

International Workshop

Fresh Perspectives on Early Islamic Thought: The Analysis of the Human Act

5 – 7 March 2014

Venue Courant Forschungszentrum EDRIS, Nikolausberger Weg 23, first floor

Main Organizers Dr. David Bennett and Prof. Dr. Jens Scheiner

Participants **Yasser Zahur Ahmed**, University of Cambridge
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Delfina Serrano, CCHS, CSIC, Madrid
Ayman Shihadeh, SOAS, London
Jan Thiele, SOAS, London
Josef van Ess, Eberhard-Karls-Universität, Tübingen
With the participation of CRC EDRIS and GAU Göttingen staff

Programme

THURSDAY MARCH 6

0900-1100 **Greeting** (Prof. Dr. Sebastian Günther)
Session I (Fundamental Theories)
Coffee

1130-1330 **Session II** (Instances of Agency)
Lunch Restaurant “Chiang Mai”, Nikolausberger Weg 27
Break
Coffee served, 1545-1600 at the CRC EDRIS

1600-1800 **Session III** (Later Ash‘arite Theory)

1930 **Dinner** Restaurant “Bullerjahn”, Markt 9

FRIDAY MARCH 7

0930-1130 **Session IV** (The Act)
1130 Coffee, departures
1230-1330 **Business Meeting (optional)**

Session Plans

Session I Fundamental Theories

Texts Al-Ash'arī, al-Khayyāt

Discussion of the technical terminology; establishing the positions of the pre-Ash'arite Mu'tazilites; criticism of the source material; state of current scholarship.
(Moderator: Bennett)

Session II Instances of Agency

Texts Fakhr al-Dīn, Ibn Rushd al-Jadd, Ibn Abī Dunyā

Reflection of action-theory in *tafsīr*, *fiqh*, and literature.
(Moderators: Jaffer, Serrano, Bray)

Session III Later Ash'arite Theory

Texts Al-Bāqillānī, al-Nīsābūrī, Ibn Mattawayh

The classical Ash'arite treatment of the problem: theoretical stances, the rejection of *tawallud*, the act of lying, the evolution of *iktisāb*.
(Moderators: Shihadeh, Thiele)

Session IV The Act

Texts Nemesius

The Greco-Syriac-Arabic transmission of Nemesius: a text concerning *istiṭā'ah*.
(Moderator: Schwarb)

In conclusion, we will discuss the previous day's findings and try to present a framework for the analysis of the act that responds to the varied theological approaches encountered.

Texts

Abū Rashīd, *Masā'il* (ed. Ziyādah/Sayed [?]), 354-5 III

Al-Ash'arī, *Maqālāt* (ed. Ritter), 378-382 (on *tark*) I, 281 (Ḍirār) I

Al-Bāqillānī, *Hidāyat al-mustarshidīn* (ed. Thiele, not for wider circulation) f152a-155a III

Al-Bāqillānī, *Kitāb al-Tawallud* (ed. Gimaret), 272f (refuting *tawallud*) III

Al-Khayyāt, *Kitāb al-Intiṣār* (ed. Nader), 60-62 (on *tawallud* and *istiṭā'ah*) I

Ibn Abū al-Dunyā, *Kitāb al-Hawātif* (ed. 'Aṭā), 41-49 II

Ibn Mattawayh, *Kitāb al-Tadhkirah* (ed. Gimaret), 1.210f III

Ibn Rushd al-Jadd, *Selections* (*taklīf* in theory and practice), three passages II