
A Christian Appeal for the Survival of Syriac in an Arabic Literary Context: The "Book of the Interpreter" (Kitāb al-Tarjumān) of Elias of Nisibis (d. 1046)

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline.be

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Funder: Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)

Template: FWO DMP (Flemish Standard DMP)

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Grant number / URL: 11PEW24N

ID: 204358

Start date: 01-11-2023

End date: 31-10-2027

Project abstract:

After the Arab conquest of the Middle East, Syriac Christians gradually abandoned Syriac to adopt the rulers' Arabic language. This Arabization happened progressively and unevenly and led to tensions. How can Christians express their theology in the sacred language of Islam? The figure of Elias of Nisibis, an archbishop of the Church of the East at the beginning of the second millennium, embodies this linguistic dilemma. Although he penned most of his works in Arabic, he also negotiated the use of the Syriac language in an Arabic literary context and argued for the superiority of Syriac over Arabic. He is the author of an Arabic-Syriac lexicon, the "Book of the Interpreter" (Kitāb al-Tarjumān). This project focuses on Elias of Nisibis and this lexicon as a starting point for addressing broader questions about language change among Middle Eastern Christians. I will first conduct a thorough analysis of the theological terms found in this lexicon and compare them to the other works by Elias of Nisibis in order to create a more comprehensive analysis of his literary corpus. Then, I will contrast his theological vocabulary with that of his contemporaries. I will finally examine the reception of the "Book of the Interpreter" in later centuries as a means of tying this work to Middle Eastern Christian reflection on language change that has endured from Elias' day down to the present.

Last modified: 26-07-2024

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1. Research Data Summary

List and describe all datasets or research materials that you plan to generate/collect or reuse during your research project. For each dataset or data type (observational, experimental etc.), provide a short name & description (sufficient for yourself to know what data it is about), indicate whether the data are newly generated/collected or reused, digital or physical, also indicate the type of the data (the kind of content), its technical format (file extension), and an estimate of the upper limit of the volume of the data.

				Only for digital data	Only for digital data	Only for digital data	Only for physical data
Dataset Name	Description	New or reused	Digital or Physical	Digital Data Type	Digital Data format	Digital data volume (MB/GB/TB)	Physical volume
		<i>Please choose from the following options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate new data • Reuse existing data 	<i>Please choose from the following options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital • Physical 	<i>Please choose from the following options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observational • Experimental • Compiled/aggregated data • Simulation data • Software • Other • NA 	<i>Please choose from the following options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .por, • .xml, • .tab, • .csv,.pdf, • .txt, .rtf, • .dwg, • .gml, ... • NA 	<i>Please choose from the following options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <100MB • <1GB • <100GB • <1TB • <5TB • <10TB • <50TB • >50TB • NA 	
1. Ph.D. Dissertation	Prose text authored by doctoral student	Generate new data	Digital	Compiled/aggregated data	.txt	<100MB	
2. Journal Articles	Prose text authored by doctoral student	Generate new data	Digital	Compiled/aggregated data	.txt	<100MB	
3. Popularizing Summaries of Research	Prose text authored by doctoral student	Generate new data	Digital	Compiled/aggregated data	.txt	<100MB	

4. List of manuscripts	Tabulated data generated by doctoral student. I will gather the references of all known manuscripts of the Book of the Interpreter of Elias of Nisibis and add metadata (place, date and every other relevant information)	Generate new data	Digital	Compiled/aggregated data	.xsl	<100MB	
5. Notes	Prose text authored by doctoral student	Generate new data	Digital	Compiled/aggregated data	.txt	<100MB	
6. Bibliography	Bibliography of the dissertation	Generate new data	Digital	Compiled/aggregated data	.rdf	<100MB	
7. Reproductions of manuscript	Images of Syriac and Arabic manuscripts	Reuse existing data.	Digital	Compiled/aggregated data	.jpg, .png, .tiff	<1TB	

If you reuse existing data, please specify the source, preferably by using a persistent identifier (e.g. DOI, Handle, URL etc.) per dataset or data type:

I will use academic literature and I will always refer to it according to one of the accepted bibliographic styles. When there is a doi, I will also add it in the bibliography.

I will also use reproductions of manuscripts. When the manuscripts are available online, I will refer to them giving also their permanent URLs.

Are there any ethical issues concerning the creation and/or use of the data (e.g. experiments on humans or animals, dual use)? Describe these issues in the comment section. Please refer to specific datasets or data types when appropriate.

- No

Will you process personal data? If so, briefly describe the kind of personal data you will use in the comment section. Please refer to specific datasets or data types when appropriate.

- No

Does your work have potential for commercial valorization (e.g. tech transfer, for example spin-offs, commercial exploitation, ...)? If so, please comment per dataset or data type where appropriate.

- No

Do existing 3rd party agreements restrict exploitation or dissemination of the data you (re)use (e.g. Material/Data transfer agreements/ research collaboration agreements)? If so, please explain in the comment section to what data they relate and what restrictions are in place.

- No

Are there any other legal issues, such as intellectual property rights and ownership, to be managed related to the data you (re)use? If so, please explain in the comment section to what data they relate and which restrictions will be asserted.

- No

2. Documentation and Metadata

Clearly describe what approach will be followed to capture the accompanying information necessary to keep data understandable and usable, for yourself and others, now and in the future (e.g., in terms of documentation levels and types required, procedures used, Electronic Lab Notebooks, README.txt files, Codebook.tsv etc. where this information is recorded).

For datasets 1-3, proper citations using the standards of KU Leuven will be given as is required of academic prose. This will make clear where the particular data is coming from. Critical editions and, as relevant, manuscripts will be referenced for each primary source under consideration. Secondary sources will be referenced whenever we draw on them. The procedure taken to interpreting the texts will be clearly outlined in the prose text.

For datasets 4-7, there will be documentation explaining the structure of the data.

Will a metadata standard be used to make it easier to find and reuse the data? If so, please specify (where appropriate per dataset or data type) which metadata standard will be used. If not, please specify (where appropriate per dataset or data type) which metadata will be created to make the data easier to find and reuse.

- Yes

For datasets 1-3, the authors will clearly be noted and the works uploaded into the institutional repository of KU Leuven. ORCiDs will be provided for all relevant authors to make the attribution clear. Keywords will be provided according to the scheme of the publishers will link the works to related literature.

For datasets 4-5 and 7, the data will be uploaded to the research data repository of KU Leuven (RDR) and the metadata standard of this repository will be used.

For dataset 6, the data will be uploaded on Zotero and Zotero's metadata standard will be used.

3. Data storage & back-up during the research project

Where will the data be stored?

The data will be stored on the hard drives of the doctoral student at an initial phase. This will also include cloud storage as provided by KU Leuven. After publication, the data will be available in a data repository like RDR and Onedrive.

How will the data be backed up?

The data will be backed up for the duration of the project and then permanently in KU Leuven repositories after publication.

**Is there currently sufficient storage & backup capacity during the project? If yes, specify concisely.
If no or insufficient storage or backup capacities are available, then explain how this will be taken care of.**

- Yes

Yes, the doctoral student already has the relevant laptop for storage and cloud storage (OneDrive).

How will you ensure that the data are securely stored and not accessed or modified by unauthorized persons?

The procedures of KU Leuven for securing data have been followed here which consists of a two-step authorization process in order to access the data.

What are the expected costs for data storage and backup during the research project? How will these costs be covered?

There are no expected costs.

4. Data preservation after the end of the research project

Which data will be retained for at least five years (or longer, in agreement with other retention policies that are applicable) after the end of the project? In case some data cannot be preserved, clearly state the reasons for this (e.g. legal or contractual restrictions, storage/budget issues, institutional policies...).

All the data will be preserved by the doctoral student and the supervisor for 10 years according to KU Leuven RDM policy.

Where will these data be archived (stored and curated for the long-term)?

Data consisting of narrative prose (datasets 1-3) will be published in Open Access as possible. During the research phase, the data will be stored on the personal device and external hard drive of the doctoral candidate and supervisor.

The datasets 4-5 and 7 will be uploaded to a research repository like RDR.

The dataset 6 will be archived in Zotero.

In dataset 7, reproductions of manuscripts that are already online won't be uploaded to a research repository. Only the URL will be provided. For the others, the specific questions of copyright for each manuscript will be discussed with the copyright helpdesk of KU Leuven.

What are the expected costs for data preservation during the expected retention period? How will these costs be covered?

There are no expected costs.

5. Data sharing and reuse

Will the data (or part of the data) be made available for reuse after/during the project? In the comment section please explain per dataset or data type which data will be made available.

- Yes, in an Open Access repository

- Other, please specify:

Datasets 1-3: The prose texts will be made available in the institutional repository to be released as open access as soon as possible.

Datasets 4-5 and 7: The datasets will be made available in a data repository like RDR.

Dataset 6 will be made available on Zotero.

If access is restricted, please specify who will be able to access the data and under what conditions.

For the reproductions of manuscripts, some issues of copyright might be encountered. This will be clarified with the copyright helpdesk of KU Leuven.

Are there any factors that restrict or prevent the sharing of (some of) the data (e.g. as defined in an agreement with a 3rd party, legal restrictions)? Please explain in the comment section per dataset or data type where appropriate.

- No

Where will the data be made available? If already known, please provide a repository per dataset or data type.

Datasets 1-3: These will be made available with through KU Leuven's repository (LIRIAS) as well as the relevant publisher's databases.

When will the data be made available?

The datasets 1-3 will be made available upon the publication of research results.

The datasets 4-7 will be made available already during the research.

Which data usage licenses are you going to provide? If none, please explain why.

We will use CC-BY 4.0 license as relevant for each data set.

Do you intend to add a PID/DOI/accession number to your dataset(s)? If already available, you have the option to provide it in the comment section.

- Yes

We do not yet have the DOIs.

What are the expected costs for data sharing? How will these costs be covered?

There are no expected costs for data sharing.

6. Responsibilities

Who will manage data documentation and metadata during the research project?

The supervisor and the doctoral student will be jointly responsible during the project.

Who will manage data storage and backup during the research project?

The supervisor and the doctoral student will be jointly responsible during the project.

Who will manage data preservation and sharing?

The supervisor and the doctoral student will be jointly responsible.

Who will update and implement this DMP?

The supervisor will update and implement this DMP.