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Jesuit Orientalism and the 'Mysterious' Qur'an: from Aversion to Engagement

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259. Institutsseminar des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung

Montag, 16. Mai 2022, 17.00 c.t., Hörsaal 2 (Untergeschoß, rathausseitig)

This presentation will consider Jesuit contributions to Arabic studies in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The first is *Muṣāḥaba rūḥāniyya*, 'The spiritual conversation', produced by the Jesuit Tipografia del Collegio Romano, and which may have been composed by G. B. Eliano, a Jesuit of Jewish birth. The second is an anti-Quranic polemic work, *Az Mostan Tamat Vj Tudományok...* by Peter Pázmány. Next we shall consider a lengthy polemical work by Stephanus Arator (Szántó István) and dated to 1610. Finally the Latin translation of the Qur'an, with accompanying Latin commentary, by Ignazio Lomellini, completed in 1622 will be discussed. We shall examine the contexts in which each of these documents were created, and their relationship to the Jesuit communication network-- and to the isolation in which solitary Jesuits often found themselves.

Paul Shore has held teaching and research posts at Saint Louis University, Harvard Divinity School, Oxford University, the University of Edinburgh, and Trinity College Dublin. He is a Life Member of Wolfson College, Cambridge University, and Adjunct Professor of History at Brandon University, where he was the Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professor in 2010. A priest of the Anglican Church of Canada, and currently Senior Researcher at the University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, Shore has lectured in many cities, including Moscow, Budapest, Kyiv, Jerusalem, London, Rome, Vienna, Belgrade, Santiago, and Toronto.

Moderation: Thomas Wallnig