

Welcome to the **Winter 2017 Speaker Series** of the **Indian Ocean World Centre**

Speaker: **Mr. Naser Dumairieh**

Ph. D. Student, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University

2 February 2017

5:45 pm, Peterson Hall, Room 116

The Mughal and the Ḥijāz in the 17th Century



All Mughal emperors paid considerable attention to the Ḥijāz. For example, except for a short period during the reign of Akbar (r. 1556-1605), they maintained uninterrupted links with the two holy cities of Mecca and Medina. However, their interest was not only religious, it was also economic and political. At the same time, Arabs travelled to India for many reasons, including trade, better work prospects, in search of knowledge, and for adventure. This paper will focus on the relations between the Mughals and the Ḥijāz during the seventeenth century through an examination of:

- The practice of copying the Qur'ān in one's own hand and sending the copies to Mecca and Medina.
- The economic aspects of Indian support for the Ḥijāz through (i) sponsorship of hajj travel; (ii) construction of schools, *ribāṭs* and different charitable institutions in the Ḥijāz; and (iii) the distribution of large amounts of cash and goods to the residents of Mecca and Medina.
- The politically-motivated practice of sending a noble on the *hajj* as an acceptable method of either punishment, or temporary removal.
- The exchange of ideas and scholars. Scholars were welcomed and patronized by several Mughal emperors. Likewise, while many Mughal Indians visited Muslim countries in the Middle East for religious reasons. Some of them became very distinguished scholars in the Arab World.



McGill

