

**Suggested Interview Questions for Michael Birkel,
author of *Qur'an in Conversation***

(Baylor University Press, August 15, 2014)

Why did you decide to embark upon this project of Qur'an-centered conversations with Muslim religious leaders and academics?

What was the most surprising thing you learned from these conversations?

How can people of other faiths engage with the Qur'an?

A few of the contributors are feminist scholars who tackle a particularly difficult verse that has been interpreted by some to condone wife-beating. How do these scholars explain this verse?

Another controversial passage is the injunction to "kill idolaters." You discussed this with one of the contributors, Jamal Badawi. What was his take on this?

How do these Muslim religious leaders and scholars view the relationship between Muslims and people of the book, Jews and Christians? How about people of non-Abrahamic faiths?

Talk about divine mercy, which is the most frequently cited theme of the Qur'an, mentioned by every one of the contributors.

What are some other themes of the Qur'an that came up in your conversations?

What are some areas of disagreement among the contributors to this volume?

How is the Qur'an becoming an American scripture?

In what ways do you think these scholars and religious leaders are shaping Islam in North America?

For an interview with Michael Birkel, please contact Kelly Hughes,
312-280-8126 or kelly@dechanthughes.com.