The medieval roots of the Islamic state have never been more relevant or misunderstood. This two-day colloquium brings together historians, archaeologists and art historians to discuss and debate the emergence of the earliest Islamic states and the nature of Muslim sovereignty, power and politics between 600-1000CE.

The Origins of the Islamic State
Power and Sovereignty in the Early Middle Ages

16th-17th February 2017

Location:
Lecture theatre G6, UCL Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London

Organizer:
Dr. Corisande Fenwick, UCL
Email: c.fenwick@ucl.ac.uk

Funding:
This is a free event generously supported by a British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award (BARSEA) and hosted by the Institute of Archaeology, UCL.

This event is part of a broader initiative ‘Rethinking the Islamic State’ organised by the UCL Islamic Archaeology Network. A follow-up Early Career Researcher Workshop ‘Researching the Islamic State: New Challenges and Opportunities’ will be held on March 28th-29th. More information can be found at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/directory/rethinking-islamic-state
Thursday 16th February

10:30-11:15 Registration and Coffee

11:15-11:30 Introduction
Corisande Fenwick, UCL

11:30-12:30
Keynote Lecture: Early Islam in Comparative Perspective: How Different was the Caliphate?
Andrew Marsham, University of Edinburgh
Respondent: David Wengrow, UCL

12:30-1:30 Lunch break

1:30-2:15 Thinking the Islamic State anew
Annliese Nef, Université Paris 1- Panthéon Sorbonne

2:15-3:00 The early Islamic state as an economic actor
Hugh Kennedy, SOAS

3:00-3:45 Conceptualising the Study of Early Islamic Elites
Simon Gundelfinger, Hannah Hagemann, Ahmad Khan, and Peter Verkinderen, University of Hamburg

3:45-4:15 Coffee in Leventis Gallery

4:15-5:00 Paying for the Caliphate - Fiscal practice in the documents of the Abbasid period and the continuing formation of the Early Islamic State
Marie Legendre, SOAS

Friday 17th February

5:00-5:45 Taxation and protest against the early Islamic empire
Edmund Hayes, University of Tuebingen/Leiden

6:00 Drinks Reception in Leventis Gallery

7:30 Dinner for speakers, Carluccio’s.

Friday 17th February

9:30-10:00 Registration and Coffee

10 – 10:15: Welcome

10:15 How to Found an Islamic State: Rulership, Authority and City-building in Medieval North Africa
Corisande Fenwick, UCL

11:00-11:30 Coffee in Leventis Gallery

11:30-12:15 The Malwiyya of Samarra: Symbol of Caliphal Authority
Andrew Petersen, University of Wales, Trinity St David

12:15-1pm When the mosque was an extension of the palace: the mihrab as throne-room?
Simon O’Meara, SOAS

1-2pm Lunch break

2pm-2:45 When the man of Maʿāfir ruled al-Andalus: caliphal legitimacy and power exercise in the Tenth Century
Xavier Ballestin, Universitat de Barcelona

2:45-3:30 Revelational Politics: Justifying the Necessity of the Caliphate in Medieval Sunni Theological Writings
Han-Hsien Liew, Harvard

3:30pm-4:00 Coffee in Leventis Gallery

4:00-4:45 The Futuh in contemporary Muslim education in Britain
Philip Wood, Aga Khan

4:45-5:30pm Keynote Lecture: Daesh-Isis: the use and abuse of early Islamic history
Hugh Kennedy, SOAS

5:30-6:30 Final Discussion for speakers
7:30 Dinner for speakers, Life Goddess