

# Visiting Speaker Series

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

## Dr R Michael Feener, University of Oxford

### *"Muslim Cultures and Pre-Islamic Pasts: Changing Perceptions of 'Heritage'"*

Wednesday, 25 January 2017, 5.15 pm

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 – no registration required.



This talk will explore a diverse range of historic Muslim experiences with and appreciations of pre-Islamic cultural legacies. The discussion will begin with an overview of Muslim interpretations of Qur'anic verses urging believers to reflect on the visible traces of pasts connected with traditions of pre-Islamic Arabia and Biblical literature. This will be followed by an examination of a series of historical vignettes relating medieval and early modern encounters between Muslims and the material remains of past civilisations that remained visible in the lands

that they lived: ranging from Egypt to the Indonesian island of Java.

R Michael Feener is the Sultan of Oman Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and a member of the History Faculty at the University of Oxford. He has published extensively in the fields of Islamic studies and Southeast Asian history, as well as on post-disaster reconstruction, religion and development. His most recent monograph is *Sharia and Social Engineering* (Oxford University Press, 2014).