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SNSF CORE / ERC EuQu Conference

Villa Vigoni, Lovenno di Menaggio (Como Lake, Italy), 10-13 June 2025

**The “Excluded Third”  
in the Co-Production of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**

Organized by Mercedes García-Arenal, Katharina Heyden, David Nirenberg,  
Davide Scotto, and Roberto Tottoli

PROGRAM

Tuesday, 10 June 2025

**17:00-18:30 – OPENING SESSION**

Greetings

Introduction by the organizers

**19:00 – Dinner**

Wednesday, 11 June 2025

**9:00-12:30 – FIRST SESSION**

**9:00-10:00 – Medieval Iberia and the Mediterranean**

Maribel Fierro (Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean, CSIC, Madrid),  
“‘Hermeneutical Jews’ in Andalusí Arabo-Islamic Literature: A Preliminary Exploration”

Gerard Wiegers (University of Amsterdam), “Including and Excluding Jews in Muhammad al-Qaysi’s *The Key of Religion* or the *Disputation between Christians and Muslims Based upon the Sayings of the Prophets, the Messengers and the Rightly Guided Scholars Who Have Read the Gospels* (ca 1312)”

**10:00-11:00 – From Iberia to France**

Julian Weiss (King’s College London), “Josephus between Jews, Christians and Muslims: Trilateral Relations in the Early Modern Iberian Worlds and their Contact Zones”

Juliette Privat (Aix-Marseille University), “The Paradoxical Presence of Judaism in the Anti-Islam Christian Polemic: Juan Andrés’ *Confusión de la secta mahometica* (1515) and Its French Translation by Guy Le Fèvre de La Boderie (1574)”

**11:00-11:30 – Coffee break**

**11:30-12:30 – From the Mediterranean to China**

Federico Stella (University of Naples L'Orientale), "Crypto-Judaism among the Muslim Slaves: The Case of Baldassarre Loyola Mandes S.J. (1631-1667)"

Josh Cohen (Hunter College, CUNY), "The Enemy of Christians All Over the Globe: Rereading the Jesuit Co-Discovery of Chinese Muslims and Chinese Jews"

**13:00-14:30 – Lunch break**

**14:30-18:00 – SECOND SESSION**

**14:30-15:30 – Scriptural Discourses**

Carson Bay (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton), "Jewish, Christian, and/or Muslim: Exploring the Scriptural Foundations of the Excluded Third"

Benjamin Kamine (Jewish Theological Seminary of America) & Ali Aghaei (Humboldt University of Berlin), "The Dynamics of Exclusion and Affinity in *Midrash Petirat Moshe*. The Death of Moses through Jewish, Shi'i, and Sunni Interactions"

**15:30-16:00 – Coffee break**

**16:00-17:00 – Historiographies**

John Tolan (University of Nantes / Academia Europaea), "Paul and Muhammad in Nineteenth-Century Ashkenaz: Mobilizing Islamic Historiography to Denigrate Christianity"

Emmanuelle Stefanidis (University of Nantes), "The Jewish and Christian 'Origins' of Islam: Modern Historiographical Debates on the Qur'an"

**17:00 – Concluding discussion of the first day**

**19:00 – Dinner**

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Thursday, 12 June 2025

**9:00-12:30 – FIRST SESSION**

**9:00-10:00 – The Interfaith Quattrocento**

Guido Bartolucci (University of Bologna), "Humanism and Interfaith Dynamics: Marsilio Ficino's Reassessment of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam"

Benoit Grevin (CRH-EHESS, Paris) – Katarzyna K. Starczewska (CCHS-CSIC, Madrid), "Flavius Mithridates' Excluded Third: Navigating Christianity, Judaism, and Islam"

**10:30-11:00 – Coffee break**

**11:00-12:00 – From the Quattrocento to the Present**

Erika Tritle (Coastal Carolina University), "Roots of Absence, Absent Roots: The Exclusion of Islam from Christian Historiography"

Jason Welle (Boston College), "Avoidance and Humiliation: Roberto da Lecce's (d. 1495) Theology of Religions"

**13:00-14:30 – Lunch break**

**14:30-18:00 – SECOND SESSION**

**14:30-16:00 – Debating Abrahamic Preconceptions**

Sayed Hassan Akhlaq (The George Washington University), “Dynamics of the Excluded Third in Muslim Sufism: A Theological Exploration”

Sebastian Musch (Osnabrück University), “The Buddhification or De-Judaification of Jesus: Imagining a New Abrahamic Triad without Judaism”

Emily Gottreich (University of California, Berkeley), “The Islamicate Jewish Heritage Revival and Its Christian ‘Others’”

**16:00-16:30 – Coffee break**

**16:30 – Final discussion**

**19:00 – Dinner**

CHAIRS: Ulisse Cecini (Autonomous University of Barcelona), Gaetano Spampinato and Anthony Ellis (University of Bern)