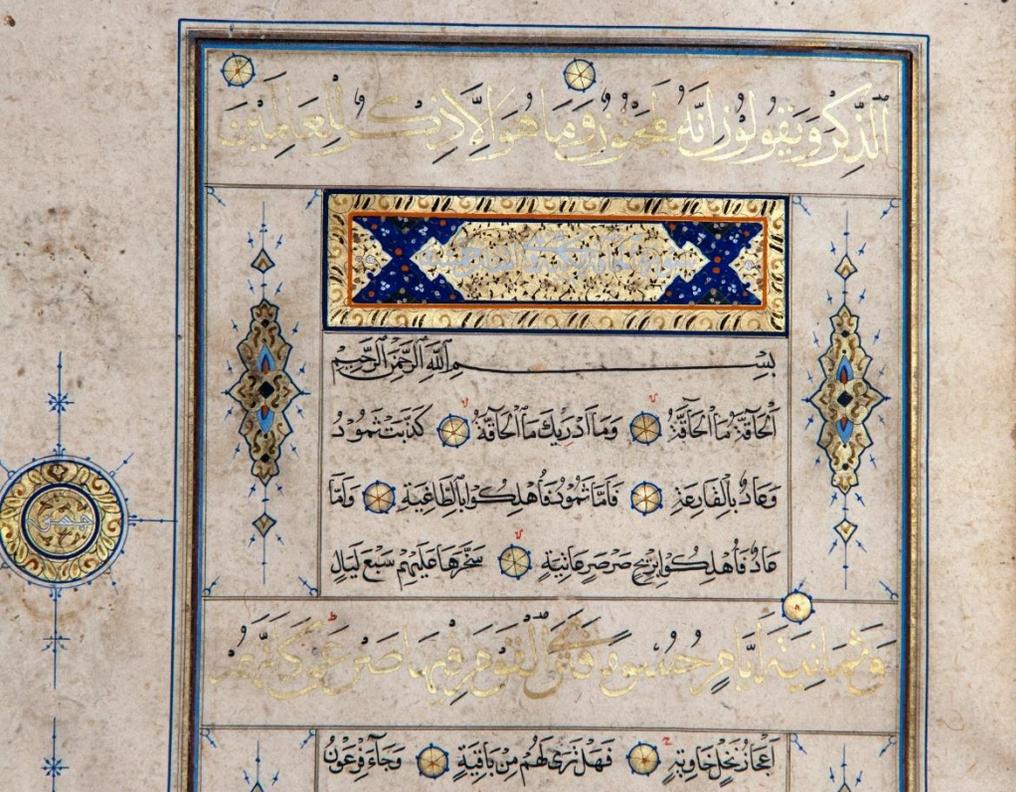


# Late Renaissance and Baroque Christian Engagement with The Qur'an: A Tale of Four Translations



## Public Lecture

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> May at 5pm

At: The Khalidi Library (Annex)

129 Bab El-Silsilah Road

The Old City

Directions: <http://www.khalidilibrary.org/mapse.html>

[www.khalidilibrary.org/indexe.html](http://www.khalidilibrary.org/indexe.html)

[www.kenyon-institute.org](http://www.kenyon-institute.org)

[www.facebook.com/kenyoninstitute](https://www.facebook.com/kenyoninstitute)



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This lecture will examine several Latin translations of the Qur'an made between 1500 and 1750 from two perspectives: translations having a wide impact on European Christian perceptions of the Qur'an and of Islam generally, and as examples of translations exhibiting breakthroughs or advances in understanding of Qur'anic Arabic and the meaning of the Qur'an. While taste, religious belief (or lack of), and the cultural references points of the reader are influences when assessing a Qur'anic translation, more objective measures may also be applied, as may proposed correlations with other texts. The number of ways a single Arabic word is translated into the target language at various points in the text can be counted and grouped. In the case of rare words or difficult to translate phrases, the places where the word or phrase, in its translated form, appears in other contexts can be identified. And the nature of these contexts—legal texts, religious works, or polemical writings—is important. With these factors in mind,

the approaches of translators to the text are discussed here as serious and non-serious. By the end of this period, the Christian Eurocentric worldview was widening, not always in ways that we might approve of today, but with the net effect of increasing knowledge about a document that had, for the first 600 years of its existence, been ignored or at best caricatured by the Christian world. An appreciation of the Qur'an in the West had begun, a process still underway. **Professor Shore** will be introduced by **Dr Khader Salameh**, of the Khalidi Library, who will show some of the rare Qur'ans held at the Library. The lecture will be in English only, there will be no translation.

*Paul Shore is Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan, and Adjunct Professor of History at Brandon University, Manitoba. Previously he has held posts at Saint Louis University, Harvard Divinity School, and Oxford University. Khader Salameh is Librarian and Archivist at the Khalidi Library, previously he was Chief Librarian at the Islamic Museum at the Haram ash-Sharif. This is a joint event between the Kenyon Institute and the Khalidi Library.*

