



# The Visual Scribe: Tables and Diagrams in Middle Eastern Manuscripts Workshop

**Date:**  
April 10-11, 2025

**Venue:**  
Institute for the History of Knowledge in the Ancient World at Freie Universität Berlin

**Conveners:**  
**George A. Kiraz**, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

**Mathieu Ossendrijver**, Freie Universität Berlin

**Sabine Schmidtke**, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

**Sonja Brentjes**, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

**Submission deadline:**  
**January 1, 2025**

**IAS** SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES  
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY



**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE**  
FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE



The workshop will provide a platform to delve into the rich tradition of tables and diagrams in Middle Eastern manuscripts. We invite contributions that examine various aspects of these visual representations, including their historical contexts, symbolic meanings, cultural significance, and methodological approaches.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to, the evolution of tables and diagrams, analysis of specific types of tables and diagrams (e.g., genealogical tables, astronomical diagrams, geometric patterns, tabular data), comparative studies across different manuscript traditions, the role of tables and diagrams in knowledge transmission and dissemination, digital tools and techniques for analyzing and reconstructing tables and diagrams.

This across-discipline workshop aims to cover manuscripts in various languages, including, but not limited to, Arabic, Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian\*, Hebrew, Persian, and Syriac, in addition to the ancient languages of Egypt and Mesopotamia. All time periods are of interest.

Our workshop series not only gives speakers ample time to present (30 to 45 minutes) but also provides ample room for discussion. The purpose is to provide a space where scholars can engage with each other and learn from different disciplines.

Scholars interested in participating may send a proposal (up to 1,000 words) by January 1, 2025. **Submissions are to be sent to Uta Nitschke-Joseph at nitschke@ias.edu.** Scholars are expected to fund their travel to/from and accommodation in Berlin. Lunches will be provided. Speakers will be invited to contribute to a collected volume on an agreed-upon theme. Junior scholars are encouraged to submit.

For additional information visit <https://www.ias.edu/hs/islamic-world/memat>

\* OK, technically not the Middle East!