

## Arabic Pasts: Histories and Historiography 3-4 October 2024

**Thursday 3 October 2024**

**10.00 Welcome**

**10.15 Session 1 Comparing Narrations**, Chair: Hugh Kennedy, School of Oriental and African Studies

*Shibli's Ride: The Production of a Druze Hero of Nineteenth-Century Syria*  
Peter Hill, Northumbria University

*"Send Him to Me as a Prisoner!": The Fall of Kisrā II Abarwīz and the Prophetic Advent of Islam in Sasanian Iran. A Case Study on the Nihāyat al-Irab*  
Matteo Cecchetti, University of Pisa

*An Alternative History of Mālikism: The Tasmiya wa-l-ḥikāyāt of Abū l-ʿAbbās al-Ghamrī (d. 392/1002)*  
Salah Clément, Sorbonne University/University of Lausanne (Online via Zoom)

**11.45 Coffee**

**12.00 Session 2 Digital Methods: Beyond Human Capacities**, Chair: Peter Verkinderen, AKU-ISMC, Centre for Digital Humanities

*Navigating Seas of Biographies: A Computational Pipeline for Biography Identification in Historical Corpora*  
Alicia González Martínez, Asien-Afrika-Institut, Universität Hamburg

*Identifying Textual Reuse in Ottoman Fatwas: Applying Novel Methodologies in Ottoman Legal Historiography*  
Sefer Korkmaz, Istanbul University and University of Bern

**13:00 Lunch**

**14.15 Session 3 Thinking Strategies**, Chair: Karen Bauer, Institute of Ismaili Studies

*Kinship and Governance in Kūfa: The Political Dynamics of ʿUthmān b. ʿAffān's Caliphate (r. 24-36/644-656)*

Aliya A. Ali, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Clare College, University of Cambridge

*Druze, the "Sword of Islam"*  
Rami Abou Diab, Université La Sagesse (Online via Zoom)

**15.15 Coffee**

**15.45 Session 4 Fiction and Its Windows onto the Past**, Chair: Alex Bellem, AKU-ISMC

*A Novel Approach to Khalid Ibn al-Walid*  
Bruce Fudge, Université de Genève

*Imagining the Past: Can Fiction Unveil History*

Lucy McNeece, Professor (Retired)

*How Is Arab-Islamic History Televised? The Tradition of Egyptian Historical-Religious TV Drama and its Way of Representing the Premodern Islamic Past*

Egor Korneev, Middle East Studies Department, University of Michigan (Online via Zoom)

**17.15 Coffee**

**17.30 Session 5 Displaying History, Hiding History**, Chair: Aslisho Qurboniev, Institute of Ismaili Studies

*The Jabirites of the Nile Delta*

Mohamed Elsayed, Independent Researcher and Educator & Pascale Ghazaleh, Chair and Associate Professor of History, The American University in Cairo

*Constructed Loyalties in the Mahdist Sudan: A Histo-museological Approach*

Ahmed Idrees & Ezzeldin Hajjaj, Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies, Qatar / Department of Archaeology, University of Khartoum, Sudan (Online via Zoom)

**19.00 Group dinner**

-----End of Day One -----

**Friday 4 October 2024**

**10.00 Session 1 Making Connections, Thinking Connections**, Chair: Luay Mohammed, AKU-ISMC

*Virtual Journey of the Past Nusantara Ulama to Mecca: Connecting with the Arabic World*

Arskal Salim, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Indonesia (Online via Zoom)

*Producing Genealogical Knowledge: The Prophetic Descent of 'Abd al-Qādir al-Jīlānī (d. 561/1166) in Biographical Collections and Hagiographical Literature*

Natalie Kraneiß, Institut für Arabistik und Islamwissenschaft, Universität Münster

**11.00 Coffee break**

**11.30 Session 2 Putting the Margins in the Centre**, Lorenz Nigst, AKU-ISMC Centre for Digital Humanities

*A Historical Study of Twelver-Imāmī Shī'ī Liturgical Manuscript Transmission as a Source for Intellectual History*

Vinay Khetia, Shia Research Institute, Toronto

*The Reception of Kalīla wa-Dimna Approached through the Manuscript Notes*

Yousry Elseadawy, Freie Universität Berlin

**12.30 Lunch**

**14.00 Session 3 Digital Methods: Building Corpora, Building Networks**, Chair: Mathew Barber, AKU-ISMC Centre for Digital Humanities

*Automatic Recognition of Arabic Characters in Yemeni Manuscripts from the Rasūlid Period: Problems and Advantages*

Clark Junior Membourou Moimechame, Department of Arabic Studies, University of Strasbourg

*Isnāds as a Source of History of the Book in the Framework of Ibn Sa'd's Sīra Text*

Tuba Nur Saraçoğlu, Faculty of Islamic Studies, Mardin Artuklu University

**15.00 Coffee**

**15.30 Session 4 Revisiting, Shifting the Focus,** Chair: Shainool Jiwa, Institute of Ismaili Studies

*Exploring Muslim Sicily: Towards a New Approach*

Nuha Alshaar, The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London

*Aḥmad Bābā al-Tinbuktī (d. 1036/1627), Precursor of West African Historiographical Thought*

Marta G. Novo, Departamento de Estudios Árabes e Islámicos y Estudios Orientales, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

*Islamic Responsa Literature as a Historical Source: The Fatwas of Ahmad al-Wansharīsī and the History of Medieval North Africa*

Russell Hopley, Independent Scholar (Online via Zoom)

**17.00 Coffee**

**17.30 Session 5 Investigating Archives,** Chair: Arezou Azad, Oxford-Invisible East Project/Inalco

*Islam's Extramural Memory Banks: The Ḥanbalī Archives of al-Ṣāliḥiyya*

Rodrigo Adem, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Georgetown University

*Monks and Muslims in the Judaeen Desert: The Record-Keeping of the Communities of Khirbet Mird*

Robert Hoyland, New York University.

-----**End of workshop**-----

Enquiries to: Sarah Bowen Savant, [sarah.savant@aku.edu](mailto:sarah.savant@aku.edu)  
Hugh Kennedy, [hk1@soas.ac.uk](mailto:hk1@soas.ac.uk)  
Lorenz Nigst, [lorenz.nigst@aku.edu](mailto:lorenz.nigst@aku.edu)  
Anjum Alam, [anjum.alam@aku.edu](mailto:anjum.alam@aku.edu)

Organised by: Aga Khan University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU-ISMC) and SOAS, University of London

Venue: The Aga Khan Centre, 10 Handyside Street; London N1C 4DN