

**The Narrative of Islamic violence in History.
Creation, artifice and reality.
ICS, University of Navarra, the 14th -15th of December 2018**

**«Victory follows with deep piety! » Warfare and Martyrdom rhetoric in the
Qur'ān and Eastern Christian culture in Late Antiquity**

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In *Violence and Belief in Late Antiquity*, Thomas Sizgorich's book offers a challenging reflexion about violent expressions of religious devotion in both Christian and Muslim communities between the fourth and ninth centuries. Sizgorich argues that the cultivation of violent martyrdom as a path to holiness was a common pool of late ancient narrative forms upon which both Christian and Muslim communities drew.

This paper engages a reflexion which discuss Sizgorich's approach and will consider the presence of warfare's semantic field in the *Qur'ān* as functionally meaningful intertextuality, reflecting the emergence of a distinct ideology but closely connected to the broad « Warfare and Martyrdom » culture of Late Antiquity. To this end, this paper will try to highlight some strong affinities with main aspects of quranic warfare and Late Antique Religious texts (Sermon and Homelies) especially with Eastern Christian culture and Byzantium Texts. Our comparative approach will be especially devoted to analyse strong commonalties (but also decisive differences) between George of Pisidia's (580?-634?) *De expeditione Heraclii imperatoris contra Persas* and quranic rhetorics of Jihad and martyrdom.