



FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER  
UNIVERSITÄT  
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

PHILOSOPHISCHE FAKULTÄT  
UND FACHBEREICH THEOLOGIE

## International Conference on the Hermeneutics of Quranic Norm Change

Host: Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg

April 15th-16th, 2020

In Muslim communities, there is a consensus that the Quran is the central source of Islam. However, this agreement generally ends with questions as to the nature of the Quran and questions of access to meaning within the text. A diverse and multi-faceted tradition of interpretation has therefore developed against backgrounds of constantly changing socio-political circumstances. Based on the conviction that faith-based Islamic theology in Germany has the responsibility to explore this interpretative tradition, and to adapt it in a way that acknowledges the living realities for Muslims in the West (esp. Germany), we would like to stimulate this process further by organizing a conference that addresses the hermeneutics of the normative dimension of the Quran. The conference is structured around the three following themes that seem to be of particular relevance for today:

- 1) The nature of human being in the Quran
- 2) The individual and the community (within Islam)
- 3) Living together in ideologically pluralistic societies

We will not focus on specified precepts or the legal discourses behind them, but rather on how these topics have been negotiated in the fields of (pre-)classical and modern *Tafsīr*. The following are some questions that can be addressed by those who contribute with a paper to the conference: What is the relationship between preconceived norms (e.g., epistemological, conceptual, or sociopolitical) and the interpretation of the Quran, and how do the two affect each other? Which hermeneutical strategies are used? Which verses have been chosen [by who] as relevant, and why have others been neglected? How are tensions between historicity and validity in Quranic verses negotiated? What insights can be derived from this for Islamic theology in general and for contemporary Quranic exegeses in particular?

The conference organizers invite everyone interested in Islamic theology or related disciplines to participate with papers that are thematically aligned with the conference's three aforementioned central topics. We kindly ask that you send us abstracts of your planned paper (max. 300 words) no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to the following addresses:

Dr. Farid Suleiman ([farid.suleiman@fau.de](mailto:farid.suleiman@fau.de)) **and** Hadil Lababidi, M.A. ([hadil.lababidi@fau.de](mailto:hadil.lababidi@fau.de)).

For more information, please contact Dr. Farid Suleiman ([farid.suleiman@fau.de](mailto:farid.suleiman@fau.de)).

*The Conference will take place within the AIWG's Long-term Research Group "Normativität des Korans im Zeichen gesellschaftlichen Wandels". The Academy for Islam in Research and Society (AIWG) is a university platform for carrying out research and debates on Islamic-theological and social issues. It facilitates nationwide projects and exchange among researchers in Islamic-Theological Studies, in related disciplines and with different players in civil society, including Muslim communities. The AIWG is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Stiftung Mercator.*