***Tadabbur al-Qur’an***

**Contemplating the Qur’an**

**Howard University**

**Washington, DC**

**March 25-26, 2013**

**Monday, March 25**

Welcome: 8:00-8:30

Qur’anic Recitation

Opening remarks: 8:30-9:15: Dean Alton B. Pollard and Prof. Zainab Alwani

Panel 1: 9:15-10:30:

Structural and Intertextual Analysis of Prophetic Narratives

Sarra Tlili, University of Florida: “Stone and Sound Motifs in Surat al-Hijr.”

Dalia Abo-Haggar, Harvard University: “The Queen of Sheba, the Hoopoe, and the Ant: A Structural Analysis of the Role of the Story of Solomon in *Surat al-Naml.*”

Bruce Lawerence, Duke University: “Qur’anic Translation as Linguistic Performance: The Case of Surat Maryam.”

10:30-11:00: Coffee Break

Panel 2: 11:00-12:30:

Structural and Literary Constructions in the Qur’an

M. Zakyi Ibrahim, California State University, Fullerton: “A Structural Analysis of Qur’an 56: Whose Assessement is it Anyway?”

Anne-Sylvie Boisliveau, University of Groningen. “Textual Commentaries Inside the Qur’anic Text: ‘words spoken aside’ Contributing the Self-referentiality.”

Ahmed Alwishah, Pitzer College: “Dialectical Disputation in the Qur’an.”

Lunch 12:30-2:00

Panel 3: 2:00-3:45:

Qur’anic Engagement with Jews and Christians and their narratives

Tariq Hamid, independent scholar: “Christians, Jews, Muslims: Friends or Foes? What the Qur’an Says.”

Faraz Sheikh, St. Joseph’s University: “Conceptual Reading of the Qur’an: Forgetting Identity and Cultivating a ‘Learning Subjectivity’ for Re-imagining ‘Faith’ (not interfaith) Relations”

Catherine Bronson, Beloit College: “Adam’s *zawj*: The Qur’anic Eve.”

Younus Mirza, Millsaps College: “Abridging the *Isra’iliyyat*: Shaykh Ahmad Shakir’s (1377/1958) Summary of Ibn Kathir.”

Respondent: Daniel Madigan

Coffee Break: 3:45-4:00

Panel 4: 4:00-5:45:

Faith and Critical Thinking Through the Qur’an

Martin Nguyen, Fairfield University: “The Dialectic of Revelation: The Qur’an and Systematic Theology.”

Mahan Mirza, Zaytuna College: “Signs not Proofs: Revelation and Iron Descend from the Sky.”

Basit Karim: “Critique, Qur’anic Studies, and Form-of-Life: ‘Contemporary Critical Practices’ Reprised.”

Umeyye Yazicioglu, St. Joseph’s University: “Belief in Hell Heaven in this Day and Age? Said Nursi’s Interpretation of Hereafter in the Qur’an.”

Keynote Dinner 7:00-8:30 Speaker: Dr. Sulayman Nyang

**Tuesday, March 26**

Panel 5: 9:00-10:30:

Qur’anic Discourses on Women and Gender

Ilona Gerbakher, Harvard University: “Female Intellect in 20th Century Jewish and Islamic Legal Thought: A Comparative Perspective.”

Zuleyha Colak, Columbia University: “Womanly Guile Vs. Human-ly Guile” (Yusuf and Zulaykha).”

Salman Younas: “Between Bilqis and Abu Bakara: Ashraf `Ali Thanawi on Women’s Political Leadership.”

Shehnaz Haqqani, University of Texas, Austin. “Men as *Kum* and Women as *Hunna:* the Qur’an’s Essential Audience.”

Coffee Break: 10:30-11:00

Panel 6: 11:00-12:30:

Qur’anic Conceptions of Virtue, and Ethics

Katrin Jomaa, Emory University: “Virtuous Action rather than Denomination” The Qur’anic Approach to Defining *Umma* and Liberating it from Historical Confines.”

Celene Ayat Lizzio, Brandeis University: “Disparate Paradigms for Energizing Religious Reform: Two Prominent 20th Century Exegetes on Qur’anic Hermeneutics and Religious Ethics.”

Farid Esack, University of Johannesburg: “The Acid-Test of Faith: Socio-Economic Justice in the Early Meccan Surahs.”

Lunch 12:30-2:00

Panel 7: 2:00-3:30:

Interpreting the Qur’an: Necessary, Impossible, Inevitable?

Zainab Alwani, Howard University: “Contemplating the Qur’an: Themes of Surat al-Hujurat”

Amr Osman: “Is There a Literal Reading of the Qur’an?: The Myth of the Literalism of Zahirism.”

Maria Dakake, George Mason University: “*Tafsīr* and *Ta’wīl*: The Search for Meaning and Certainty in the Qur’an.”

Respondent: Imam Mohamed Magid

Coffee Break: 3:30-4:00

Future planning Session: 4:00-5:00:

Closing Remarks 5:00-5:15: Maria Dakake