What was Philology in Arabic?

Arabic-Islamic Textual Practices in the Early Modern World

Programme

The conference investigates the neglected history of Arabic-Islamic textual practices and interpretative methods in the early modern world. Although philology has always been a global knowledge practice, no such account of its history has ever been written. Wherever texts exist, a method of making sense of them has existed as well. What were these methods? What forms did textual practices take in Arabic-Islamic scholarship before the encounter with European philology?

The conference focuses on three interrelated areas:

• Text critical practices
  transmission, verification, care for the text, detecting corruption, emendation

• The growth and evolution of texts
  reading, commentaries, glosses, polemic, abridgements, anthologies and encyclopaedias

• The Arabic Cosmopolis
  Arabic textual practices as world philology

Contact

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Seminar für Semitistik und Arabistik
Fabeckstr. 23-25, 14195 Berlin

For registration and programme:
www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/whatwasphilology


It is supported by:

13-15 July 2017
Freie Universität Berlin
**Schedule**

**Thursday, 13 July 2017**

9:15 – 9:30  Arrival and Coffee
9:30 – 10:00  ISLAM DAYEH
Freie Universität Berlin
*What was Philology in Arabic? Some Preliminary Notes*

KATHY VAN VLIET, ISLAM DAYEH
Brill, Freie Universität Berlin
*Launch of Philological Encounters (Brill)*

10:00 – 11:00  LARA HARBU
Princeton University
*Philology and Aesthetics in ʿIlm al-maʿānī*

11:00 – 11:30  Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30  ADAM TALIB
Durham University
*Emblematic or Exceptional? as-Ṣafadī’s Ghayth and ad-Damāmīnī’s Nuzūl*

12:30 – 1:30  MYKHAYLO YAKUBOVYCH
The National University of Ostroh Academy
*Tafsīr Glosses in the Ottoman Tradition*

1:30 – 3:00  Lunch Break

3:00 – 4:00  ASAD Q. AHMED
University of California, Berkeley
*Palimpsests of Themselves: Commentaries and Glosses in Post-Classical Islam*

4:00 – 4:30  Coffee Break

4:30 – 5:30  AHMED EL SHAMSY
University of Chicago
*Anti-Philology in the Arabo-Islamic Tradition in the Sixteenth to Nineteenth Centuries*

5:30 – 6:30  RIDWAN AL-SAYYID
Higher Institute for Islamic Studies, Beirut
*Islamic Studies and the Return to Philology*

**Friday, 14 July 2017**

9:30 – 10:30  BILAL ORFALI
American University of Beirut
*Black Humor and Qur’ānic References in Hamadhānī’s al-Maqāma al-Mawsiliyya*

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00  MARIA MAVROUDI
University of California, Berkeley
*Byzantine Translations from Arabic into Greek*

12:00 – 1:00  JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ DELGADO
Universidad de Granada
*The Hebrew Word-Lore and the Judeo-Arabic Lexicography in al-Andalus (10th-15th Centuries)*

1:00 – 2:30  Lunch Break

2:30 – 3:30  CHRISTOPHER BAHL
SOAS, University of London
*The Circulation of al-Damāmīnī’s Grammar Commentaries Across the Western Indian Ocean*

3:30 – 4:30  TORSTEN TSCHACHER
Freie Universität Berlin
*The Limited Universal: Arabic through a Tamil Lens*

4:30 – 5:00  Coffee Break

5:00 – 6:00  AHMAD KHAN
Universität Hamburg
*Islam in an Age of Print: Editors, Antiquarianism, and a Republic of Letters*

6:00 – 7:00  JONATHAN BROWN
Georgetown University
*How British Translators in India Revolutionized (Accidentally) Islamic Legal History*

**Saturday, 15 July 2017**

9:30 – 10:30  KONRAD HIRSCHLER
Freie Universität Berlin
*Philology and Multiple-Text Manuscripts in the Middle Period*

10:30 – 11:30  SHAMIL JEPPIE
University of Cape Town
*The Making of a Timbuktu Biographical Dictionary*

11:30 – 12:00  Coffee Break

12:00 – 1:00  KATHRYN A. SCHWARTZ
Harvard University
*The Role of the Commissioner in Canonizing the Printed Canon*

1:00 – 3:00  Lunch

**Venue**
Freie Universität Berlin, Lecture Hall 1.2009
Fabeckstraße 23–25, 14195 Berlin