



Christian-Muslim Relations A Bibliographical History 1500 - 1900

CMR 1900 Newsletter

Issue 5 - Spring 2018

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

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From the CMR Project Director:

This issue of the Newsletter appears just weeks after publication of the fourth of the CMR volumes that cover the 17th century. The project has now progressed as far as the year 1700 and reached 11 print volumes.



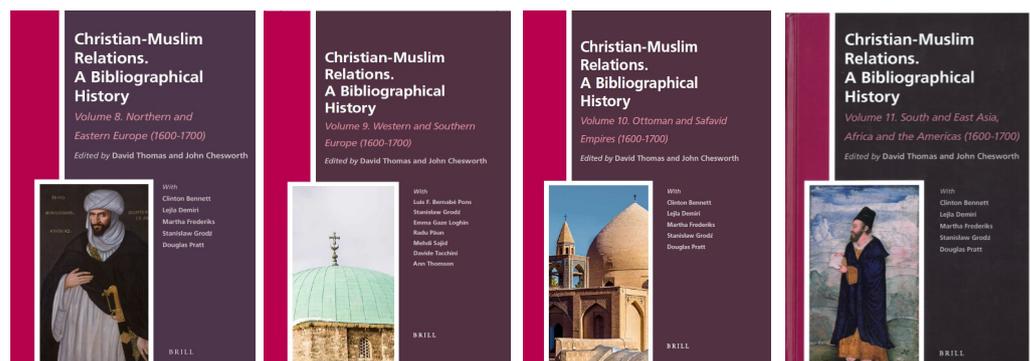
The Birmingham Team with Copy Editor Carol Rowe

The four 17th century volumes together contain entries on 405 authors, with accompanying source entries plus the introductory essays. This takes the total for the 11 volumes to more than 1300 sets of entries, a prodigious achievement by any reckoning. The project now moves on to the 18th century, for which we estimate about 360 entries occupying three volumes. Work on these is well in hand, and they are planned to appear in the course of 2018 and early 2019.

The effort to produce volumes at a regular rate involves a colossal amount of joint work. There are the Contributors in different parts of the world who write the entries, the Section Editors responsible for different regions and countries who identify the works to be written on and check the submitted entries, and the Birmingham staff who correspond with the huge network of Contributors and Section Editors and make close checks on entries as they move towards publication. This is not to speak of the Brill staff who produce the print volumes and the online CMR. It is almost scary to think of the numbers of people - and the emails flying between them - involved in each volume.

Among these, everyone will know Sinead Cussen at Birmingham. She has been at the centre of the project for the last few years, keeping in touch with everyone to ensure volumes progress, maintaining records, selecting illustrations, and producing the Newsletter. Sinead will move to another job in the University in March, and will leave a wide gap. She goes with grateful thanks for the part she has played in keeping up the impetus of the CMR project, and also in adding her sparkle to project meetings. Sinead will be sorely missed.

David Thomas

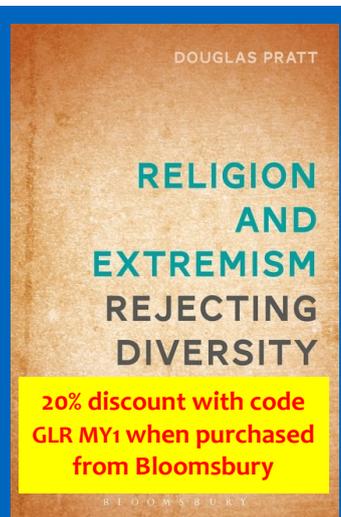


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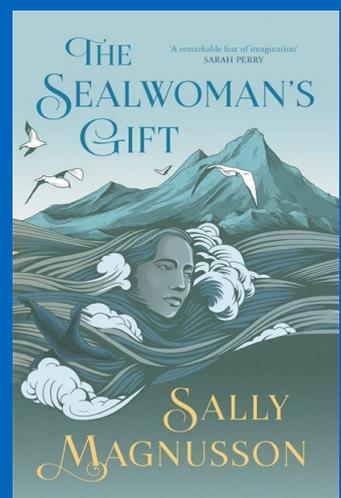
Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History 1500-1900. School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion,
University of Birmingham <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/cmri900> @cmri900project



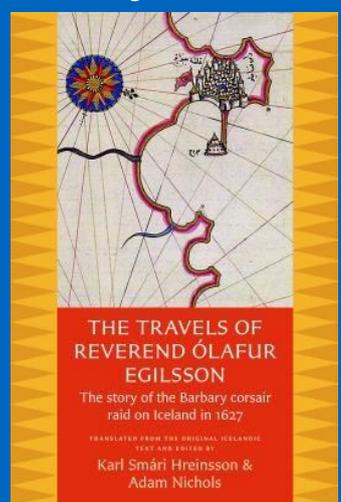
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This new book, focusing on the three monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, argues that an ideological rejection of diversity underlies religious extremism, resulting in violent behaviours and, increasingly, in hardening social and religious attitudes and responses.



A new novel based on the life of Ólafur Egilsson's wife, Ásta.



Recent (2016) edition of Ólafur Egilsson's *Travels*.

CMR Thematic Volumes: An Update

As the lead editor for the first volume of *A Thematic History of Christian-Muslim Relations: The First Millennium (600-1600)*, I am pleased to report that of the 20 commissioned chapters for this work the first three have been submitted (hopefully more by the time the newsletter is out), so the editorial task is now underway.



The plan is for all chapters to be in by the middle of the year with the finished work - including an editor's introductory chapter - ready to go to Brill before the end of the year. This will be published as a CMR volume.

A second volume of thematic history, led by Charles Tieszen, will follow upon the conclusion of the CMR Bibliographical History project, so extending the discussion of key themes, to which the bibliographical material points, down to the dawn of the 20th century.

Douglas Pratt

Christian-Muslim relations from Iceland to Algiers?

CMR aims to cover the entire world. This, at least, is the principle, but in practice surely there are some countries where Christians and Muslims have not met and there are no records to include in CMR.



One day in February, I was driving along listening to the car radio when on came an interview with a writer called Sally Magnusson. She had just written a novel, *The Sealwoman's Gift*, about an Icelandic woman who had been seized by Barbary pirates and carried off to Algiers. This was intriguing, but was it plausible? There certainly were pirate raids along the coasts of Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England (there is a tombstone in Wells cathedral to a local man who in the 17th century took ransom money to Algiers). But would pirates from North Africa sail as far north as Iceland?

It transpires that in 1627 there was, in fact, a pirate raid on Iceland in which almost the whole community of Heimaey, one of the Westman Islands, were carried off to North Africa to be sold as slaves. One of them was the Lutheran minister Ólafur Egilsson, about whose wife Sally Magnusson has created her novel. He was singled out from the other captives to make his way to Denmark, which ruled Iceland, to appeal to the king for ransom. He was eventually able to raise funds, and almost ten years after they were captured a group of fewer than 30 survivors returned to Heimaey. The stories they brought back with them must have fascinated as much as they horrified, and the trauma they suffered must have continued for years.

For CMR purposes, Ólafur Egilsson wrote a memoir, *The Travels of Reverend Ólafur Egilsson*, which contains copious comments and views about the Turks and Muslims. An entry on this has been commissioned, and it will appear in the online CMR later this year. One wonders how many other unlikely places will reveal their secrets, and show that Christian-Muslim relations really are worldwide.

David Thomas



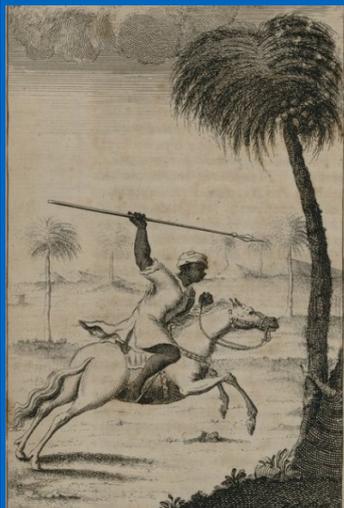
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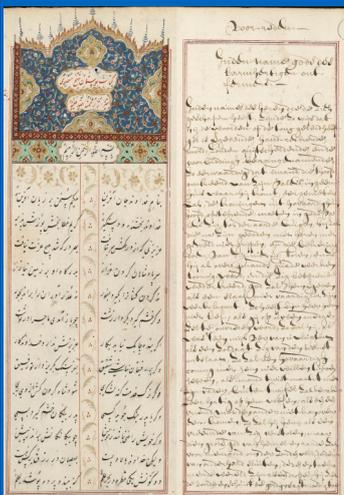
Illustrations from the forthcoming 18th century volumes



Portrait of Bur Wolof in battledress, in Francis Moore's *Travels to the Inland Parts of Africa*



Court painting of Sultan Husayn: Shah of Persia, British Museum



Manuscript of Sa'di's *Bustan*, transcribed by Shah Qasim with interleaved Dutch translation by D. Havart

News

1300 CMR entries and counting...

As you will have read in David Thomas' opening comments, we are pleased to announce that the project has published over 1300 pairs of Author and Source entries across 11 print volumes to date. We have also begun publishing some 18th and 19th century entries online in advance of the forthcoming print volumes (3 volumes planned for the 18th century, 8 for the 19th century). The work to bring the project up to 1914 has involved some 40 team members and over 1000 contributors and counting!



A recording of Alastair Hamilton's public lecture on 'Forbidden Fruit: Translating the Qur'an in early modern Europe' is now [available on Youtube](#).

Podcasts are another great way to catch up on lectures. Here are a few which may be of interest:

[Reforming Attitudes to Islam, with Mona Siddiqui and Joshua Ralston](#)

[Muslims, Christians and the Zombie Apocalypse](#)
(a series by the Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies)

[Alaweel Centre Podcast and Video Archive](#)
(various recordings from the Alaweel Centre at the University of Edinburgh)

Dates for your diary

- [Christian-Muslim Studies Network](#), University of Edinburgh lectures:
 - 'Ibn Taymiyya's Theology: God, Time and Space' Lecture by Richard Todd, 8 March
 - 'Theological Approaches to Scriptural Anthropomorphism in Islam and Christianity' Lecture by Sophia Vasalou, 20 April
- Conference: [Emergent Religious Pluralism\(s\)](#) Woolf Institute, 16-17 April
- Conference: [God's Creation and Human Responsibility](#) 2018 Luce-Hartford Conference in Christian-Muslim Relations, Hartford Seminary (USA), 18-20 June
- Conference: [The Church and Migration: Global In-Difference?](#) - twelfth international gathering of the Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network, Toronto, 25-27 June
- PLURIEL congress: [Islam and Belonging](#) - second International Congress of University Platform for Research on Islam in Europe and Lebanon (PLURIEL) Rome, 26-28 June
- Conference: [Political Theology in Christian-Muslim relations](#) - second annual conference of the Christian-Muslim Studies Network, American University of Beirut (Lebanon), 8-11 September



What is CMRI 900?

Christian-Muslim Relations 1500 - 1900 (CMRI 900) traces the history of relations between followers of the world's two most populous religions in the early modern and modern period. The project seeks to explore the question of what happened to Christian-Muslim relations in the period 1500-1900, looking at how Christians and Muslims deployed inherited depictions, as well as assessing how far they moved beyond them.

CMRI 900 builds on the successful AHRC funded project CMR600 which examined the time period 600—1500 and was published by Brill (Leiden) in 5 volumes. CMRI 900 is set to comprise a further 17 volumes. All volumes are published by Brill as a sub-series of the *History of Christian-Muslim Relations* (HCMR) series.

Each volume contains introductory essays on various topics, in addition to the entries which provide:

- biographical details of authors
- full descriptive accounts of the contents of their works
- explanations of the significance for Christian-Muslim relations
- and exhaustive lists of manuscripts, editions, translations and studies.

For more information about the project please visit our website:

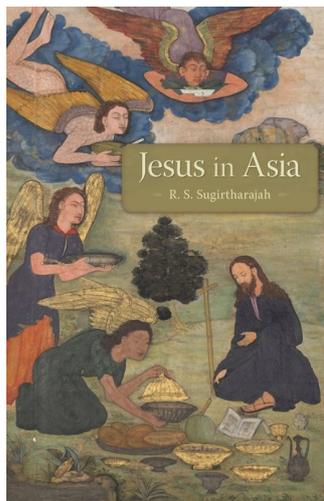
www.birmingham.ac.uk/cmri900

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to be involved, please contact the project team:

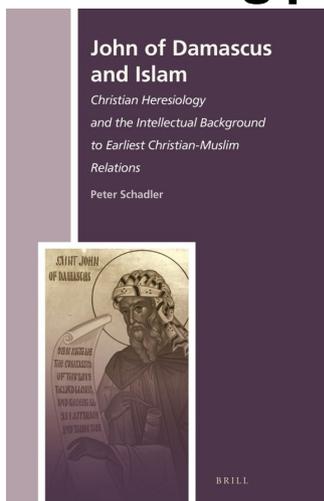
cmri900@contacts.bham.ac.uk

For further updates and links to articles and projects that could be of interest, you can also follow us on Twitter at [@cmri900project](https://twitter.com/cmri900project)

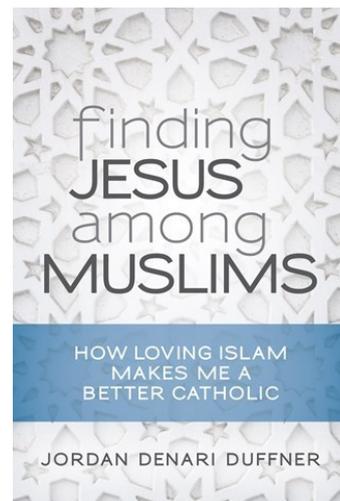
Recent and forthcoming publications



Sugirtharajah presents the non-Christian sources of Jesus in Asia.



This book outlines the intellectual background of the Christian Near East that led John to categorise Islam as a heresy.



Why should Christians engage in interfaith dialogue with Muslims? What to do about Islamophobia?

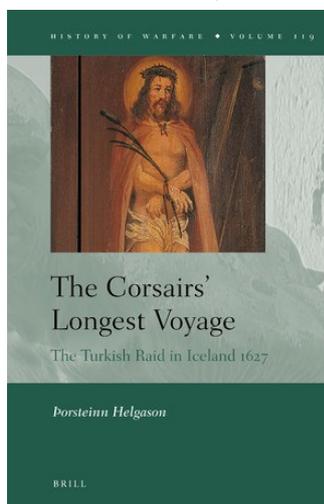
The Venetian Qur'an

A Renaissance Companion to Islam

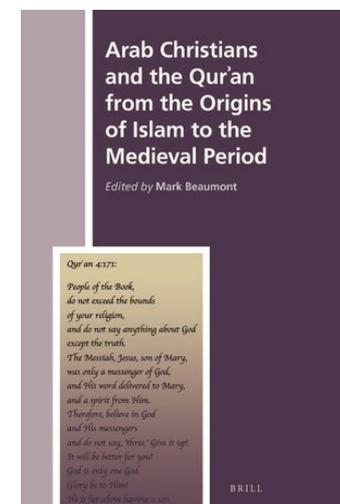
By Pier Matthia Tommasino

Translated by Sylvia Notini

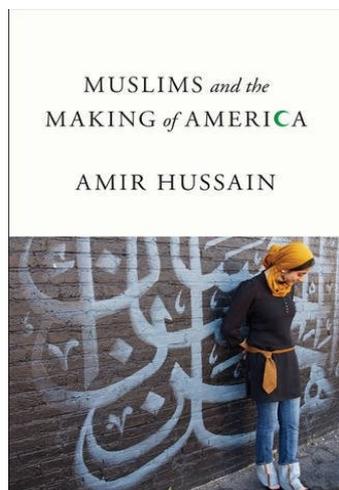
"The Venetian Qur'an is an impressively rich study of the first Italian translation of the Qur'an"



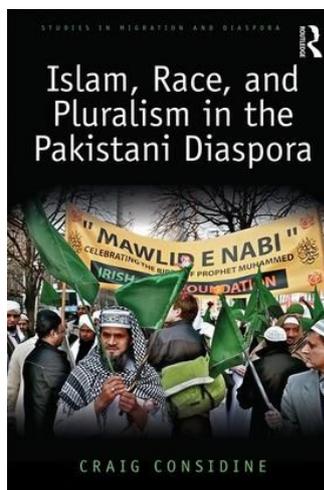
This volume traces and analyses the history and lasting memory of the Turkish Raid in Iceland.



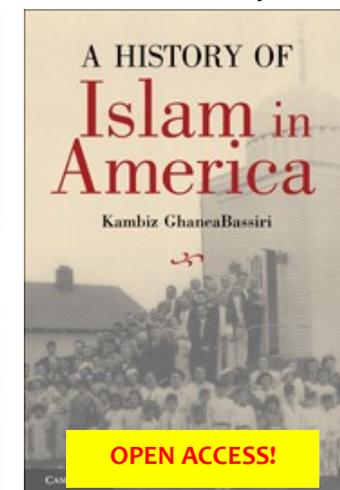
Collection of essays, originating from Woodbrooke-Mingana Symposium on Arab Christianity.



"There has never been an America without Muslims"



Explores how young first- and second-generation Pakistani Muslim and non-Muslim men resist hegemonic identity narratives.



"Muslims began arriving in the New World long before the rise of the Atlantic slave trade"



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