

# INTER-FAITH RELATIONS IN ISLAM: RELIGIOUS MINORITIES UNDER THE ALMOHADS

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP  
15th-16th December 2008



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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

ORGANIZATION: Department of Middle Eastern Studies (University of Cambridge)  
CONVENERS: Amira K. Bennison (Cambridge) AND Maria Angeles Gallego (CCHS, CSIC)

SPONSORING INSTITUTIONS:  
The British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of Middle Eastern Studies (University of Cambridge)  
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (ILC, CCHS)

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LOCATION: Newnham College (University of Cambridge)



## MONDAY 15 DECEMBER

9.30: REGISTRATION

10.00: *Welcome and introduction to the workshop*  
Amira K. Bennison and María Angeles Gallego

10.30: Coffee break

11.00: Panel One. THEOLOGY AND ITS IMPACT ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES  
*The political context of Jewish Mu'tazilism*  
Gregor Schwarb, CMJR, Cambridge  
*Almohad tawhid and its implications for religious difference*  
Amira K. Bennison, University of Cambridge.  
Discussant: David Abulafia, University of Cambridge

12.30: Lunch

14.00: Panel Two. CONTEXTS OF ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCE IN THE ISLAMIC WEST  
*Interfaith Relations under the Almohads: Evidence from the Andalusian Exile*  
Anna Akasoy, University of Oxford  
*Ethnic disaffection and dynastic legitimacy in the Almohad period*  
Ignacio Sanchez Sanchez, University of Cambridge  
Discussant: Maria Angeles Gallego, CCHS-CSIC

15.30: *Tea break*

16.00: Panel Three. BLURRED BOUNDARIES: IBN RUSHD AND MAIMONIDES  
*Explicit cruelty, implicit compassion: Judaism, forced conversions and the genealogy of the Banu Rushd*  
Delfina Serrano, CCHS-CSIC  
*Ismaelite influences on Maimonides conception of God's nature*  
Miquel Beltrán, University of Mallorca  
Discussant: James Montgomery, University of Cambridge

17.30: Close

19.00: *Conference dinner at Wolfson College*

## TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER

9.30: Panel Four. ALMOHAD POLICIES AND MINORITY RESPONSES  
*Abd al-Mu'min's religious policies*  
Maribel Fierro, CCHS-CSIC  
*Jewish reactions to Almohad rule*  
María Angeles Gallego, CCHS-CSIC  
Discussant: Amira K. Bennison, University of Cambridge

10.30: *Coffee break*

11.00: Panel Five. THE ALMOHADS, CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANITY  
*Christians as reflected in Almohad sources*  
Eva Lapiedra, University of Alicante  
*Muslim minorities under Christian dominion in the eyes of the Dar al-Islam*  
Ana Echevarria, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia  
Discussant: Louise Haywood, University of Cambridge

12.30: Lunch

13.30: Panel Six. BEYOND THE DHIMMA  
*Christian merchants in the Almohad cities*  
David Abulafia, University of Cambridge  
*A comparison between Almohad treatment of religious minorities and the later Spanish treatment of the Moriscos*  
Amina Nawaz, University of Cambridge  
Discussant: Elizabeth Drayson, University of Cambridge

15.00: *Visit to the University Library, Cambridge to view a small display of Genizah fragments and Islamic manuscripts*

16.30: *TEA AND GENERAL SUMMATION*  
Amira K. Bennison and María Angeles Gallego