



University  
of Victoria

Centre for Studies  
in Religion & Society

# Friends, Foes or Fools?

Muslim Views of the Crusaders  
Niall Christie, Langara College



Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 7:00 pm

104 David Turpin Building, A Wing  
(formerly the Social Science and Math Building)

**Abstract:** In this lecture we will discuss the attitudes of the Muslims of the Levant to the western Europeans who came to the region on the Crusades (1095-1291). In the process we will consider to what extent these attitudes expressed themselves as hostile encounters, and to what extent they were transformed through ongoing political and cultural interactions into ones of tolerance and sometimes, even, friendship. We will also probe the limits of this transformation, considering how far there were cultural barriers between the Muslims and their opponents that proved to be insurmountable.

**Biography:** Niall Christie received his PhD in Islamic History from the University of St Andrews, Scotland, in 2000, and is now teaches the history of Europe and the Middle East at Langara College in Vancouver. His research addresses the Muslim response to the crusades, with particular foci on the development of jihad ideology; comparative study of holy war preaching in Europe and the Middle East; and women and the crusades.

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