

Visiting Speaker Series

The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies is
pleased to present a talk by esteemed academic

Professor Nicolai Sinai University of Oxford

'In the Messenger of God You Have a Good Example: Episcopal Leadership and the Medinan Qur'an'

Wednesday, 9 March 2016, 5.15pm

LT1, IAIS Building, Streatham Campus, Exeter, EX4 4ND,
Tea & Coffee to be served from 4.30 pm in the Common Room,
Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

All are welcome



This lecture will examine the noticeably elevated status and wide range of functions that the Medinan Qur'an, in contrast to the earlier Meccan surahs, ascribes to the Qur'anic messenger. The perceptible discontinuity with the Meccan presentation of Muhammad's role raises the question whether the Medinan Qur'an might be recasting and latching on to pre-existing templates of communal leadership. I shall propose that the Christian episcopate yields a surprising number of close overlaps. At the same time, I shall also highlight important differences. In the light of the evidence presented, the Medinan

Qur'an emerges as engaged in a sophisticated appropriation of a wide range of late antique predecessor traditions.

Professor Sinai is Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Fellow of Pembroke College at the University of Oxford. He received his doctorate from the Free University Berlin in 2007. His primary focus of research is in Qur'anic studies which covers topics such as the Qur'an's literary features, its engagement with earlier (Christian, Rabbinic, Arabian) traditions, and Islamic scriptural exegesis.