

# BENJAMIN GEER

## Senior Software Developer

Over 12 years of back-end experience in Scala and Java

@ ben@benjamingeer.name  
📍 France

🌐 benjamin-geer

☎ +33 7 82 49 32 02  
📞 benjamingeer

✉ 70 rue André Laurent, 94120 Fontenay-sous-Bois  
📠 0000-0002-2449-8558



## EXPERIENCE

### Senior Software Developer

**Data and Service Center for the Humanities (DaSCH),  
University of Basel**

📅 February 2014 – ongoing 📍 Basel, Switzerland

- Lead developer of Knora (<https://www.knora.org/>), Switzerland's flagship system for storing, editing, searching, and linking humanities research data (over 130,000 lines of Scala and 18,000 lines of SPARQL).
- Lead developer of Gravsearch, Knora's innovative SPARQL-based query language compiler with type inference and optimisation (see Publications).
- Contributed to Sipi (<https://sipi.io/>), a IIIF-conformant image server written in C++.

### Post-doctoral Research Fellow

**Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore**

📅 August 2012 – June 2013 📍 Singapore

### Visiting Assistant Professor and Associate Director

**Middle East Studies Center, American University in Cairo**

📅 August 2011 – June 2012 📍 Cairo, Egypt

### Software Architect

**Misys International Banking Systems (now Finastra)**

📅 August 2000 – May 2005 📍 London, UK

- Lead a team of 6 to write Meridian (now Fusion Total Messaging), a Java middleware program used by banks worldwide to connect back-office applications with the SWIFT payments network.

### Software Developer

**Think New Ideas**

📅 1998 – 1999 📍 New York, USA

- Developed a Java-based content management system, including the FreeMarker template engine (<https://freemarker.apache.org>).

## SKILLS

Scala Java Akka RDF SPARQL C++ Linux  
Python SQL OCaml Haskell

## LANGUAGES

Fluent: English French Arabic  
Intermediate: German Italian

## EDUCATION

### PhD in Middle East Studies

**SOAS, University of London**

📅 September 2008 – January 2012

### M.A. in Middle East Studies

**SOAS, University of London**

📅 September 2007 – September 2008

### B.A. in Arabic

**Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille I**

📅 September 2005 – September 2006

### M.A. in French

**University of Florida**

📅 January 1993 – August 1995

### B.A. in Music

**Hampshire College**

📅 September 1986 – January 1991

## PUBLICATIONS

### 📄 Articles

- Schweizer, Tobias and Benjamin Geer (2020). "Gravsearch: Transforming SPARQL to query humanities data". In: *Semantic Web* (in press). DOI: 10.3233/SW-200386.
- Rosenthaler, Lukas et al. (2017). "Simple Image Presentation Interface (SIPI): An IIIF-based Image Server". In: *Archiving Conference*, pp. 28–33. DOI: 10.2352/issn.2168-3204.2017.1.0.28.

### 👤 Talk

- Schweizer, Tobias and Benjamin Geer (2015). "Knora: A Generic Storage System and API for Accessing and Reusing Digital Qualitative Research Data in the Humanities". URL: <https://bit.ly/38YnOOT>.