

المعهد البابوي للدراسات العربية و الاسلامي

*Pontifical Institute of Arabic
and Islamic Studies*



Viale di Trastevere 89 - 00153 Roma www.pisai.it





“The Holy See, is striving to pursue, interreligious dialogue, through the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, and several Pontifical Universities”

BENEDICT XVI

- April 19th, 2008 -



The Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation



In 2009 the Vatican Foundation “Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice”, established in 1993 to promote the diffusion of the social teachings of the Church, has initiated a program of active support to PISAI.

“ I likewise note with pleasure all that you do for the PISAI (Pontifical Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies), to whose goals, you and I attribute, great value for an increasingly fruitful interreligious dialogue”

BENEDICT XVI

- June 13th, 2009 -



II PISAI nella Chiesa



المعهد في الكنيسة

- ◆ PISAI is a unique institution which plays a very significant role within the Church, in as much as it promotes both a solid formation in the Catholic faith and a good knowledge of the Islamic faith
- ◆ It represents a unique instrument for the Pontifical Institute for Interreligious Dialogue (PCDI)
- ◆ The Holy Father has repeatedly acknowledged the importance of the role played by PISAI, which he personally supports
- ◆ PISAI participates in international seminars and meetings of Catholic and Moslem scholars



History

التاريخ

- ◆ **1926** The African Missionaries establish the *Institut des Belles Lettres Arabes* in Tunis
- ◆ **1960** The *Institut* becomes Pontifical Institute of Oriental Studies
- ◆ **1964** The school moves to Rome, Piazza St. Apollinare, and is renamed Pontifical Institute of Arabic Studies
- ◆ **1980** The Institute is renamed Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, PISAI
- ◆ **1988** Its Statute is approved by the Congregation for Catholic Education
- ◆ **1990** PISAI moves to its present headquarters in Viale Trastevere 89, Rome, an APSA property
- ◆ **1997** Beginning of the cooperation with *Dar Comboni for Arabic Studies*, based in Cairo
- ◆ **2008** A new Statute is approved by the Congregation for Catholic Education
- ◆ **2009** APSA pledges permanent support, responding to a personal appeal of His Holiness Benedict XVI



PISAI's goals

الاهداف

- ◆ **FORMATION**
- ◆ **RESEARCH**
- ◆ **PUBLICATIONS**
- ◆ **DIALOGUE**



Formation

التنشئة

- ◆ PISAI offers a program of solid formation based on an objective study of Islamic sciences
- ◆ **The study** of Arabic is the “regal way” to the achievement of this goal
- ◆ **The faculty:** 20 highly qualified religious and lay teachers of 11 different nationalities, 6 of whom come from Arab countries
- ◆ **To this date:** there have been 1400 students, most of them working in the field of interreligious dialogue, teaching or otherwise
- ◆ **In the academic year 2009-2010:** there were 57 students of 20 different nationalities, including some Moslem ones



Program

برنامج الدراسات

1st year:

In Cairo, Egypt, at the *Dar Comboni for Arabic Studies*, run by the Combonian Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus

2nd year:

Arabic: 20 hrs per week (30 school weeks)

Islamic Sciences: 4 hrs per week, taught in English or French, 10 basic subjects (Koran, Tradition, philosophy, literature, history, theology, law, mystics, Shiah, research methodology)

Interreligious Dialogue: 2 hrs per week of preparation to Islamo-Cristian relations

3rd year:

Islamic sciences: 11 hrs per week, taught in Arabic, study of the basic texts of Islam



Program

برنامج الدراسات

Graduation: students submit a short Thesis as an exercise in scientific research

Doctorate: at the moment PISAI has 11 students, of 6 different nationalities enrolled in the three year program

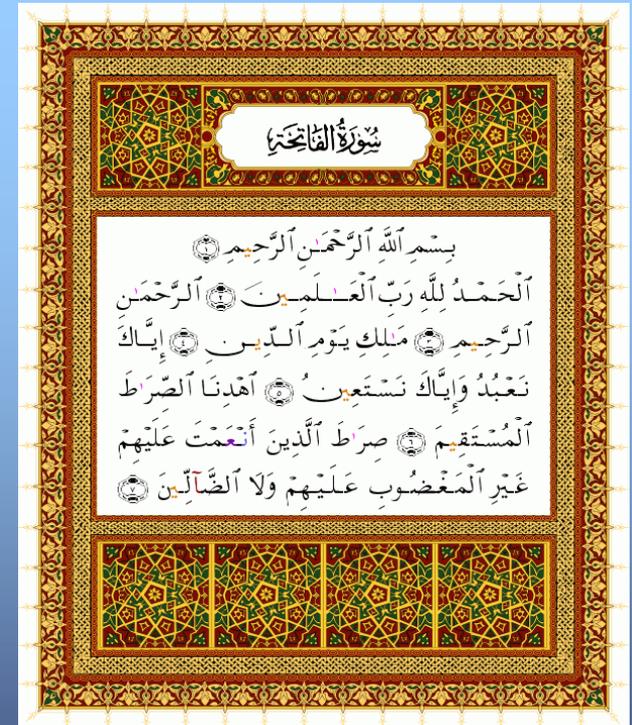
Each Wednesday: communal prayer for students, teachers, staff and others, usually in Arabic



Research

البحث

- ◆ Ability and commitment: are essential requirements for students to qualify
- ◆ To this date: 225 Theses have been submitted
- ◆ 93: Arab-Islamic authors have been studied and translated
- ◆ Research material available to all Library users, providing a serious contribution to dialogue and the pursuit of knowledge



Research

البحث

- ◆ **LIBRARY:** highly specialized, it is the Institute's heart
 - a. Volumes: 32,000
 - b. Magazines: 450
 - c. Manuscripts: 60
 - d. Rare Editions: 250
- ◆ **READING ROOM:** open every day, Monday through Thursday, from 8.30 am to 17.00 pm, on Friday from 8.30 am to 13.00 pm
- ◆ **CATALOGUE:** can be consulted on line at www.pisai.it

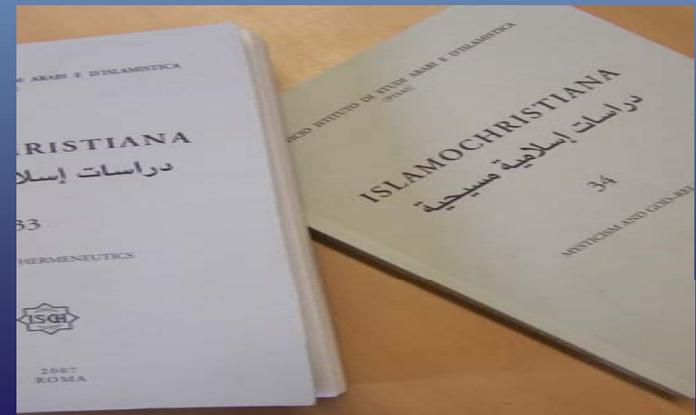
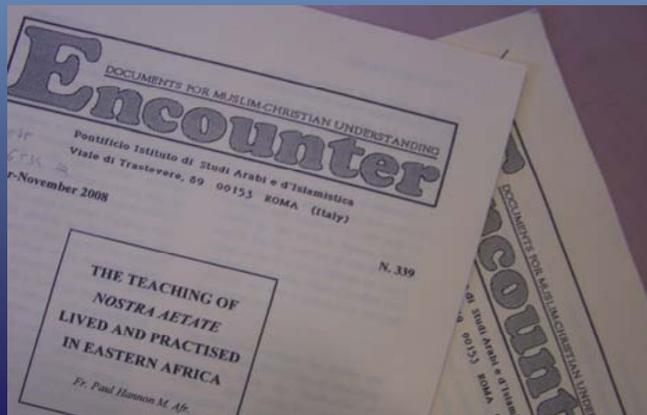


Publications

المنشورات

PISAI's publications reach all academic institutions engaged in interreligious dialogue and the study of Arab-Moslem culture, in four continents:

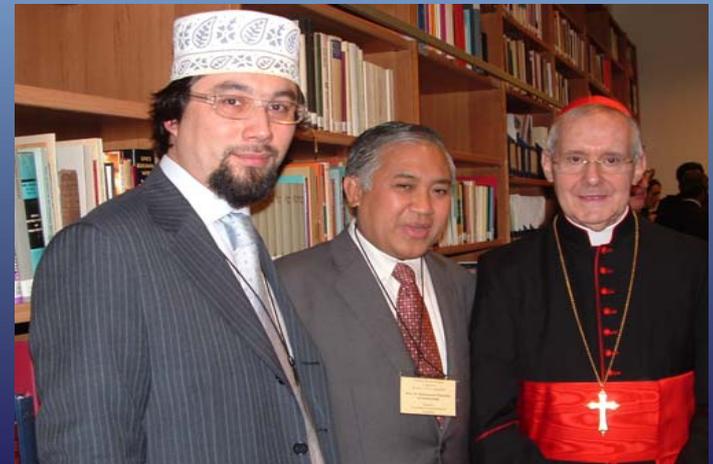
- ◆ 1. **Islamochristiana**, founded in 1975, annual, focusing on dialogue, 500 subscribers
- ◆ 2. **Encounter**, founded in 1974, 10 issues per year, focusing on dialogue del dialogo, 250 subscribers
- ◆ 3. **Etudes Arabes**, founded in 1962, annual, promoting knowledge of the Arab-Moslem culture, 150 subscribers
- ◆ 4. **Studi Arabo-Islamici del PISAI**, series of 18 essays of Oriental research



Dialogue

الحوار

- ◆ From the start PISAI, through its cooperation with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCDI), has been an effective instrument of support to the Church, participating in seminars and meetings of Catholic and Moslem scholars
- ◆ Frequent meetings with academic and institutional representatives, and with members of the Diplomatic Corps to the Holy See, provide PISAI with meaningful occasions of intercultural exchange



Events

النشاطات

- Every year PISAI organizes a series of monthly lectures, given by scholars and lay and religious academic leaders both Christian and Moslem, followed by a debate for a moment of communal reflection
- Annual visit to the Rome Mosque, attended by all the students and the Dean
- Inauguration of the Academic Year, introducing teachers, staff and program

PISAI LECTURES 2009

Sponsored by
*The Lynde and Harry Bradley
Foundation*

Thursday, January 29th, 2009, 17:00
pm

*L'articulation entre foi et raison en
Islam*

Prof. Michel Younès
Université Catholique, Lyon
Language: French

Wednesday, February 18th, 2009, 17:00
pm

*Dialogue and Truth-Claims in
Christianity and Islam*

Prof. Christian W. Troll S.J.
St. Georgen Postgraduate School of
Philosophy and Theology, Frankfurt/M.
Language: English

Thursday, March 19th, 2009, 17:00 pm

*La letteratura araba musulmana:
questioni e prospettiva della ricerca*

Prof. Roberto Tottoli
Università Orientale, Napoli
Language: Italian

Thursday, April 23rd, 2009, 17:00 pm

*Studiare la tradizione per capire il
presente. Prospettive per un dialogo*

Prof. Michel Lagarde
PISAI, Roma
Language: Italian

Friday, May 22nd, 2009, 18:00 pm

2009 Bradley Lecture

*Islam and the Secular State: The Way
Forward*

Prof. Abdullahi Ahmed an-Na'im
Emory University School of Law, Atlanta
(USA)
Language: English



Events

النشاطات

PISAI LECTURES 2010

Sponsored by
*The Lynde and Harry Bradley
Foundation*

Enjeux et défis d'une traduction chronologique du Coran

Prof. Sami Al deeb Abu- Sahlieh
Institute Suisse de Droit Comparé,
Lausanne
Language: French

Louis Massignon, Giorgio La Pira e mondo musulmano (analisi dell'epistolario)

Prof. Giuseppe Rizzardi
Docente d'islamologia
Facoltà Teologica dell'Italia Settentrionale
Language: Italian

Towards a New Exegesis of the Qur'an. Reading the Text in Its Litterary Context

Prof. Michel Cuypers
IDEO Member
(Istituto Domenicano di Studi Orientali)
Language: English



Proposals

الاقتراحات

- ◆ **Financial support:** annual donation to build a substantial endowment whose income, would complement His Holiness Benedict XVI's personal contribution and the generous contribution of the Society of African Missionaries
- ◆ **Investment in equipment:** i.e. Having donors take on economic responsibility for the good functioning of some PISAI activities such as the library, language laboratory, web site, electronic equipment, cultural events, etc.



Conclusions

الخواتم

- ◆ PISAI is first of all a work of the Church, devoted to the study of Islam from within, and to providing a solid formation based on a thorough knowledge of Arabic
- ◆ Its main goal is getting to know Islam as it is, approaching with respect the fullness of its difference from Christianity



Conclusions

- ◆ Thanks to this objective approach PISAI, is greatly appreciated also by Moslem Institutions



الخواتم

