



University of Palermo
Department of Humanities – Chair of History of Arab Countries and Islamic Studies
in collaboration with Centre for Libyan Archives and Historical Studies (Tripoli) and Accademia Libica in Italia
organizes
Palermo (January, 23th - 24th 2014)

International Conference

“The idea of *belonging* in the Arab-Islamic context: uses and evolution of the concept of *'irq*”

CALL FOR PAPERS

From an etymological perspective, the Arabic term *'irq* offers multifold interpretive possibilities. Beyond the immediate sense of “*kin, ethnic group, origin and hereditary disposition*”, it assumes throughout history different meanings which undergo – within various typologies of Arab-Islamic sources – relevant conceptual changes related to the transformation of the idea of *belonging* to an ethno-confessional community.

In the modern and contemporary period, the concept of *'irq* takes on a meaning closer to a national and nationalistic feeling and it neatly refers – not without a strong problematic component strictly connected to the recent historical events – to the idea of *belonging to a national community*.

Through a specifically linguistic and historical analysis (the peculiar use of the term in the sources and its evolution over the course of time), the conference aims at clarifying the value of the concept of *'irq* within the changing relationships between the Muslim intellectual, historian, citizen and the religious, social, political and geographic community that he claims to belong to.

It clearly appears that such a reflection assumes today a prominence in the Arab-Islamic context with regard to the process of geographical, political and social re-composition.

The conference will be structured into three sessions:

1. use and meanings of the concept of *'irq* in the sources (religious texts, dictionaries, biographies, chronicles, travel accounts and literary texts);
2. *belonging* and *hereditary disposition* between history and historiography: some sample cases;
3. socio-juridical aspects and use of the concept of *'irq* in the Modern and Contemporary period.

In respect of the Proceedings, the CAUS (Centre for Arab Unity Studies) of Beirut gently expressed its willingness for their publication.

Scientific Committee

Antonino Pellitteri (History of Islamic Countries – University of Palermo);
Khairieh Kasmiyeh (Modern and Contemporary History – University of Damascus);
Aghil Barbar (Modern History – University of Tripoli);
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