**Qur’anic Studies: Methodology and Hermeneutics**

**Chairs:** Karen Bauer and Farid Esack (Contact: KBauer@iis.ac.uk)

**Description:** This unit aims to understand and contextualise the methods and hermeneutics applied to the Qur’anic text, both historical and contemporary. The Methodology and Hermeneutics unit addresses questions that might implicitly govern other units, such as: what is Qur’anic Studies, and how does the study of the Qur’an differ from the study of its interpretation? What are the methodological differences between descriptive and normative approaches to the text? How does context (intellectual, social, ethical, historical) affect hermeneutical approaches to the text? The unit welcomes papers addressed to the hermeneutics and methods of particular schools of interpretation or thought, and also on hermeneutics as applied to specific subjects or concepts, such as social justice and gender.

**Call for papers:** For the 2014 meeting in San Diego, the Methodology and Hermeneutics unit will have two panels. The first panel focuses on the hermeneutics or methods applied to the Qur’an by particular groups of interpreters or schools of thought. A grouping could be theological, sectarian, or geographical, but need not be limited by such boundaries. Some examples of possible groupings include: modern Egyptian reformist interpreters; Isma’ilis; the *mutakallimūn*, philosophers, or rationalists; contemporary academics; women; early Islamic poets. The second panel invites papers in any aspect of methods and hermeneutics applied to the Qur’an.

Proposals should include a title and an abstract of approximately 400 words. They can be submitted here from late January onwards. Informal queries in advance of submission can be addressed to Karen Bauer.