



Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies Research Newsletter Issue 7, September 2023

Welcome and DoRI Information

Welcome to the seventh issue of the IAIS Research Newsletter.

Since the last issue, the MOU with the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) based in Amman has been signed and at the time of writing Dr Mustafa Baig will be meeting the Director, Dr Carol Palmer, to discuss placement opportunities for our Year Abroad students. Numerous research opportunities also exist for collaboration between the IAIS and CBRL. Similarly, the negotiations for an MOU with the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) is developing well and I hope that this will be signed soon too. In this context, i.e. research on Iraq, there will be an exciting exhibition on Gertrude Bell using materials from her archives at the University of Newcastle, with Dr James Downs taking a curatorial lead, later in the Autumn in the Street Gallery. As before, the website links for BIRI are below and I know they are all keen to foster research links with IAIS staff and research fellows and students, so please do follow up on these.

British Institute at Ankara (BIAA) - <https://biaa.ac.uk>

British Institute of Eastern Africa (BIEA) - <https://biea.ac.uk>

British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) - <https://www.bips.ac.uk>

Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) - <https://cbrl.ac.uk>

British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies (BILNAS) - <https://www.bilnas.org/?ref=slsrebranded>

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) - <http://www.bisi.ac.uk>

Please send me contributions for the next issue of the Research Newsletter by 5pm Monday 15th January 2024.



Professor Timothy Insoll FBA, Director of Research

Cover image. Mihrab, Great Mosque, Córdoba (photos. T. Insoll).

IAIS Research Centre News and Reports

| | |
|---|--|
| Maqam for Arabic Studies (MAS) | Ms Abla Oudeh Mahmoud |
| Centre for the Study of Islam (CSI) | Dr István Kristó-Nagy |
| Centre for Middle East Politics (CMEP) | Vacant |
| Centre for Persian and Iranian Studies (CPIS) | Dr Mazyar Ghiabi |
| Centre for Kurdish Studies (CKS) | Dr Farangis Ghaderi |
| Centre for Gulf Studies (CGS) | Prof. Marc Valeri |
| Centre for Magic and Esotericism | Dr Emily Selove |
| European Centre for Palestine Studies (ECPS) | Prof. Ilan Pappé and Dr Nadia Naser-Najjab |
| Centre for Islamic Archaeology (CfIA) | Prof. Timothy Insoll |

1. Maqam for Arabic Studies

- Safaa Radoan, Giorgia Ferrari- and Abla Oudeh Mahmoud have participated in the seminar: Awan Talks: Palestinian Literature Now, 11th March 2023, London.
Keynote speakers: Nora Parr, Selma Dabbagh, Heba Alhayek.

- Maqam for Arabic Studies (MAS) hosted a two- day workshop: Using Literature in TAFL & Designing Abridged Literary Materials, presented by Dr. Laila Familiar, NYU Abu Dhabi on Tuesday 4th -Wednesday 5th 2023.

- Between January- March 2023, Maqam for Arabic Studies hosted three Master classes as part of the MA Advanced Arabic program:

- 1- Transcreation in Marketing. Dr. Oraib Massadeh-Tate, University of Manchester.
 - 2- Palestinian Arts as a Soft Tool for Resistance. Dr. Bessan Arafat, Manchester Metropolitan University.
 - 3- Immigration to the Gulf in the Arabic Novel. Dr. Nadeen Dakkak, University of Exeter.
- In collaboration with IALS partner institute in Amman, Jordan Language Academy (JLA) and

The Fulbright Commission in Jordan, Abla Oudeh Mahmoud chaired the Fulbright Gilman Seminar for summer 2023. The 5-day seminar, 16- 20 July 2023, focused on how refugees are or are not being integrated into Jordan's national fabric. The program included daily lectures on refugees' issues presented by local experts, discussions with NGO's representatives, and field trips to Zaatari refugees camp, and Azraq refugees camp in collaboration with the UN High Commission for Refugees.

Ms Abla Oudeh Mahmoud

2. Centre for the Study of Islam

The Centre for the Study of Islam (CSI) had a rich programme of online, in person and hybrid events to our students, staff and the larger local and global community.

During termtime we had a Monday Majlis each week. These are online or hybrid events, taking place **every Monday, 17:00-18:30**. In the spirit of the label 'Majlis' and also to make the talks even more interesting, we set up a new format presenting the topic discussed by our speaker as embedded in their own research journey. The introductory section is about our guest scholar's own trajectory. This is followed by their presentation of a research topic. The Majlises conclude with a Q&A section, which is not recorded in order to keep it free. This format makes the series unique, and there is no other talk series in the field with a similar frequency. **In the academic year 2022-2023, 1324 people registered** for the 26 Majlises organised, and the recordings generated **close to 7000 views** so far. We had as our guests both senior and young scholars (including PhD students and post-docs) in order to help the career of the latter. The most viewed Majlis was that of a junior scholar, Dunja Rašić. It reached more than 1500 and is currently the most viewed video of the Institute YouTube channel. All the recordings are accessible at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-

The majlises that took place in term 2 and 3 are:

Hugh Kennedy, *Revisiting an old friend: a new translation of al-Balādhurī's Futūḥ al-buldān* 16 January 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTQYEICDszw&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=10&t=312s&pp=gAQBiAQB

Neda Darabian, *Accusations of Magic against the Religious 'Others' in the Late Antique Persianate World*, 23 January 2023. No recording was made.

Massimo Ramaioli, *Salafism: The Vanguard of the Islamic World?* 30 January 2022.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FXNG5R9SYQ&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=13&t=59s&pp=gAQBiAQB

Livnat Holtzman, *How Sunni was the Qadiri Creed? An Alternative Reading in the Sources*, 6 February 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgtHigqgvol&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=14&t=37s&pp=gAQBiAQB

Beatrice Gruendler, *Miscarriage of Justice and Dissenting Re(d)actions in Kalīla wa-Dimna*, 13 February 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKk-oiLBjE&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=15&t=29s&pp=gAQBiAQB

Johannes Stephan, *Kalīla and Dimna and the Anthological Epistemology of adab*, 20 February 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=capm7BwFwjw&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=16&t=37s&pp=gAQBiAQB

Theodore Samuel Beers, *Prosimetrum in Naṣr Allāh Munshī's Kalīla and Dimna*, 27 February 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weHo3yBq6ls&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=17&t=17s&pp=gAQBiAQB

Dwight Reynolds, *Behind Enemy Lines: Muslim and Jewish Musicians in post-Reconquista Christian Lands*, 6 March 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPSG67GXhDI&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=18&t=145s&pp=gAQBiAQB

Elizabeth Urban, *The Challenges of Studying Slavery in Early Islamic History*, 13 March 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6m2XwLZs7cY&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=19&pp=gAQBiAQB

Dunja Rašić, *Music of the Spheres in Akbarian Sufism*, 20 March 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zFM7qHZzlc&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=20&t=20s&pp=gAQBiAQB

Hayrettin Yücesoy, *Abbasid Political Thought: Religious and Secular Discipline of Power*, 27 March 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xVZ0TwJw-w&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=21&t=6s&pp=gAQBiAQB

Ayşe Baltacıoğlu-Brammer, *Neither Victim, Nor Accomplice: The Qizilbash and the Notion of Subjecthood in Ottoman-Safavid Rivalry*, 8 May 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_mBjFptoKg&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-&index=22&t=8s&pp=gAQBiAQB

Han Hsien Liew, *The Role of Emotions in Islamic Political Thought: A Late Abbasid Mirror for Princes by Ibn al-Jawzī*, 15 May 2023. https://youtu.be/82JWIL_zCNA

Steven Judd, *The Umayyad Problem in Arabic History/Historiography*, 22 May 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdqRe-FV6yU>

Helen Pfeifer, *An Ottoman Majlis*, 29 May 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvCd-vmMLUw>

Hassan Abbas, *The Return of the Taliban*, 5 June 2023.
https://youtu.be/tvwtbpTMs_g

Nebil Husayn, *Deconstructing Memories of Ali in Sunni and Shi'i Islam*, 12 June, 2023.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wc8NKF2Q65Q&list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQ_QgeHLc-&index=26&t=5s&pp=gAQBiAQB

The CSI had two guests in the **visiting speakers** series in term 2:

Prof. Christine van Ruymbeke (University of Cambridge) – *Nezami Ganjavi's "The Seven Portraits". Making Sense of Two Complex Riddles in a Twelfth-Century Persian Poem*, 1 March 2023.

Prof. Constance Arminjon (École Pratique des Hautes Études – EPHE-PSL, Paris), *The Renewal of Islamic Theology in the Contemporary Period*, 29 March 2023.

We introduced additional seminar and/or 'drop-in session' for colleagues and students the day after our visiting speakers' talks.

We also organised further **on campus events, which we have been transforming into hybrid events** including **talks by CSI members and guests as well as a series of 5-minute research summaries by CSI PhD students**. In this new format, each student is given five minutes to introduce themselves and their research, followed by five minutes of discussion. The goal is to develop the immensely important skill of presenting one's research concisely, which is essential in upgrades, vivas, job interviews and an infinity of other formal and informal occasions. As the audience consists of the staff and student members of the CSI, the feedback given will be both friendly and useful. This exercise also helps to know each other and build a collaborative community, as these presentations are expected trigger many discussions in the future. The students presenting at one such occasion can also present in following ones discussing the progress, findings, challenges and changes in their research.

The CSI Research Afternoon on the 8th of March included a talk by our new colleague Michael Noble, *Reflections on Research on the Islamic Occult as a Window into Cosmology and the Hard Problem of Consciousness* (co-organised with Emily Selove as director of The Centre for Magic and Esotericism at the University of Exeter <https://blogs.exeter.ac.uk/magic/>), a CSI director's report by István T Kristó-Nagy, and short presentations by our PhD students by Shahanaz Begum, Sayed Ismail Albehbehani and Mohammad Ashkanani.

The CSI Research Day on the 14th of June included presentations by our MA student Amine Bazzazi, *The Lived Experience of the Moroccan Madrasa*, short presentations by our PhD students Rob Fuller, Elias Ragi, Kübra Memis and Majida Deeb, a presentation by István T Kristó-Nagy, *Progress or Evolution. Melting Golden Ages*, and a public lecture by Karen Ruffle (Visiting Al-Qasimi Professor in Islamic Studies University of Exeter <https://arabislamicstudies.exeter.ac.uk/staff/k-ruffle/> and University of Toronto <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/historical-studies/people/karen-ruffle>), *Karbala as Place, Karbala as Object in South Asian Shi'ism*.

The Water, Law and Islam workshop on the 27-28 July organised by Professor Robert Gleave included the following presentations:

Rob Gleave, *Water Distribution in 13th/19th Century Oman: Izkī's Falaj al-Malkī*.

Soumaya Salah, *Water management in south Tunisian oases in the accounts of two medieval Muslim geographers*.

Dionisius Agius, *'The waters of the Sea of China'. Eyewitness accounts of tenth-century geographer Al-Maqdisi – the physical, cultural and supernatural*.

Zahir Bhaloo, *Two Legal Documents on Water Rights in Pre-Mongol Islamic Khurāsān dated 1198 and 1212 C.E.*

Ismail Warscheid, *Islamic Law and Irrigation Management in the Oases of Tuwat (Southern Algeria, Eighteenth Century)*.

A **fortnightly Arabic reading group** was run by Professor Rob Gleave.

We are organising the **events of the academic year 2023-2024** and will advertise them soon.

The following events has been set up for term 1 already:

Monday 2 October, 17:00-18:30 (UK time), Monday Majlis (online), Shawkat M. Toorawa, *What, where and whither Waqwaq?*

Please register in advance at

<https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/j/1kfytqTloE9S7n5hE43ZiLJY585vvKKG->

4 October CSI Research afternoon (following the IAIS Away Day which ends at 15:30) in person and TEAMS:

Vinay Khetia, TBC

Sayed Ismail Albehbehani, *Bahrayn, Makka and Madina: Late Antique ties*

5-minute presentations by PhD students, TBC.

Monday 9 October, 17:00-18:30 (UK time): Monday Majlis (online), Parvaneh Pourshariati, *The Mazdakites, the Mithraist and the later Khurramdīns: Accusations & Realities*

Please register in advance at

https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/j/1Updu-sqDsoG9VhwMHqx_xbOUzGFJJdh2dc

Wednesday 11 October, 17:30-19:00, Visiting Speaker Lecture (Monday Majlis Format) in person and online, Hafsa Kanjwal, *Colonizing Kashmir: State-building under Indian occupation*

Please register in advance at

<https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/j/1JmtdOqtrj4qGdDGXD4PmKN9tSJmGS5vLAX9>

Next day, 12 October, 10:00-11:00, Hafsa Kanjwal will give an open 'office hour'.

Monday 16 October, 17:00-18:30 (UK time), Monday Majlis (online and in person), Youshaa Patel, *How to think about Muslim difference*

Please register in advance at

<https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/j/1J0pfu2qrTlpGtZzfCt5L23MhLjcdcGRXVbi>

Next day, 17 October, 11:00-12:00, Youshaa Patel will give an open 'office hour'.

Monday 23 October, 17:00-18:30 (UK time), Monday Majlis (online), Austin O'Malley, *The hoopoe on the pulpit: Narrative structure and imagined performance in 'Atṭār's Maṭeq al-ṭayr*

Please register in advance at

<https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/j/1JEldeyqgD0pG9R1iiL7tLFQa68HMeh9PpDc>

Monday 30 October, 17:00-18:30 (UK time), Monday Majlis (online), Carl Ernst and Mbaye Lo, *Islam and slavery in Omar ibn Said's America*

Please register in advance at

<https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/j/1Jcuf-uoqz8rGdUDIVeU95vA0fC3rOICAUZ1>

Monday 13 November, 17:00-18:30 (UK time), Monday Majlis (online), Olga Merck Davidson, *Ferdowsi's ecumenism in the Shahnama*

Please register in advance at

<https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/j/1JYvfu6tqiluGtFJdwdSjkbT6KWitPCSwA->

Monday 20 17:00-18:30 (UK time) November, Monday Majlis (online), Francesca Bellino, Catherine Mayeur-Jaouen and Luca Patrizi, *The adventures of Adab*

Please register in advance at

<https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkf-yprDouGNPYoljbVMrGJWOd4Wkl0qmV>

Monday 27 November, 17:00-18:30 (UK time), Monday Majlis (online), Guest and title to be confirmed

Please register in advance at

<https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJElfu-hrj0iEtRaSX2jX-ZjibxkJXR0dfa2>

Monday 4 December, 17:00-18:30 (UK time), Monday Majlis (online), Michael Bednar, *Amir Khusrau and the narrative of history*

Please register in advance at

<https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkdOqqrzspGdO3jM02oOblvPhiyEhUVdxH>

Monday 11 December, 17:00-18:30 (UK time), Ferenc Csikés, *Turkic martyrologies in Safavid Iran*

Please register in advance at

<https://universityofexeter.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtf-uvrDkrHtacUFSU2H0H-uSWicJIAz9J>

Dr István Kristó-Nagy

3. Centre for Middle East Politics

During Term 2, the Centre for Middle East Politics:

- co-sponsored the inaugural event for the University of Exeter Global Authoritarianism Network with a book talk by Marlies Glasius, Professor of International Relations at the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), about her most recent publication, "Authoritarian Practices in a Global Age".
- hosted a networking opportunity with Paul Silverstein, Chair of the Board of Directors at MERIP and Professor of Anthropology at Reed College (USA) who visited the Institute this spring.
- offered a master class by visiting professor, Juan Antonio Macias-Amoretti, Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Granada (Spain), *Thinking-other and democracy in contemporary Maghreb: Discourses and intellectual narratives*.

Dr Ella Gao

4. Centre for Kurdish Studies

11 July 2023: Professor Shahrzad Mojab (University of Toronto) visit and meeting with Kurdish Studies students.

12-13 June 2023: **International Symposium: Kurdish Archives: Past, Present, Future**

The CKS director, Dr Farangis Ghaderi co-organised the international symposium 'Kurdish Archives: Past, Present, Future' with the University of Sulaimani and the Kurdish Heritage Institute on 12-13 June 2023, with the aim of bringing together dispersed Kurdish archive centres, providing a space to reflect on the developments of archives of Kurdistan, challenges of

preserving endangered archives, opportunities, and challenges of digitisation, and promoting collaboration and research. The participants were the Zheen Centre for Archive and Research, Kurdistan Documentation Centre, and Kurdish archival centres and organizations from Iran (Khorasan Razavi Cultural Heritage), Turkey (Mesopotamia Foundation and Kurdish Institute-Istanbul), and Rojava (Saziya Zimane Kurdi), as well as academics from the University of Turin, the University of Exeter, and the University of Sulaimani. Over 100 people attended the conference including Kurdish academics, students, independent archivists, and archive professionals who contributed to the discussions. The conference was comprised of four panels, “archiving in Kurdistan: challenges and prospects”, “digitising archives and promoting research”, “collecting and preserving Kurdish archives”, and “international organisations and Kurdish archives”.

Visits to the KHI, Zheen, and Kurdistan Documentation Centre were arranged for the delegates providing opportunities to learn about each institution’s collections, achievements, and challenges, and to discuss projects and collaboration. Dr Mikail Bulbil, director of the Mesopotamia Foundation said: “There are many archival centres that unfortunately we were not aware of. Thanks to this symposium we got to know each other and made contacts. Again, thanks to this opportunity the Kurdish Heritage Institute and Mesopotamia Foundation have agreed to sign an agreement of collaboration. This was very important to us.”

The symposium marked a significant turning point in the development of Kurdish archives and generated intense media interest and was reported on several Kurdish and Arabic TV channels including [Gali Kurdistan](#) and [KurdSat](#). Mazhar Khaleqi, the Director of the KHI said that in the 21 years he had been involved in this work, the conference was the most successful event he had ever attended.

A short video of conference footage can be viewed on the University of Sulamaini page: <https://fb.watch/IQ-wBhBHO4/>





10 March 2023: Film Screening. *Chauka, Please Tell Us the Time* and Q&A with co-directors, Behrouz Boochani and Arash Kamali Sarvestani. The event was organised by Bryar Bajalan and sponsored by the CKS.

6-10 March 2023: Edith Maubec's visit and meeting with Kurdish students.

Dr Farangis Ghaderi

5. Centre for Magic and Esotericism

January 16th: University of Exeter Library Resource Guide created by Centre Member and Archivist James Downs

<https://libguides.exeter.ac.uk/archives/esotericism-magical-tradition>

"This resource guide is based on a reading list for a seminar (ARAM251) created by Dr James Downs, and provides an overview of resources held by the University of Exeter's Special Collections and the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum that relate to esotericism and the magical tradition."

Explore titles related to "Ancient and Arabic Sources," "Rites and Rituals," "Meanings of Belief," "Westcountry Witchcraft and Folklore," and "From the Enlightenment to the Victorian Occult Revival."

March 8th, 2023: Michael Noble: Lecture co-hosted with the Centre for the Study of Islam Reflections on research on the Islamic occult as a window into cosmology and the hard problem of consciousness.

POSTPONED INDEFINITELY DUE TO STRIKE:

March 15th, 2023: Marion Gibson and Tabitha Stanmore Book Launch, including: *The Witches of St Osyth*, Marion Gibson

Love Spells and Lost Treasure, Tabitha Stanmore

May 31st, 2023: The Gemstone Project Workshop

Emily Selove, Tim Insoll, Luca Patrizi, Lauri Ockenstrom, and Raissa Bombini met to share ideas and brainstorm for future research projects on gemstones in magic, medicine, and material culture. Earl Fontainelle and Michael Noble attended as discussants.

June 23rd 'Magic, Esotericism, and the Psychedelic'

Roundtable and dinner to create links between the University of Exeter's Transdisciplinary Psychedelic Colloquium and the Centre for Magic and Esotericism, with special remarks by guest speaker Professor Matt Melvin-Koushki of the University of South Carolina.

June 28, Secret History of Western Esotericism Podcast Recording

Emily Selove and Matt Melvin-Koushki on Two New Postgraduate Programmes in Magic

<https://shwep.net/2023/06/28/emily-selove-and-matt-melvin-koushki-on-two-new-postgraduate-programmes-in-magic/>

The University of Exeter's new MA in Magic and Occult Sciences will launch in September 2024, and made a big splash on social media, where the Twitter announcement on the IAIS page received more than 100 thousand views! This was followed by floods of e-mails from students waiting for the application to open. We are all very excited about the potential for rigorous, interdisciplinary, groundbreaking research and pedagogy which this new program will foster.

Centre Head Emily Selove has been invited to the Occulture conference in Berlin on October 19th to talk about this new and unique MA program. <https://occultureconference.com/dr-emily-selove/>

Centre members have also organised numerous events at other universities that helped to showcase Exeter magic research to a wider audience. Just a few examples of these include:

May 22-23: Fertility, Medicine and the Body: Theory and Practice across the Premodern World co-organised by Catherine Rider, VivaMente Conference in the History of Ideas, University of Pisa and Online

June 17th British Academy: 'Do you believe in magic?'

"A special workshop by Professor Catherine Rider, Professor Dionisius Agius FBA and Mara Livermore using records from the early 17th century Inquisition in Malta to illuminate stories about who performed magic during the period - from amulets to healing, superstitions to problem-solving."

June 22nd: Magic and Witchcraft: Evolving beliefs, practices and attitudes

co-organised by Tabitha Stanmore. Held at University of York and Online

Professor Emily Selove

6. European Centre for Palestine Studies



Workshop led by Professor Ilan Pappé, International Palestine Studies Association - 24 and 25 of June 2023.

Dr. Nadia Naser-Najjab presented a paper in a Panel at BRISMES. Ecology, Crisis, and Power in the Middle East, 3-5

July 2023. Panel entitled, Canada as a Settler State on the Question of Palestine.

Workshop: Global Synergies and the Palestine Question

Date: 7-8 July 2023.

Location: Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies

Short description: This seminar/workshop aims to delve into the extent and impact of current transformations in the region and around the world to clarify their effects on the actors involved in the Palestine/Israel conflict, including the UK.

Keynote Speakers and Participants

Dr. Emile Badarin – PhD Middle East Politics. Research fellow at the European Neighbourhood Policy Chair (ENP) at the College of Europe, Natolin Campus (2020–present)

Dr. Toufic Haddad – PhD in Development Studies from School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). Director of the Kenyon Institute – Council for British research in the Levant – Jerusalem.

Facilitated and led by Dr. Nadia Naser-Najjab.

Webinar: ICC must Step Up: Justice for Palestine Awaits

Dr. Nadia Naser-Najjab participated in webinar panel discussion hosted by Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK to discuss strategies for ICC action for Palestine's justice. 13 June 2023

Workshop: Political Reflexivity in Post-Trauma Societies and Legal Systems

Dr. Nadia Naser-Najjab participated and presented a paper in workshop on Political Reflexivity in Post-Trauma Societies and Legal Systems. Paper entitled, 'Post-Trauma Political Reflexivity in Palestine'. University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg 31 May to 2 June 2023

Webinar: Seeking Justice: On the One Year Anniversary of the Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh
Saturday, 29 April 2023

Professor Ilan Papper and Dr. Nadia Naser-Najjab organised a conversation with brother of Shireen Tony Abu Akleh and Shireen's long-life friend to talk about her life and the ongoing fight for justice.

Conference: Transnational Solidarity amongst (Settler) Colonised Peoples: Palestine and beyond

The European Centre for Palestine Studies and the Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies at University of Exeter organised a conference for 3-4 April 2023 with the title "Transnational Solidarity amongst (Settler) Colonised Peoples: Palestine and beyond". Our PGR students were leading the organisation of this.

Visiting speakers

1. As part of this term's IAIS Visiting Speakers series, the European Centre for Palestine Studies hosted the book launch of our former colleague/student **Dr. Gabriel POLLEY**:
2. European Centre for Palestine Studies is delighted hosted the Palestinian Artist Beesan Arafat Visual Art& Resistance



A conversation with Dr. Salwa Najjab, MD

European Centre for Palestine Studies is delighted hosted a conversation with Dr. Salwa Najjab, MD, on 'Palestinian Women and Health under Colonial Power'. Dr. Najjab is the co-founder and previous director of Juzoor for Health and Social Development (2007-2019), and served as its Senior Health Advisor. At present time she is the board chairperson. She co-founded and served as the chairperson for the Middle East and North Africa Policy Forum, and now serves as its Vice President. An obstetrician/gynaecologist, and a pioneer in women's and reproductive health,

Dr. Najjab is a public health expert in the NGO sector and founder of a number of NGOs in Palestine.

Dr Nadia Naser-Najjab

7. Centre for Gulf Studies

Al-Qasimi Professor of Gulf Studies Laleh Khalili

The Centre is delighted and honoured to welcome our new Al-Qasimi Professor of Gulf Studies, [Professor Laleh Khalili](#), who joined Exeter in June 2023. Professor Khalili's books include (among others) [Sinews of War and Trade: Shipping and Capitalism in the Arabian Peninsula](#) (Verso, 2020), [Time in the Shadows: Confinement in Counterinsurgencies](#) (Stanford University Press, 2012) and [Heroes and Martyrs of Palestine: the Politics of National Commemoration](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2007). We are very eager to work with you in the months and years to come!



33rd Exeter Gulf Conference (23-24 June 2023)

On 23-24 June, the Centre hosted the 33rd Exeter Gulf Conference in person at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies. The conference, focused on Balochistan, brought together historians, sociologists, anthropologists, political economists, sociolinguists, investigative journalists, filmmakers, and human rights and political activists from seven countries to discuss the Baloch question beyond borders – including in Iran, Pakistan, the Arabian Peninsula, and in the diaspora.

A huge thank you to all speakers, attendees, and colleagues, in particular [Abdulla Moaswes](#), who has been at the initiative and co-convened this event, and without whom it could not have been possible; and to Ahmed, Claire, Hamdullah, Katie, Nawafel, Ross, Sarah and Sondoss for their invaluable support!

Full programme available here:

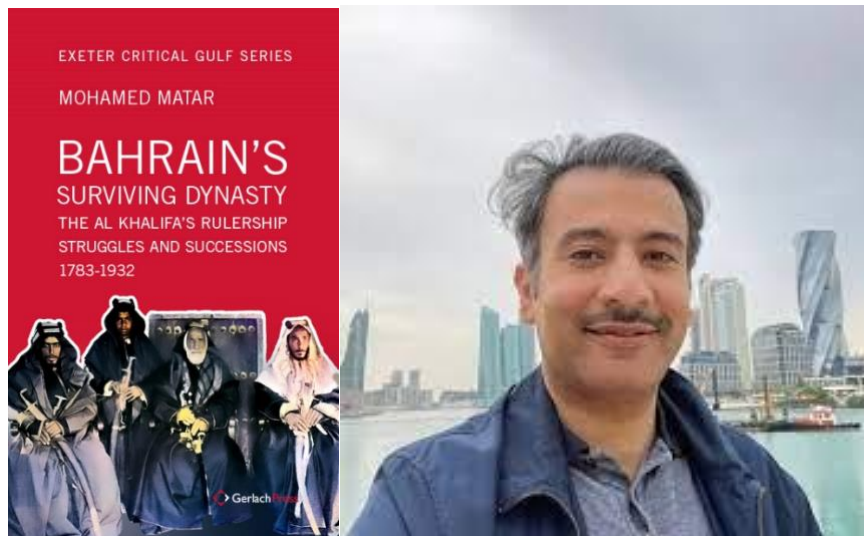
<https://arabislamicstudies.exeter.ac.uk/research/centres/gulf/events/gulfconference/>.

A special issue of an international peer-reviewed journal, gathering papers presented at the Conference, is in preparation (forthcoming in 2024).

Book launch (12 October 2023 – to be confirmed)

The Centre will host the launch of [Dr. Mohamed Matar](#)'s book entitled ***Bahrain's Surviving Dynasty. The Al Khalifa's Rulership Struggles and Succession, 1783-1932.***

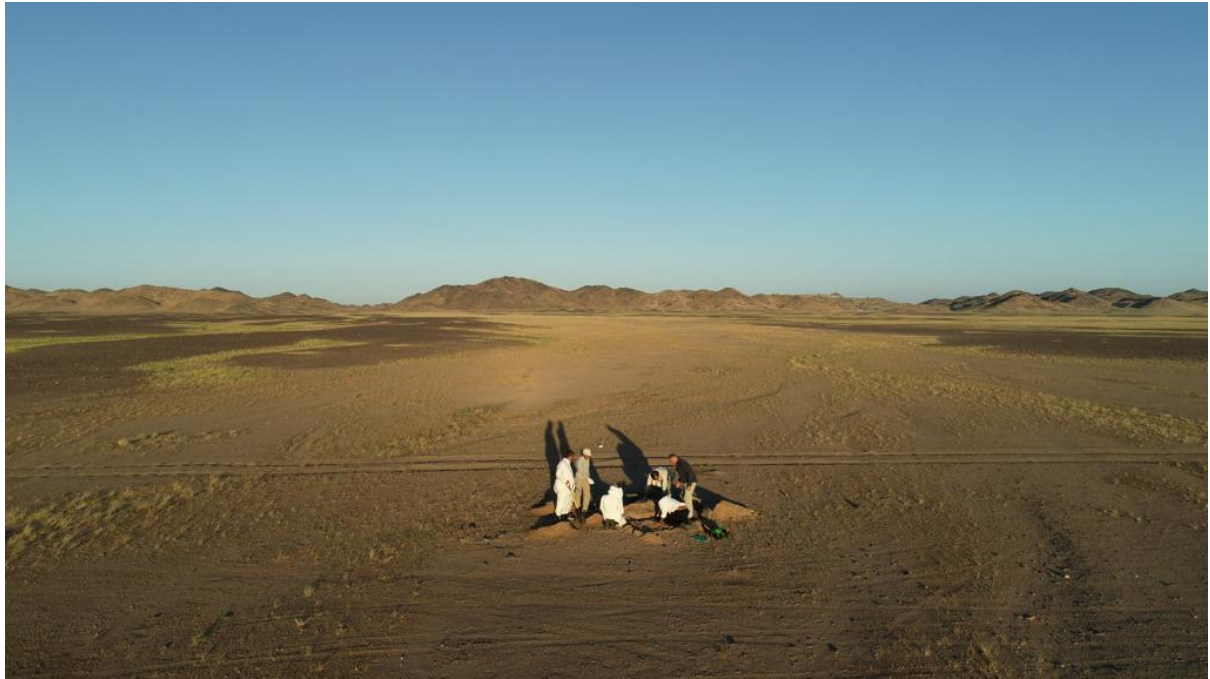
The third volume of the Centre for Gulf Studies' [Exeter Critical Gulf Studies book series \(Gerlach Press\)](#), the book explores the dynastic rule of the Al Khalifa, providing the first thorough examination of dynastic struggles from the establishment of the shaykhdom in Bahrain in 1783 to the commencement of the oil era in 1932. It studies approaches to managing and maintaining power that originated with the foundation of the dynastic house in the early 18th century and explores in detail the impacts of the divisions among the Al Khalifa in relation to the political, social and economic life of the shaykhdom as well as the transformation of the organisational structure of power from a ruling tribe to a royal family.



Professor Marc Valeri

8. Centre for Islamic Archaeology

Two periods of fieldwork were completed involving myself and CfIA research students.



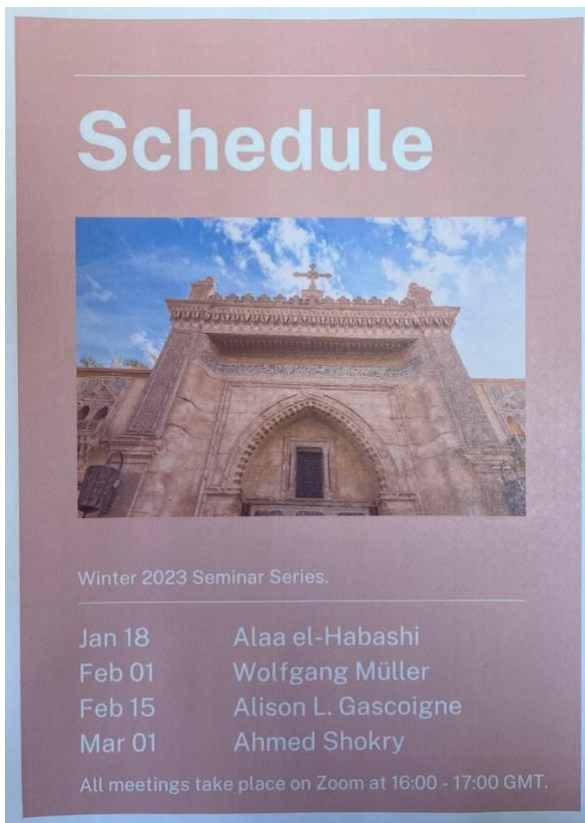
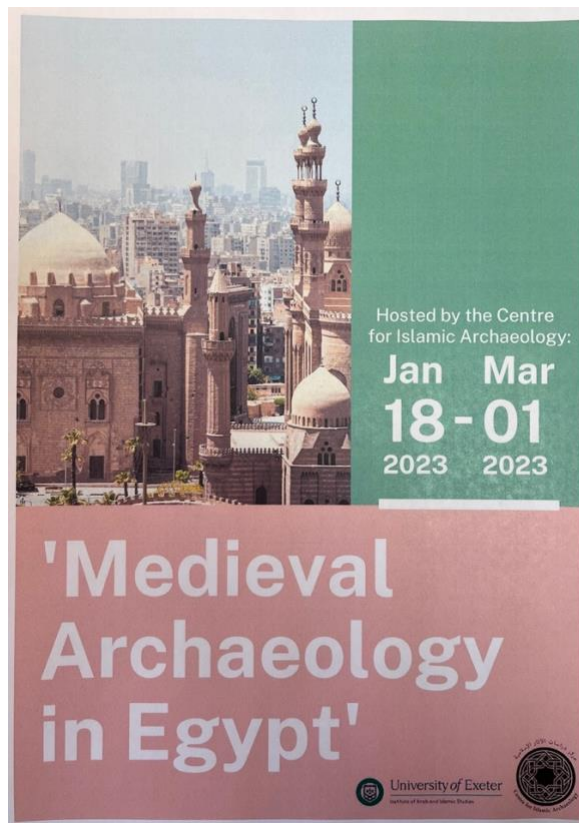
1. The Archaeology of the Hijrah Route/Darb al-Anbiya, Hejaz, Saudi Arabia, March 2023

Funded by a UoE Global Partnerships Award and the Saudi Heritage Commission, two weeks of archaeological survey and test excavation were completed on the Hijrah route/Darb al-Anbiya or 'Way of the Prophets' between Mecca and Medina. This was undertaken in partnership with officials from the Ministry of Culture Jeddah Office, the Saudi Heritage Commission, and Professor Abdullah Alkadi, who has recently retired from Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (IAU) one of the University of Exeter's global partner institutions. Hesham Nasr, one of the CflA PhD students also participated. The fieldwork was focused on assessing 55 milestones on a formerly important caravan and pilgrimage route between the Holy cities of Mecca and Medina. This was achieved by completing 16 test excavations around or adjacent to the milestones. The first excavations completed in the region. Also achieved was survey of some of the settlements potentially associated with the milestones with notable sites at Thaniyyah Lift, Al-Juhfa, Al-Baydhah and Al-Rawha. Two C14 samples and an assemblage of surface ceramics were also collected which are beginning to give insight into the chronology of the route. Additionally, survey was also undertaken at the Khandaq site in Medina where the Battle of the Trench took place in 627 CE. This project is being developed substantially with further fieldwork planned for 2024.



2. Méson Gitano, Almería, Spain, April 2023

Funded by the IAIS Research Seed Fund, two weeks of archaeological survey and test excavation were completed to provide proof of concept data for an ERC Advanced Grant application, *Afro-Andalus. The Archaeology of the Sub-Saharan African Presence in Muslim Spain*, that I submitted in May 2023, and to allow study of material from Madinat al-Zahra, the former Caliphal capital near Córdoba, for a book I am completing, *Islamic Archaeology in Global Perspective* (Routledge). The fieldwork in Almería was particularly exciting with the top layers of an area of housing of 11th-13th century date exposed on the steep hill below the Alcazaba, the fortified citadel. This seems to have been an area of the city occupied by a diverse population including, potentially, an African component from south of the Sahara, whose presence in Al-Andalus is the focus of the projected ERC research. The excavations were completed in partnership with Prof. Jose María Martín Civantos of the University of Granada and the Junta de Andalucía. Cristina Martinez Carrillo a CfIA PhD student also participated. Regardless of the outcome of the ERC application, this research project will continue, and will be developed as a training excavation for UoE and U. of Granada undergraduates and for archaeologists from the Arabian Gulf region.



Medieval Archaeology in Egypt Seminar Series

The CfIA events programme last semester was composed of four seminars focusing on the Medieval archaeology of Egypt. Organised online by CfIA member Hesham Nasr they were a great success.

Recent Research on Indian Ocean Ceramics Seminar Series

This year the focus of the CfIA seminars will be recent research on Indian Ocean ceramics which links with many member's interests and is a very active field. The emphasis in Semester 1 is upon presentations by early career researchers and in semester 2 by more established researchers. The programme is being developed by CfIA PhD students, Samantha Dobson, Yiyang Li and Cristina Martinez Carrillo and will be announced in the last week of September.

Update on the DAME Project (Digital Archive of the Middle East), Special Collections and AWDU

Archives

The fifty archival collections relating to the MENA region that are held in Special Collections in the Old Library continue to attract international attention, and over the last few months we have welcomed researchers from around the world - including the USA, Canada, Iraq, Kurdistan, Bahrain, China and Japan – as well as from the UK, in addition to staff, undergraduates and PGRs. Dr Kawa Rashid, Vice-President of Suilemani University and brother of Dr Latif Rashid,

president of Iraq, was part of a Kurdish delegation who visited AWDU – he came down to the archives afterwards to look at material from the Omar Sheikhmous archive. Aziz al-Azmeh (who taught here from 1983 to 1995) visited and donated a set of original photographs relating to the Al-Azmeh archive (EUL MS 215), including rare historic photos of King Faisal in Syria in 1920, and handwritten letters and political documents from Adil Al-Azmeh in the 1940s. We have also now acquired Mick Dumper's archive on the Palestine Peace Process and his research on Jerusalem (EUL MS 482).

Many of these visitors have published work that has drawn on our archival collections - including the archivist's own article, 'The Richmonds, Palestine and the Catholic Press, 1967-80', *British Catholic History* Vol.36:3 (May 2023), pp.309-346, Alice Wilson's book *Afterlives of Revolution: everyday counter-histories in Southern Oman* (Stanford UP, 2023) as well as forthcoming articles by Awet Araya and Marral Shamshiri-Fard.

Special archive workshops were held for participants in the BRISMES Conference in July and the Healthscapes symposium in August, allowing delegates the opportunity to examine and discuss a range of archival materials that had been selected to match the topics covered in the respective events.

Update on AWDU

Attendees at the BRISMES and Healthscapes conferences were also given tours of AWDU, which continues to attract a growing number of external researchers in addition to use from IAIS staff and students.

New material continues to be added to the collections, including Kurdish material acquired during the librarian's visit to Iraqi Kurdistan in June. Two collections of Maltese-language material are now in the locked storage of AWDU awaiting cataloguing, with topics covered including linguistics, history, literature and folklore. A new section is being created to support the work of the Magic Research Group that runs from IAIS, as well as the new MA in Magic and Occult Sciences launching in September 2024, and will focus on rare and historic printed materials relating to the Arab world and elsewhere.

Donations of rare printed materials – especially from the period after 2011 when acquisitions tailed off sharply – would be most welcome, particularly if colleagues are travelling to the Gulf and other MENA regions and are able to pick up unusual items such as institutional brochures, political leaflets, NGO reports or other cultural ephemera.

A new webpage on AWDU will shortly be added to the IAIS website.

Update on the DAME Project

All three DAME doctoral students – Saman Abdalkarim, Alexandra Warminski and Nawafel Shehab – continue to work on their PhDs and there are plans for a special seminar at which they can present their work.

Two part-time digitisation assistants began work in July and have been working steadily on photographing materials from both AWDU and archives for the DAME website, which is due to be launched online in October and will include over 1 000 documents and photographs, including historic Arabic manuscripts, a large run of the PFLOAG revolutionary publication *Sawt-al Thawra*, selected papers from the Omar Sheikhmous archive on 20th century Kurdish political

history, photographs by Edith Maubec taken in Kurdistan, Iran, Iraq and across the Gulf, the Frank Dean collection of 19th century/early 20th century photographs of Egypt, rare pamphlets on Iraq and Iran from AWDU, development plans from Saudi Arabia, John Carter's photographs of Oman and Yemen from the 1950s to the 1990s, political ephemera from Bahrain, plus various maps, photographs and letters. Metadata will be in English, Arabic and Sorani Kurdish (where relevant.)

We had a visit from Edith Maubec (6-10 March 2023), who spent time cataloguing and adding metadata to her digital photographs, which she then presented to DAME.

A delegation from the Area Studies department at the University of Tsinghua (IAIS' partners for DAME) visited on 23-24 May to look at our collections and digitisation work. Two staff members from Tsinghua have made more extended visits to Exeter to assist with DAME, with Qin Yi here from March to May, and Dong Hui scheduled to visit from mid-September to December.

Update on the Kurdish Digital Archive

The Kurdish Digital Archive is an integral part of the DAME project, focussing on the digitisation, preservation and dissemination of Kurdish archive material, both from our own collections and those held elsewhere, including partner institutions in Kurdistan.

Dr Farangis Ghaderi, PI of the Kurdish Digital Archive, co-organised an international conference 'Kurdish Archives: Past, Present, Future' with DAME partners the Kurdish Heritage Institute (KHI) and the University of Silemani on 12-13 June 2023. Dr James Downs presented a paper on the DAME project and the Kurdish archives in Exeter and Dr Ghaderi on uncovering Kurdish women's voices in the archives. Delegates visited the Kurdish Heritage Institute, the Zheen Centre for Documentation and Research, Kurdistan Documentation Centre, and Sargalu Open Museum.

Work continues on the digitisation of the photographs of Edith Maubec, about 25% of which relate to Kurdistan and the Kurds. There are almost 150,000 images and it is expected that digitisation will be completed by December 2025.

In the summer we had a visit from a Japanese librarian and specialist in Kurdish material, who came to look at our Kurdish archives and the work being done by DAME/The Kurdish Digital Archive. She was shown the digitisation workstations and DAME website, and later told us: 'I was very impressed to see how passionate you are about preservation. I have visited many libraries and research centres, but I don't think I have ever seen so much effort put into Kurdish materials except at the University of Exeter.'

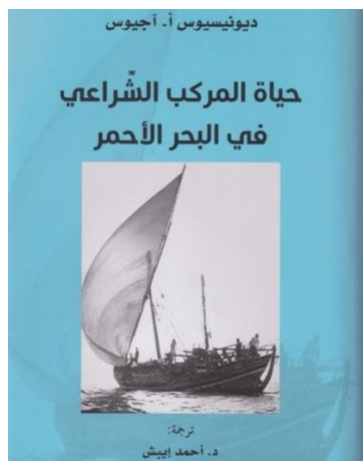
Management of the Kurdistan-Photo library has been transferred from Edith Maubec to the University of Exeter, with the administration of the site now coming under the auspices of the Kurdish Digital Archive.

A promotional leaflet about the Kurdish Digital Archive has been produced, with English and Kurdish language versions.

Dr James Downs

Staff and Student Research News

1. Professor Dionisius Agius FBA



The Life of the Red Sea Dhow has been translated into Arabic in 2022 by Kalima, Abu Dhabi.

Tokyo visit May 2023

I visited Tokyo last May by invitation from Waseda University to deliver a lecture on the dhow culture of the Early Modern and Modern Red Sea, looking at various issues of maritime heritage in the region. The visit was sponsored by the State of Qatar for Islamic Area Studies. As part of my visit I met with Professor Sadashi Fukuda, Emeritus Research Fellow, Professor Tetsuya Ohtoshi, Sociologist, Professor Alex Mallett, Middle Eastern Medievalist, and Professor Abdullah Baabood, Qatar Chair, all of Waseda University. Discussions were held with the Chair and Professor Mallett regarding the possibility of a future project on the Material Culture of the Red Sea, and this is progressing, with a likely start of Spring 2024.

Study on Inquisition in Malta

Provisional title: Ahmed Hogia and the Capture of the Ottoman Galley: The Inquisition – Malta 1704

Like two previous studies on the Roman Inquisition in Malta, this project is a micro-study centring on a clerk, Ahmed Hogia of an Ottoman galley, the *Sultana*. The galley was captured by the Knights of St John near the Island of Lampedousa, near Sicily, on its way to Tunis. Laden with grain, olive oil and opium, the galley was towed to the Island of Malta and its surviving crew were taken as slaves and put in the prisons of L-Isla (Senglea). The Inquisition was informed of Ahmed Hogia's previous conversion from Christianity to Islam, making him an apostate, something he denied in court. The Inquisition was fearful of converted slaves because of the possibility of further spreading Islamic ideas to a Christian populace. The Proceedings are being transcribed and translated from Latin and Italian and in this case three letters written in Ottoman Turkish. Findings will centre on Christian-Muslim relations, information on galleys and details of everyday life in Early Modern Malta.

2. Dr Sabiha Allouche

(In Press) *Islam, Critique, and the Canon* in the journal *Contemporary Islam*. The article is titled: "Beyond the Canon: Un-learning the 'Muslim Woman' in UK higher education classroom with a "Pedagogy of Opacity" (10.1007/s11562-023-00539-4).

3. Dr Claire Beaugrand

Claire Beaugrand & Hélène Thiollet "Migration Intermediation: Revisiting the Kafala (Sponsorship System) in the Gulf" in Antoine Pécoud & Hélène Thiollet (eds) *Research Handbook*

on the Institutions of Global Migration Governance, Cheltenham, Edward Elgar, 2023, pp.341-356.

Claire Beaugrand "Governing Diversity, Realizing Authenticity: Kuwait in broader Gulf perspective" *Journal of Arabian Studies*, 2021, 11:2, 183-209. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21534764.2021.2193910>

4. Professor Nahyan Fancy

Journal Articles

1. "Shifting Narratives of Postclassical Medicine," *History of Science* 61, 2 (2023): 157-62.
2. (co-author: J. Stearns) "Introduction to Roundtable: Current Debates and Emerging Trends in the History of Science in Premodern Islamicate Societies," *History of Science* 61, 2 (2023): 124-34.
3. "The Science of Sleep in Medieval Arabic Medicine, Part 2: Sleep Theory and Practice after Ibn Sīnā," *CHEST* 163, 4 (2023): 916-20.
4. "The Science of Sleep in Medieval Arabic Medicine, Part 1: Ibn Sīnā's Pneumatic Paradigm," *CHEST* 163, 3 (2023): 662-6.

Book Chapters

1. "Medicine," in *Routledge Handbook on the Sciences in Islamicate Societies: Practices from the 2nd/8th to the 13th/19th Centuries*, ed. Sonja Brentjes, associate ed. Peter Barker and Rana Brentjes (New York: Routledge, 2023), 436-46.
2. (co-authors: S. Brentjes & K. Tekin) "Systems of Knowledge: Debating Organization and Changing Relationships," in *Routledge Handbook on the Sciences in Islamicate Societies: Practices from the 2nd/8th to the 13th/19th Centuries*, ed. Sonja Brentjes, associate ed. Peter Barker and Rana Brentjes (New York: Routledge, 2023), 761-72.

Edited Journal Roundtable

(co-editor: Justin Stearns), "Roundtable Discussions: Current Debates and Emerging Trends in the History of Science in Pre-modern Islamic Societies," *History of Science* 61, 2 (2023): 123-78.

Invited Talk

"Arabic Writings on Plague: Revising the Chronologies of the First and Second Pandemics Using Evidence from Islamic Societies," Dr. Martin A. Entin Lecture in the History of Medicine, Dept. of Social Studies of Medicine, McGill University, March 15, 2023

5. Professor William Gallois

Along with other IAIS colleagues, William contributed an essay to the joint Exeter-Tokyo volume "Knowledge and Power in Muslim Societies: Approaches in Intellectual History," edited by Kazuo Morimoto and Sajjad Rizvi. His chapter is entitled, "The Tawḥīd of the Painting of God the Mother;"

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/cambridge-world-history-of-genocide/genocidal-french-conquest-of-algeria-18301847/1ABDDCF0B6095E529D93760938B40101>

He also recently published a review essay entitled "The Genocidal French Conquest of Algeria, 1830–1847" in the new three-volume Cambridge World History of Genocide (general editor Ben Kiernan):

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/cambridge-world-history-of-genocide/genocidal-french-conquest-of-algeria-18301847/1ABDDCF0B6095E529D93760938B40101>

Recent seminar presentations included a paper on "Finding the African in Islamic Art" at the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

6. Dr Farangis Ghaderi

Publications

Joanna Bocheńska & Farangis Ghaderi (2023) 'Gan qey bedenî yeno çi mana' (What the Soul Means for the Body): Collecting and Archiving Kurdish Folklore as a Strategy for Language Revitalization and Indigenous Knowledge Production. *Folklore*, 134:3, 344-369. DOI: [10.1080/0015587X.2023.2205777](https://doi.org/10.1080/0015587X.2023.2205777)

Farangis Ghaderi (2023). ناسیونالیزم و مۆدیرنیته له شیعری کوردیدا: پێداچوونهوهیهک بۆ سه‌ره‌ڵدانی شیعری [Nationalism and Modernity in Kurdish Poetry: a New Perspective]. *Journal of University of Garmian*, 10 (2), 176-189.

Farangis Ghaderi (2023). Rojhilat Kürt Edebiyatı Kısa Bir Bakış [Kurdish literature in Rojhalat (Iranian Kurdistan)]. Metin Yüksel (trans. into Turkish), *Kürt Tarihi Dergisi* [Journal of Kurdish History], 50.

Farangis Ghaderi & Ozlem Goner (2023). Çima "Jîna": Jêbirina Jinên Kurd û Sîyaseta Wan ji Serhildanên li Îranê [Why "Jîna": Erasure of Kurdish Women and Their Politics from the Uprisings in Iran]. Mansur Keya Elicin (trans. into Kurmanji), *Le Monde diplomatique*.

Farangis Ghaderi (2023). "وێنه‌ی ئه‌ده‌بیاتی کوردی وێنه‌یه‌کی زۆر پیاوسالارییه‌." [Kurdish literature has a male dominated image: A Conversation with Dr Farangis Ghaderi], *Dîwan Journal*, 19, 80-88.

Conferences and Impact

Kurdish Archives: Past, Present, Future Conference, 12-13 June 2023

I co-organised 'Kurdish Archives: Past, Present, Future' Conference in collaboration with the University of Sulaimani (Kurdistan) and the Kurdish Heritage Institute (Kurdistan). The conference was funded by the MENA Global Development Fund (University of Exeter) and the University of Sulaimani. The conference reflected on the theoretical and practical developments of Kurdish archives, challenges of preserving endangered archives, opportunities and challenges of digitisation, and connecting and promoting collaboration and research. <https://arabislamicstudies.exeter.ac.uk/research/centres/kurdish/symposium/>

Integrating Kurdish Women's Erased Histories into the Curriculum. Collaboration with Kurdistan Region of Iraq Ministry of Education. Funded by the UKRI Open Innovation Platform Link Fund, May-July 2023.

Talks and presentations

Farangis Ghaderi and Majid Aziz (3-5 July 2023). 'Kurdish print culture in Mandatory Iraq,' BRISMES conference, University of Exeter.

Farangis Ghaderi (13 June 2023). 'Exploring Women's Erasure in Kurdish History and Possibilities to Uncover Women's Voices,' *Kurdish Archives: Past, Present, Future*. University of Sulaimani. Iraqi Kurdistan.

Farangis Ghaderi (13 May 2023). Invited guest speaker. *The Iranian Women's Bill of Rights*. Zanan Group. Northern California.

Farangis Ghaderi (29 April 2023). Invited guest speaker. *Woman, Life, Freedom: A Point of No Return for Iran*. University of Pennsylvania.

Farangis Ghaderi (15 April 2023). Invited guest speaker. *The Iranian Women's Bill of Rights*. University of Toronto. The Elahe Omidyar Institute of Iranian Studies.

Farangis Ghaderi (23 January 2023). Invited guest speaker. 'Poetry & Revolution: Iranian Women Changing the World'. PEN San Miguel and [Poetry MESA](#).

7. Dr Mazyar Ghiabi

- The Healthscapes Lab is now online and available to access at www.healthscapes.co.uk
- Dr Mazyar Ghiabi will deliver the keynote of the conference *Contemporary Drug Problems* in Paris on September 6-9, 2023. The title of the keynote lecture is 'Recovery beyond its possibility of being.'
- On November 16-17, 2023, Dr Mazyar Ghiabi and Dr Sara Honarmand Ebrahimi (Goethe Universitat Frankfurt) will host the Workshop 'Toward a Multifaceted History of Architecture and Internationalism' within a collaborative framework with CPIS, Healthscapes Lab, JQ Young Academy and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

8. Professor Adam Hanieh

- In February 2023, I was awarded a 12-month Political Economy Fellowship from the Independent Social Research Foundation, worth £72,000, which I will undertake in 2024.
- New publication: Adam Hanieh (2023). "World Money and Oil: Theoretical and Historical Considerations". *Science & Society*, 87(1), 50-75.
- New publication: Adam Hanieh (forthcoming October 2023), "A Transition to Where? The Gulf Arab States and the New 'East-East' Axis of World Oil" in *Dismantling Green Colonialism: Energy and Climate Justice in the Arab Region*, eds. Hamza Hamouchene and Katie Sandwell, Pluto Books.
- Delivered the 15th Annual Edward Said Memorial Lecture, at University of Warwick, entitled "A Contrapuntal Reading of the Anthropocene: Knowledge Production and Absences in the History of World Oil" May 3, 2023
- Contributed a written piece on oil and plastics for display at the US Pavilion of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition at the 2023 Venice Biennale. This high-profile event is an international exhibition of architecture from countries around the world, and this year was organised around the theme of 'The Laboratory of the Future'.

9. Professor Timothy Insoll FBA

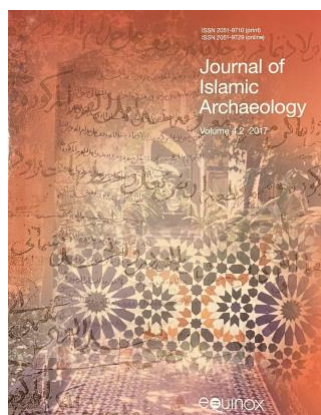
Fellowships

Elected a Fellow of the British Academy in July 2023. For information see:

<https://news.exeter.ac.uk/staff-news/university-of-exeter-experts-elected-to-the-uks-prestigious-national-academy-for-humanities-and-social-sciences/>

Publications

Insoll, T. 2023. The Earthen Mosques of Timbuktu. (In), Scarre, C. (ed.), *The Seventy Wonders of the Ancient World Revised Edition*. London: Thames and Hudson, pp. 145-149.



Insoll, T. (ed.). 2022. *The Archaeology of Islamisation in Africa*. Special edition of *The Journal of Islamic Archaeology* 9 (2). Sheffield: Equinox.

Discursive Explanation. The topic of the archaeology of Islamisation in Africa is the focus of this special issue with the papers arising from a conference held on this theme in the University of Exeter under the auspices of the ERC funded *Becoming Muslim* project. They highlight the diversity of Islamic archaeology in the continent through focusing on Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali, and North Africa, and indicate that although similar material markers can recur archaeologically, Islamisation is contextually specific reflecting differences in lifeways, environment, historical circumstances, ethnicities, pre-Islamic backgrounds, and local outcomes and agency. The volume includes:

Insoll, T. 2022. 'Becoming Muslim': A Comparative Archaeological Approach to the Material Markers of Islam in the Niger Bend, Mali, and Eastern Ethiopia. *Journal of Islamic Archaeology* 9: 135-171. <https://doi.org/10.1558/jia.25864>

Media

June 2023. Recorded *Akbar's Chamber* podcast about "The Archaeology of Islam: What Digging Tells us that Reading Doesn't" (15/6/23) for Professor Nile Green (UCLA). It can be accessed via various platforms including:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/akbars-chamber-experts-talk-islam/id1532553011>

<https://www.amazon.com/Akbars-Chamber-Experts-Talk-Islam/dp/B08K55RMCK>

<https://akbarschamber.podbean.com/>

<https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/akbars-chamber-experts-talk-islam-M1kQi7ONrdm/>

Invited Lectures

March 2023. “Emerging from the Dark Age? Harlaa (Ethiopia) and Indian Ocean Trade”. 1st Neapolitan Meeting of Eritrean and Ethiopian Studies, University of Naples, L’Orientale, Italy.

May 2023. “The Missing Bishopric? The Archaeology of Christianity in Samahij, Bahrain”. ARWA Archaeology in Action lecture, Goethe-University, Frankfurt, Germany.

May 2023. “Ethiopians in India? An Archaeological Perspective from Islamic Eastern Ethiopia”. Ethiopians Abroad in the Middle Ages Conference, Ecole française de Rome, Italy.

May 2023. “Stone Bead Making in Harlaa, Eastern Ethiopia: Insights into Lithic Technologies and Understanding”, Bead making and Making beads in the African past workshop, University of East Anglia.

September 2023. “22 Years of the Anglo-Bahraini Early Islamic Bahrain Project”. International Association for the Study of Arabia and Society of Antiquaries Beatrice de Cardi Lecture.

10. Professor Laleh Khalili

Articles

“Crossings: Reflections on writing and thinking across” in American History Lab forum “On Transnational and International History,” *American Historical Review* 128:1 pp. 255-332.

“Crude Sedimentation” in Isabella Kirkham Lewitt and Joanna Joseph (eds.), *Sketches on Everlasting Plastics* (book to accompany US contribution to the Venice Architecture Biennale 2023; Columbia Books on Architecture and the City), pp. 13-16.

“Woke Capital” in *London Review of Books* 45:17 (7 September).

“Agent Untraceable, Owner Not Responding: On Abandoned Seafarers”, in *London Review of Books* 54:7 (30 March).

“Guano to Guns” on Chagos Islands, in *London Review of Books* 45:4 (16 February).

Awards

BRISMES Award for Services to Middle East Studies

Presentations/keynotes/conversations

Jul 2023 Participated on panel about publishing, organised by BRISMES postgraduate sections

Jun 2023 Gave keynote at symposium on Decolonizing Liberal Arts Curriculum, New York University, London

Jun 2023 Gave keynote at the Ninth Ethnography and Qualitative Research International Conference, University of Trento, Italy

Jun 2023 Participated in manuscript workshop for Matt Shutzer, Harvard University

May 2023 Presented on *Sinews* in conversation with Horatio Clare at Hay Festival, Hay-on-Wye

May 2023 Participated in Book Proposal/Manuscript workshop organised by the Arab Political Science Network (virtual)

Apr 2023 Participated at the workshop on Imaginary Divides: The Middle East and Africa across empires, oceans, and borders, George Washington University, Washington DC

Apr 2023 Engaged in a conversation as part of The Southampton Institute for Arts and Humanities (SIAH), Public Life series (virtual)

Mar 2023 Gave the Gillian White annual keynote on “Crude Knowledge: Decolonisation and Hydrocarbon Epistemes” at Manchester University

Mar 2023 Participated in roundtable on Gender and the Transnational: Bodies, Subjects, States, NYU-Abu Dhabi, the UAE

Mar 2023 Presented “Crude Knowledge: Decolonisation and Hydrocarbon Epistemes” at NYU-Abu Dhabi, The UAE

Feb 2023 Presented “How to write for non-academic audiences”, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh (virtual)

Jan 2023 Presented on Yemeni maritime infrastructures as part of Yemen and Gulf Exchange: Situating Yemen in Regional Politics, The Sana’a Centre for Strategic Studies and the Exchange Foundation (virtual)

Jan 2023 Presented on a panel “On Stuckness” at Global Politics Unbound, Queen Mary University of London

Jan 2023 Presented “Trans-Mediterranean Connections in Sinews of War and Trade” at workshop on Ports et économies populaires au Moyen Orient: les enjeux en termes de commerce, de main-d’oeuvre et de structuration des marchandises” at Laboratoire d’Économie et de Sociologie du Travail, Aix-en-Provence (virtual)

Jan 2023 Presented at the Evasion Lab, University of Toronto (virtual)

11. Dr István T Kristó-Nagy

Publications

“The Crow Who Aped the Partridge : Ibn al-Muqaffa’s Aesopian language in a fable of *Kalīla wa-Dimna*”, in Francesca Bellino, Catherine Mayeur-Jaouen and Luca Patrizi (eds), *L’adabtoujours recommencé : “origins”, transmissions, and metamorphoses of adab literature*, Brill, Leiden-Boston, E-Book (PDF) ISBN: 978-90-04-52635-8, Hardback ISBN: 978-90-04-52634-1, pp. 367–434 (68 pages), 2023.

“Philosophy for Politics: Ancient Greek philosophy echoed in Ibn al-Muqaffa’s writings”, in Kazuo Morimoto and Sajjad Rizvi (eds), *Knowledge and Power in Muslim Societies : Approaches in intellectual history*, Gerlach Press, Berlin, HC ISBN 978-3-95994-164-8, eBook ISBN 9783959941655, pp. 53–94 (42 pages), 2023.

I’m attaching both of them with the front matter. They are both massive and I hope they will do well in the REF :) I’m about to submit another extremely ambitious and large paper to *JSAI*.

Talks

Tracing a Devil in Islamic Art

The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, 9th Biennial Convention, Yerevan, 2023/05/30-06/03.

<https://www.persianatesocieties.org/convention/ninth-biennial-convention/>

Ibn al-Muqaffa's Kalila wa-Dimna – Philosophy in Advanced Literature: A De-compartmentalising Approach

Sharjah-Exeter Symposium: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Sharjah, 2023/05/3-4.

<https://www.sharjah24.ae/en/Articles/2023/05/11/UOS-University-of-Exeter-organise-Sharjah-Exeter-Symposium>

Goldsmith of Golden Ages: Masked Innovation by Ibn al-Muqaffa' (Immolated in AH 139–140/757–758 CE)

Trinity College, University of Oxford, After Rome and Further East Seminar, 2023/04/27.

<https://talks.ox.ac.uk/talks/id/5b4ba7ac-ef52-4d06-b315-240a50e0f437/>

12. Dr Kumail Rajani

Kumail Rajani and Rob Gleave coedited and published *Shi'ite Legal Theory: Sources and Commentaries* in March 2023. This volume treats the strands of Shi'ite legal theory as a family of legal traditions, providing illustrative examples with editions of previously unpublished works. The chapters examine, for the first time in English, an integrated analysis of Shi'ite traditions and legal theories, including the validity of personal juristic reasoning (ijtihād), linguistic interpretations, the role of certainty in the deduction of law and the legal authority of the imams. It focuses not only on the less-neglected Twelver uṣūl but also on Isma'ili and Zaydi uṣūl traditions.

The contributions of Robert Gleave and Kumail Rajani to the volume are as follows:

1. Shi'i "Family" of Legal Theories: An Introduction - Robert Gleave and Kumail Rajani
2. Are Rulings of the Prophet Due to Ijtihād and Are all Mujtahids Always Correct? A Chapter from the Sharḥ Zubdat al-uṣūl of al-Māzandarānī (d. 1081/1670) - Robert Gleave
3. Debating the Epistemic Value of Hadith: A Chapter from the Fath al-bāb ilā l-ḥaqq wa-l-ṣawāb of Mīrzā Muḥammad al-Akhbārī (d. 1232/1817) - Kumail Rajani and Nebil Husayn
4. The Role of Consensus in Legal Hermeneutics: A Chapter from the Qanṭarat al-wuṣūl ilā 'ilm al-uṣūl of al-Mu'ayyadī (d. c. 1044/1634) - Robert Gleave and Kumail Rajani
5. Why Early Muslims Divided into Sects? A Chapter from the Mukhtaṣar al-uṣūl of 'Alī b. Muḥammad b. al-Walīd (d. 612/1215) - Kumail Rajani

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-shi-ite-legal-theory-hb.html>

12. Professor Emily Selove

“The Sorcerer Scholar: Siraj al-Din al-Sakkākī between Grammar and Grimoire,” co-authored with former IAIS PhD student Dr. Mohammed Sanad, in *Inscribing Knowledge and Power in Islamic Societies: Diachronic Studies* (Berlin: Gerlach Press, 2023). (Co-edited by Sajjad).