

Near Eastern and Islamic Studies

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Qur'anists in al-Andalus?

Events in recent decades (such as the Rushdie affair or the Danish cartoons controversy) have shown how the way in which the Prophet Muhammad is portrayed by non-Muslims may serve to channel different claims and grievances on the part of some sectors of the Muslim population. At the same time, Western scholars such as Uri Rubin, Kecia Ali and others have tried to recover the evolving nature of what has been deemed acceptable to say or not to say about their Prophet by the Muslims themselves. The study of how the Prophet Muhammad and other prophets accepted by the Islamic tradition were and are understood and represented has much to offer in order to reach a better understanding of the construction of religious and political authority through the history of Islamic societies, which is where my interest lies. In my lecture, I will review the doctrines of some prominent Andalusī thinkers and pose the question to which extent they may be considered a specific type of 'Qur'anists'.

Maribel Fierro is Research Professor at the Centre of Human and Social Sciences at the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC – Spain). She has worked and published on the political, religious and intellectual history of al-Andalus and the Islamic West, on Islamic law, and on violence and its representation in Medieval Arabic sources. Among her recent publications: *The Almohad revolution. Politics and religion in the Islamic West during the twelfth-thirteenth centuries*, Variorum, 2012, and *Knowledge, heresy and politics in the Medieval Islamic West* (forthcoming). She is the editor of volume 2 (*The Western Islamic world, eleventh-eighteenth centuries*) of the *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, Cambridge University Press, 2010; *Orthodoxy and heresy in Islam: Critical Concepts in Religious Studies* (4 vols., Routledge, 2013); with J. Tolan of *The legal status of dimmi-s in the Islamic West* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2013) and with H. Ansari, C. Adang and S. Schmidtke of *Accusations of unbelief in Islam: A diachronic perspective on takfir* (Leiden: Brill, 2015).
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4:00-6:00 pm

White-Levy Room

For further information, please
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