**The Qur’an in Muslim Practice**

**27 February, 6, 13, 20 March 2021, 10.30 – 12.30**

**Session 1: 27 February 2021**

**Muslim Perspectives on the Qur’an [Farouk Topan]**

What is the Qur’an to Muslims? This introductory session will explore Muslim beliefs about the Qur’an, focusing on its status as scripture and as a source of guidance, its revelation, its reception, and possibilities of its interpretation.

**Session 2: 6 March 2021**

**Writing and Reciting the Qur’an [Walid Ghali]**

The session will discuss two skills derived from dealing with the text of the Qur’an: its writing, and its recitation. The culture of writing the Qur’an at various levels – from childhood when learning the alphabet to its development into the artistic skill of calligraphy – will be explored. The session will also consider the art of reciting the Qur’an, situating it within the requirements of the Qur’an itself, and the traditions that have evolved over time.

 **Session 3: 13 March 2021 [Farouk Topan]**

 **The Qur’an: A Source of Protection & Healing**

Muslim belief in the inherent blessings and power of the Qur’an renders it a source of healing and protection for individuals, communities (and even nations). The session will discuss the verses and situations requiring protection and healing (including the ritual of spirit possession).

**Session 4: 20 March 2021 [Walid Ghali]**

**Sufi Practices**

The genesis and evolution of Sufi concepts and practices have their basis in the interpretation of verses of the Qur’an. The verses will be analysed in this session, placing them in their historical context. More importantly, the session will throw lights on the Sufi ritual known as *Dhikr* where Qur’an is indeed an essential component of these rituals, which also differ from one order to another.