: Sa'd al-Din al-Taftazani's (d. 1390) Examination of Certain Mu'tazilite and Philosophical Objections</i>	Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila (University of Helsinki): <i>Paradise and Pasture</i>

08:00 p.m. Dinner (see list of suggested Göttingen restaurants)

Friday, 29 May 2009

	<b>Panel 11: Paradise and Utopia</b> Chair: Irene Schneider (University of Göttingen)	<b>Panel 12: Reincarnation, Afterlife, and the Awaited Mahdi</b> Chair: Karen Bauer (Institute of Ismaili Studies, London)
09:00 a.m.	Jamel Velji (University of California, Santa Barbara): <i>Proximities to Paradise: Nizari Isma‘ili and Early Christian Reconstructions of Utopia</i>	Mohammad Hassan Khalil (University of Illinois): <i>Reincarnation in Islamic Thought</i>
09:30 a.m.	Maher Jarrar (American University in Beirut): <i>Strategies of Paradise: Paradise Virgins and Utopia</i>	Issam Eido (University of Damascus): <i>The Awaited Mahdi in the Works and Thought of Sunni Mystics: the Case of Ibn al-‘Arabi</i>
10:00 a.m.	Ruth Mas (University of Colorado at Boulder): <i>Secular Utopias and Personal Paradises in Contemporary Islamic Thought</i>	Shahzad Bashir (Stanford University): <i>Paradise and Hell Materialized: Life and Afterlife in the Works of Fazlallah Astarabadi</i>

10:30 a.m. Coffee Break (30 minutes)

	<b>Panel 13: Myths and Motifs of Eschatology and the Hereafter</b> Chair: Arnim Heinemann (Free University of Berlin)	<b>Panel 14: Paradise through the Eyes of the Mystics</b> Chair: Philip G. Kreyenbroek (University of Göttingen)
11:00 a.m.	Todd Lawson (University of Toronto): <i>Paradise as Apocalyptic Motif in the Quran</i>	Katja Föllmer (University of Göttingen): <i>Paradise through Spiritual Experience. The Mystical Way to</i>

		<i>God in Attar's Allegorical Work</i> The Conference of the Birds
11:30 a.m.	Feras Hamza (American University of Dubai): <i>The Development of the Concept of "Temporary Hell" in Early Islam</i>	Mohammad Sadegh Zahedi (Imam Khomeini International University, Teheran): <i>The Concept of Paradise in Rumi's Thought</i>
12:00 p.m.	Christian Lange (University of Edinburgh): <i>Taxonomy and Ideology: The Muslim Hereafter as Myth</i>	Maryam Moazzen (University of Toronto): <i>A Paradise Above and Beyond the Janna</i>

12:30-02:30 Lunch Break

	<b>Panel 15: Popular Discourses about Paradise and the Afterlife</b> Chair: Jens Peter Laut (University of Göttingen)	
02:30 p.m.	Ludmila Hanisch (Berlin): <i>Perceptions of Paradise in the Writings of Julius Wellhausen, Mark Lidzbarski and Hans Heinrich Schaeder</i>	
03:00 p.m.	Martin Riexinger (University of Göttingen): <i>Eschatology as Science Fiction – Resurrection, Doomsday, the Intermediate World and the Hereafter in Recent Nurcu Literature</i>	

03:30 p.m. Coffee Break (30 minutes)

	<b>Panel 16: Paradise Meets Modernity</b> Chair: Umar Ryad (University of Leiden)
04:00 p. m.	Suha Kudsieh (University of Toronto): <i>Expulsion from Paradise: Granada in Radwa Ashur's Gharnata (1994) and in Salman Rushdie's The Moor's Last Sigh (1995)</i>
04:30 p. m.	Edwin Wieringa (University of Cologne): <i>Paradise is in the Shadow of the Swords: Paradisical Imagery in 19th-century Acehnese War Propaganda</i>
05:00 p. m.	Liza Franke (University of Leipzig): <i>Notions of Paradise in Contemporary Palestinian Thought</i>

06:00 p.m. Dinner (see list of suggested Göttingen restaurants)

09:30 p.m. Göttingen Jazz Concert and Cultural Programme in the Student Pub -- “Nörgelbuff”

Saturday, 30 May 2009

09:00 a.m.    Excursion to the Wartburg Castle and the city of Eisenach

Sunday, 31 May 2009

	<b>Concluding Plenary Session</b> Chairs:    Sebastian Günther and Todd Lawson
10:00-12.00	* Panel summaries and comments by panel chairs * Open discussion

12:00 p.m.    Coffee Break (30 minutes)

12:30 p.m.    End of Symposium