

Report

SEPTEMBER 2017

On the activities and projects promoted by the Chair

King Abdulaziz Chair for Islamic Studies

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*“My lord,
increase me in
knowledge” is the
motto impressed
in the logo of the
King Abdulaziz
Chair for Islamic
Studies.*

Introduction

The Chair “King Abdulaziz for Islamic Studies” is located in the heart of Bologna, Italy. It represents the result of good cooperation between Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University of Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) and Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna.

The Chair was created in May 2017, when the two universities signed the agreement, which has sanctioned the official establishment of the research center, the only Chair financed by Saudi Arabia in Italy.

The call of the Chair is double: the realization of important scientific projects related to the field of Islamic studies in the broader sense of the term, besides the creation of a reference point for students, researchers, teachers, professors in Bologna and in Italy.

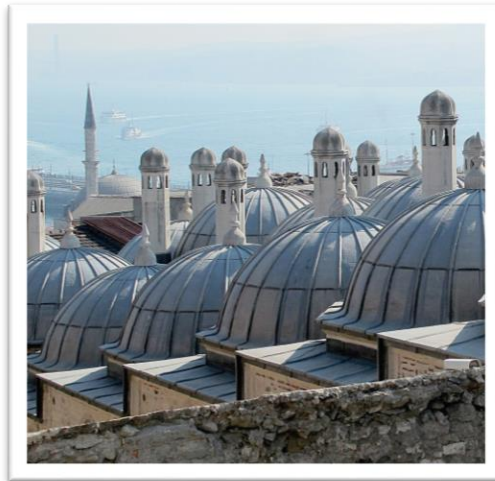
In specific, the research areas selected by the Chair concentrate on: Islamic studies, Islamic law, Islamic art, Arab literature, historical relations between Italy and the Arab world, Islamic heritage in the Italian libraries, Arabic language: its diffusion in Italy, its teaching and the comparison between Italian and Arab literature.



Palazzo Paleotti: the site of the Chair in Bologna

Projects

The projects on the go are seven and they concern various aspects of Islamic studies. Hereafter we list them in detail:



Project 1: Islam and the Mediterranean

Project 2: The practice of Islamic slaughtering: a reconciliation

Project 3: Arabic Manuscripts of the Bologna University Library Online

Project 4: Falconry during the Middle Ages from emperors to caliphs

Project 5: Annotated Dictionary of Comparative Juridical Studies

Project 6: Poetry and Music: concerts and recitals from the great Arabic tradition

Project 7: The international dialogues of Saudi Arabia in the policies of its founder King Abdulaziz

Project 1: Islam and the Mediterranean

الإسلام ودول البحر الأبيض المتوسط في العصر الحديث (مؤتمر دولي)

Aims: The international conference aims to analyze the complexity of the relations between Islam and the western civilizations in a historical perspective. The time span to be analyzed goes from the end of the 18th century until the contemporary age.

Description: The international conference will be scheduled in three sessions: 1. Islam and the Encounter with the Western Civilization; 2. Islam, Colonialism and Decolonization. 3. Islam and the Mediterranean today.

1. Islam and the Encounter with the Western Civilization (18th–19th centuries)

- **Islamic law and the western legal traditions**
- **Continuities, contaminations and assimilations**
- **Islam and modernity**

2. Islam, Colonialism and Decolonization

- **Principles of colonial law: metropolitan Law, specific law for the colony, muslim law**
- **Islam and decolonization**
- **The heritage of colonialism and the current debate**

3. Islam and the Mediterranean today

- **Islam in Europe**
- **History and re-definition of the Mediterranean area**
- **Euro-Mediterranean policies towards the Arab Muslim world: from the EEC constitution, through the Barcelona process, to the Union for the Mediterranean.**

Scientific Tutor: Professor Gustavo Gozzi – Department of Cultural Heritage – University of Bologna - Campus of Ravenna



The international conference is scheduled for 3rd and 4th May 2018, Campus di Ravenna (University of Bologna)

Project 2: The practice of Islamic slaughtering: a reconciliation of juridical prescriptions and sanitary practices

ندوة دراسية وبحوث عن التنكية الإسلامية والمصالحة بين الفرائض الشرعية والعادات الصحية

Aims and Description: Islamic law prescribes a ritual slaughter of all lawful halal animals. This method of slaughtering animals includes several rules such as: the animals have to be alive and healthy, a Muslim has to perform the slaughter in the appropriate ritual manner, the animal's throat must be cut by a sharp knife severing the carotid artery, jugular vein and trachea in a single swipe without cutting the esophagus and the nerves; blood must be drained out of the carcasses. In most of these prescriptions one can recognize scientific motivations that can be attributed to food safety and to the prevention of disease transmission from animals to humans. A large part of these rules recognize a similar commitment in the legislation (or in the good slaughtering practices) of most of the western countries including EU member states and USA as, for example, the need of a deep draining of blood, the ban of using dead animals for food production, the ban of slaughtering stressed and ill animals, the good practice to tie the esophagus before cutting it.

For animal welfare reasons, the most debated procedure of halal slaughtering in western countries, is the ban of stunning animals before cutting the animal's throat.

The objective of the study is to carry out a comparative critical revision of the EU/USA/Halal rules on animal slaughtering and a critical reading of the published documents reporting the scientific evidences and reasons of the prescriptions in the view of human health protection.

Scientific tutors: Professor Andrea Serraino, Veterinary Medical Sciences Department of the University of Bologna; scholars researching in the field of Islam and history.



Seminar in Riyadh to be scheduled with the Chair Scientific Committee in Saudi Arabia

Project 3: Arabic Manuscripts of the Bologna University Library Online

فهرس المخطوطات الإسلامية في مكتبة جامعة بولونيا المركزية (الجزء الأول)



The machine installed at Bologna University Library for the digitalization phase

Aims: The project envisages the revaluation of one of the most important and richest collections of Islamic manuscripts hosted in a public library in Italy: The Oriental Manuscript Fund of the University Library of Bologna. The project aims to digitalize and catalogue all its manuscripts contents.

Description: The Arabic codes of the Library are **460**, from 13th to 16th century: 50 of the Sacred Koran; 8 Koranic lectures; 9 Koranic commentaries; 19 traditions (*hadith*); 26 manuscripts. of prayers and parenthesis; 14 manuscripts. of dogmatic theology and scholastic; 11 containing the principles of Law; 90 about Special Law; 8 of mystic subject; 15 theological collections; 99 grammars; 10 manuscripts. of lexicography; 1 manuscript about metrics; 16 dealing with rhetoric; 24 about philosophy, logic and dialectic; 1 on geography; 2 about astronomy; 1 about medicine; 1 about occultism; 2 encyclopedias, 5 dealing with Christian theology; 31 miscellaneous.

Scientific tutors and Department: Chair of Islamic Studies "King Abdulaziz". The project will be directly managed by the Chair. Different experts will be appointed in the fields of computer science and Islamic codes cataloguing.



First project output: digitalization of the first slot of manuscripts expected by the end of April 2018.

Project 4: Falconry during the Middle Ages from emperors to caliphs: Arabic edition of Medieval treaty about falconry: illustrated book in Arabic and Latin languages and presentation in Italy and in Saudi Arabia

فن الصيد بالصقور خلال العصور الوسطى من الأباطرة إلى الخلفاء: النشرة العربية الموضحة بالصور لكتاب فن الصيد بالصقور باللغتين العربية واللاتينية. مؤتمر من أجل تقديم الكتاب في إيطاليا والمملكة العربية السعودية

Aims and Description: Falconry is an ancient art that involves a complex relationship between men and birds of prey. At the courts of Baghdad, Egypt and Sicily important falconry treatises were composed between 8th and 12th century. These works relate falconry to good rule and knowledge.

The project consists of the co-funding of an important translation into Arabic: that of the falconry treatise *De arte venandi cum avibus* written by the Emperor Fredrick II (1194–1250). The edition will include parallel text in Latin and important colored pictures of birds of prey. The text will open with a dedicated Arabic introduction on falconry between East and West.

Date and place of the events: the volume will be presented both in Bologna and Riyadh (Imam Muhammad University) during two dedicated events.

Scientific tutor and Department: Professor Anna Laura Trombetti, Chair of Islamic Studies "King Abdulaziz" Bologna University.



First project output expected for the end of April 2018.

Project 5: Annotated Dictionary of Comparative Juridical Studies

قاموس مع شروحات للدراسات القانونية المقارنة (الجزء الأول)

Aims: The present project aims to analyze the European and Islamic legal systems, their juridical principles and their meanings, in connection with the different traditions, histories and cultures.

Description: The project problematizes the fact that a simple translation of the juridical terms used in European and Islamic countries does not convey the ideas of what these terms refer to, in a proper way, nor it puts in the limelight the cultural context from which these terms stem and their historical background. The project addresses scholars, researchers, but also politicians and diplomats.

For these reasons, the project is organized as follows:

1. The choice of a number of terms (5 to 10) to be analyzed each year. For the first year we suggest to start with very basic concepts like:

Sovereignty; Constitution; Democracy; Governance; Authority; Fundamental rights

2. A study of the roots of every concept in the different traditions, of their evolution, of their actual and current semantic.

3. The description of analogies and differences among countries with the same legal tradition and between European and Islamic countries.

At the end of each year a report will be presented. The report will inform on the research progress in a dedicated international seminar, aimed to discuss and enhance the research team's results. These last will be enriched thanks to the contribution of scholars from different universities of the various countries involved in the project.

Scientific Tutor: Professor Daniele Donati – Department of Philosophy and Communication Studies – University of Bologna.



First project output: project report by the end of April 2018; international congress aimed to present the project results expected for November 2018.

Project 6: Poetry and Music: concerts and recitals from the great Arabic tradition

الموسيقى وأوزان الشعر العربي: إلقاء قصائد احتفالية من الإرث العربي الأصيل

Aims and Description: The *Concerto poetico* or *Poema in musica* is a meeting and dialogue between two of the highest art forms: classic/modern Arabic poetry and Western classical music.

The project foresees collaboration between two independent university departments: DAMS (the Department of Art, Music and Performance) and the Department of Interpreters and Translators, Arabic Language and Culture section of Forlì. The Art section is in charge of choosing researchers, musicians and opera singers, selecting and performing pieces of classical music, and the historical and musicological presentation of the pieces. The Arabic section of Forlì is responsible for the selection of students-lecturers capable of reciting classical and modern Arabic poetry, the choice and study of the poems, translation into Italian and the study of the poetic reading and staging, both in Arabic and Italian.

Method:

- **Interpreters and Translators' section: workshops with Italian students of Arabic on the study, translation and recital in both Arabic and Italian;**
- **Art section: workshops with the researchers and musicologists on the study and performance of the selected musical pieces.**

Objectives:

- **Spreading Arabic literature and culture in academic contexts, aimed at teachers, academics, students and citizens;**

- Meeting and genuine dialogue between our cultures; a real mutual exchange, in the art forms in which these cultures find their major expression;
- Promoting the diffusion of culture through art;
- Stimulating the knowledge and study of the Arabic language through modern, innovative methods;
- Examination of the relationship between metrics and music in poetry

Rehearsals:

- Three meetings for the preparation of the performance with the participation of both groups (Interpreters and Translators; Art section).

Scientific tutors and Departments: Arabic language and literature teachers, music teachers, director, sound and lighting technicians: Professor Giuseppina La Face, Director of Departments of Arts University of Bologna; Professor Ahmad Addous Department of Interpreting and Translation, University of Bologna – Campus of Forlì.



First concert scheduled for 27th February 2018, Bologna, Italy

Second concert expected for March 2018, Forlì, Italy

Project 7: The international dialogues of Saudi Arabia in the policies of its founder King Abdulaziz

الحوار الدولي للملكة العربية السعودية في سياسات مؤسسها الراحل الملك عبد العزيز

“The international dialogues of Saudi Arabia in the policies of its founder King Abdulaziz” is a project financed by the King Abdulaziz Chair for Islamic Studies.

The project objectives are: the participation of worldwide-recognized scholars on the proposed subject; the dissemination of the proposed subject; and the publication of papers and presentations in a dedicated proceedings book.

A first international seminar is scheduled in Bologna for next Wednesday 8th November 2017. The conference program will be supplied shortly on this page.



8th November 2017, from 10 am in Aula Farneti – Department of Political Sciences, Strada Maggiore 45, 40125, Bologna, Italy

Activities

Besides projects and research, the King Abdulaziz Chair for Islamic Studies also promotes a series of activities directed to citizens in Bologna, Emilia-Romagna region and Italy in general. The aim of these activities is to provide information on the Arab-Islamic culture, the Arabic language, its literature and other disciplines related to the field of Islamic studies.



Presentation entitled "Intercultural Communication in the international relations between Italy and Saudi Arabia" scheduled for 1st December 2017 at **Unibo è Interculturalità Workshop**, Bologna, Italy



Three readings on the **Arab tale** expected for the last Thursdays of January, February and March 2018 at San Giorgio in Poggiale, Bologna, Italy

Useful information

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