



# MAXIM ROMANOV

*Current position* Postdoctoral Associate

*Institutional affiliation* Department of Classics & Perseus Project, Tufts University  
5 The Green, 134C Eaton Hall, Medford, MA 02155

*Ph.D.* in Near Eastern Studies (2013), University of Michigan

*Institutional email* [maxim.romanov@tufts.edu](mailto:maxim.romanov@tufts.edu); *personal:* [romanov.maxim@gmail.com](mailto:romanov.maxim@gmail.com)

*Website* [www.alraqmiyyat.org](http://www.alraqmiyyat.org) (*al-Raqmiyyāt*: Digital Islamic History)  
[maximromanov.github.io](https://maximromanov.github.io) (*alternate link*)

## Employment

*2013–current* POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE

*Tufts University*, Department of Classics & Perseus Project

*2006–2012* GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR

*University of Michigan*, Department of Near Eastern Studies

*2004–2006* JUNIOR RESEARCHER

*Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences*

*former:* St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies

St. Petersburg, Russia ([SPbIOS/IOM of RAS](#))

## Education

*2006–2013* Ph.D. (December 15, 2013) / M.A. (April 29, 2010)

in Near Eastern Studies (Arabic & Islamic Studies),

Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, USA.

*Dissertation:* Computational Reading of Arabic Biographical Collections with Special Reference to Preaching in the Sunnī World (661–1300 CE). [More details online...](#)

(available in open access through [the University of Michigan Digital Library](#)).

*Dissertation Committee:* Alexander Knysh (Chair), Michael Bonner, Richard Bulliet, Sherman Jackson, Andrew Shryock.

*2001–2004* ABD, Post-graduate program in Islamic Studies (Mentor: Stanislav M. Prozorov),

*Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences*

FORMER: St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies

St. Petersburg, Russia ([SPbIOS/IOM of RAS](#))

*1999–2001* St. Petersburg State University, the School (“Fakultet”) of Oriental Studies,

partial completion of the History of the Arab Countries program,

St. Petersburg, Russia.

*1998–2001* B.A./M.A. in Sociology,

St. Petersburg State University, the School (“Fakultet”) of Sociology,

*M.A. Thesis:* “The role of religious scholars (‘ulamā’) in the life of Islamic society”;

St. Petersburg, Russia.

*1995–1998* The Baltic State Technical University, the School (“Fakultet”) of Humanities (concentration in Political Sciences), St. Petersburg, Russia.

## Articles in peer-reviewed editions

most publications can be downloaded from [tufts.academia.edu/MaximRomanov](https://tufts.academia.edu/MaximRomanov)

- forthcoming “Toward Abstract Models for Islamic History,” in *The Digital Humanities + Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies*, ed. Elias Muhanna (Berlin, De Gruyter, forthcoming 2016) ([Download Submitted Version in PDF](#))
- 2013 “Toward the Digital History of the pre-Modern Muslim World: developing text-mining techniques for the study of Arabic biographical collections,” in *Methods and means for digital analysis of ancient and medieval texts and manuscripts, Proceedings of the Conference*, Leuven, 2012 ([Download PDF](#)) DOI: 10.1484/M.LECTIO-EB.5.102573  
**Newsletter Version:** “Digital Analysis of Arabic Biographic Collections,” in *Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies Newsletter*, No. 4. (July 2012), 9–11 ([Download PDF](#))
- 2012 “Dreaming Ḥanbalites: Dream-Tales in Prosopographical Dictionaries,” in *Dreams and Visions in Islamic Societies*, edited by Alexander Knysh & Özgen Felek, SUNY Press, 2012, 31–50 ([Download PDF](#))
- 2007 “The Term *Ṣūfī*: Spiritualizing Simple Words,” in *Pismennyye Pamyatniki Vostoka/Written Monuments of the Orient*, issue 5 (2007), 149–159 ([Download PDF](#))
- 2005, in Russian “Electronic Databases on Islam in Arabic, Persian and English: a Review,” in *Pismennyye Pamyatniki Vostoka/Written Monuments of the Orient*, issue 2(3), 2005, 240–257; in cooperation with Dr. Stanislav M. Prozorov; *summary in English* ([Download PDF](#))
- 2004, in Russian “The Paradigm of the Science of Ḥadīth (*ʿilm/ʿulūm al-ḥadīth*),” in *Oriens/Vostok*, issue 5, 2004, 5–11; *summary in English* ([Download PDF](#))
- 2003 (2009), in Russian “Ḥadīth Reports in Ibn al-Jawzī’s (d. 597/1201) System of Argumentation (Based on His *Talbīs Iblīs* [“Devil’s Delusions”]),” in *Khristianskii Vostok/Christian Orient*, Volume 5 (XI), New Series, Moscow: “Indrik” Press (Published by the Russian Academy of Sciences and the State Hermitage), 2009, 310–316 ([Download PDF](#))  
 NB: Submitted for publication in 2003
- 2003, in Russian “Principles and Procedures of Extracting and Processing Data from Arabic Sources: Historic-and-Biographical Sources,” in *Oriens/Vostok*, issue 4, 2003, 117–127; in cooperation with Dr. Stanislav M. Prozorov; *summary in English* ([Download PDF](#))

## Conference & workshop papers, presentations, posters

- October, 2015 “al-Dhahabī’s Monster”: Dissecting a 50-Volume Arabic Chronicle-cum-Biographical Collection From the 14th Century CE @ Distant Reading & the Islamic Archive, Conference at Brown University (October 16, 2015)
- September, 2015 The *Taʾrīkh al-islām* of al-Dhahabī (d. 748/1347 CE): Computational Exploration of the Life-Cycle of a 50-Volume Arabic Chronicle-cum-Biographical Collection @ Arabic Pasts: Histories and Historiographies: Research Workshop, co-hosted by the Agha Khan University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations and SOAS, University of London (September 2526, 2015)
- July, 2015 Cultural Production in the Islamic World (600–1900 CE): mining an Ottoman bibliographical collection from the early 20th century @ The Keystone Digital Humanities Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (July 22-24)
- May, 2015 Analyzing Arabic Biographical Collections at Scale @ Digital Ottoman Platform Workshop, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ (June 8-12, 2015)

- May, 2015* The Writing Culture of Nīshāpūr in the 11th Century [In collaboration with Sarah Savant, Agha Khan University, London; paper delivered by Sarah Savant] @ Iranian Cities from the Arab Conquest to the Early Modern Period, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (May 1-2).
- November, 2014* Exploring Islamic Written Legacy: Computational Reading of *Hadiyyat al-ʿarīfīn* @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- March, 2014* Computational Processing of Toponymic Data from classical Arabic Sources @ Working with Text in a Digital Age, A Workshop @ Tufts University (the Perseus Project) (March 29, 2014).
- February, 2014* Visualizing Islamic Geography at Scale @ Data Big and Small: Computer Science, the Humanities and Social Science: Conversations between representatives from Leipzig, Northeastern, Princeton & Tufts, A Workshop @ Tufts University (the Perseus Project) (February 3-4, 2014).
- October, 2013* Abstract Models for Islamic History @ Digital Humanities and Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI (October 24-25, 2013).  
**Video recording** of this presentation is available @ Brown University's website:  
[www.islamichumanities.org](http://www.islamichumanities.org) → Day One  
 (the presentation starts at 2:48:00; the Q&A at 3:51:30).
- October, 2013* Islamic World Connected (661–1300 CE) @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- April, 2013* **Poster (not on program):** Toward Abstract Models for Islamic History @ Word, Space, Time: Digital Perspectives on the Classical World, an interdisciplinary conference organized by the Digital Classics Association, University of Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, NY (April 5–6, 2013).
- March, 2013* Exploratory Analysis of Arabic Biographical Collections: the Case of al-Dhahabī's (d. 1347 CE) *Taʾrīkh al-islām* @ 223<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the American Oriental Society (AOS), Portland, OR.
- March, 2013* Exploratory Analysis of Arabic Biographical Collections: the Case of al-Dhahabī's (d. 1347 CE) "History of Islam" @ 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Pearl Kibre Medieval Study Conference: "New Media and the Middle Ages", The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York, NY.
- February, 2013* 'Connectedness' of the Islamic World (600–1300 CE) @ 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Near Eastern Studies Graduate Student Colloquium, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- November, 2012* Social History of the Muslim World in the Digital Age: Making Sense of 29,000 Biographies from al-Dhahabī's "History of Islam" @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- November, 2012* **Poster:** Social History of the Muslim World in the Digital Age: Making Sense of 29,000 Biographies from al-Dhahabī's "History of Islam" @ Cyberinfrastructure Days, U of Michigan, November 7-8, 2012. **"People's Choice Award Winner"**.
- October, 2012* Writing the Digital History of the Premodern Muslim World, 670-1300 CE: Exploratory Analysis of Primary Sources @ Interdisciplinary Workshop under the rubric "Forum on Research in Medieval Studies" (FoRMS), the Medieval Lunch Series, U of Michigan.
- August, 2012* Mining pre-Modern Islamic Sources @ "Working with Text in a Digital Age," the summer institute at Tufts U, Medford, MA.
- April, 2012* Dreaming Ḥanbalites: Dream-Tales in Prosopographical Dictionaries (in Russian) @ The 34th Annual Session of St. Petersburg Arabists, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.

- April, 2012* Digital History of the Muslim World: Computer-Aided Analysis of Biographical Dictionaries @ “Methods and means for digital analysis of ancient and medieval texts and manuscripts,” the workshop at the Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven & the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium (KVAB), Brussels.
- November, 2010* “Popular” Preaching in the Sunnī Context and the Legitimization of *Waʿz* in the Late 12th Century CE @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- November, 2009* Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal’s (d. 241/855) Argumentative Strategies @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- April, 2009* Dreaming Ḥanbalites @ Dreams and Visions in Islamic Societies, U of Michigan conference.
- March, 2004* The Origins of the Term *Ṣūfī* (in Russian) @ 26th Annual Session of St. Petersburg Arabists, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.
- April, 2003* Argumentation with *Ḥadīth* Reports in Ibn al-Jawzī’s *Talbīs Iblīs* (“Devil’s Delusions”) (in Russian) @ 25th Annual Session of St. Petersburg Arabists, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.
- December, 2003* The Paradigm of the Science of Ḥadīth (*ʿilm al-ḥadīth*) (in Russian) @ Annual Academic Session, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.
- April, 2002* Ibn al-Jawzī’s Image in the Western Scholarship (in Russian) @ 24th Annual Session of St. Petersburg Arabists, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.

## Invited talks, guest lectures

- March, 2015* Introduction to Classical Arabic Through the Words of the Prophet, A “Lightning” on DH Topics talk (over Skype) @ Digital Humanities Institute–Beirut 2015, American University of Beirut. For more details, [dhibeirut.wordpress.com](http://dhibeirut.wordpress.com).
- February, 2015* Digital Humanities & the Premodern Islamic World: *Of Graphs, Maps, and 30,000 Muslims*. Invited public lecture @ the University of California—Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (February 25, 2015). For more details, see information on the website of [The Gustav E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA](http://www.gustavcenter.org).
- August, 2014* The Social Geography of the Islamic World (661–1300 CE): on the Method, Invited presentation @ PROSOP Workshop, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL (August 15, 2014). See, [www.prosop.org](http://www.prosop.org).
- April, 2014* The Social Geography of the Islamic World (661–1300 CE), Invited talk @ the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA (April 10, 2014)
- April, 2014* Distant Reading of Arabic Biographical Collections, Guest Lecture @ “Saints and Sinners in Muslim Literature,” (Prof. Mimi Hanaoka) @ the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA (April 10, 2014)
- April, 2014* Future in the Past: Using Digital Methods to Study Medieval Arabic Texts, Presentation for the Students of Arabic @ Tufts University (April 7, 2014).
- April, 2014* Classical Arabic through the Words of the Prophet: Teaching Classical Arabic in the Digital Age, Brown Bag Presentation for Arabic Instructors @ Tufts University (April 2, 2014).
- March, 2014* Studying Classical Arabic Sources in the Digital Age: Social Geography and Social History, Invited talk for Holy Cross Manuscripts, Inscriptions and Documents Club the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA (March 14, 2014)

- March, 2014* Computational Reading of Classical Arabic Sources: the Case of Biographical Collections, Presentation @ the Department of Classics, Tufts University (March 10, 2014).
- February, 2014* Building a Historical Gazetteer, Guest Lecture @ “Computational methods in the humanities,” An honors course (Prof. David J. Birnbaum) @ the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (February, 21, 2014)
- February, 2014* Connectedness of the Islamic World (661–1300 CE), Invited Talk @ the European Union Center of Excellence & European Studies Center, the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (February, 20, 2014)
- February, 2014* Computational Reading of Classical Arabic Sources: the Case of Biographical Collections, Invited Talk @ Bard College, Annadale-on-Hudson, NY (February 11, 2014).
- January, 2014* Computational Reading of Classical Arabic Sources: the Case of Biographical Collections, Invited Talk @ The Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (CDRH) at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), Lincoln, NE (January 30, 2014).

## Digital projects

*2012—ongoing* AL-RAQMIYYĀT: DIGITAL ISLAMIC HISTORY ([www.alraqmiyyat.org](http://www.alraqmiyyat.org))

Personal research blog that highlights my digital studies of Islamic historical sources in Arabic. The blog is currently in the stage of technical and conceptual transition. Originally built in WordPress to highlight my dissertation research progress, it will be re-created with Jekyll ([www.jekyllrb.com](http://www.jekyllrb.com)) and will focus on documenting major steps of my digital experiments with 10,000 Arabic texts, highlighting general exploration of both the entire corpus and specific sources. The main goal is to log research progress, share discoveries and provide some guidance to young and senior scholars of Islam and Islamic history interested in employing digital methods in their research.

*2013—ongoing* KITAB (an acronym that also means “book” in Arabic), a cultural history project treating the history of books and cultural memory. It undertakes a far-reaching evaluation of the classical Arabic textual tradition (750—1200) for the purpose of understanding how cultural memory was negotiated and shaped by authors when they created books. Its ingenuity derives from the application of text reuse methods, which detect the copying of texts into other texts and thus enable study of the form and content of the textual tradition.

**NB:** Collaborative project led by Sarah Savant (Islamic History, Agha Khan University—London); in collaboration with David Smith (Computer Science, Northeastern), and the Perseus Project; my contribution, among other things, includes the study of ARABIC BIOGRAPHICAL COLLECTIONS as a genre, with the following main goals:

- to study social and religious groups through the analysis of ample biographical data that Arabic sources provide;
- to provide a detailed overview of biographical collections in Arabic and their authors based on Arabic bio-bibliographical literature; research literature in European languages; surviving manuscripts; printed editions;
- to provide computational overview in the form of graphs, maps and trees of those collections that are available in electronic format;
- to trace inter-dependencies between these collections by studying text re-use.

*2014—2015* *Ṣūrat al-arḍ*, THE GEOSPATIAL MODEL OF THE CLASSICAL ISLAMIC WORLD

**NB:** In collaboration with Cameron Jackson (Senior, double majoring in Arabic and Computer Science, Tufts University). MAIN GOALS:

- to develop a digital gazetteer of Islamic places (*al-Thurayyā*, as a supplement to [pleiades.stoa.org](http://pleiades.stoa.org)); in collaboration with the team of researchers at the ERC project “The Early Islamic Empire at Work: The View from the Regions Toward the Centre” (PI Stefan Heidemann, Universität Hamburg). The working demo version of *al-Thurayyā* is available at [maximromanov.github.io](https://maximromanov.github.io).
- to adapt computational framework of **Orbis**, the Stanford geospatial Network Model of the Roman World (developed by Elijah Meeks and Walter Scheidel), for the historical and geographical data classical available for the Islamic world. The “Islamic Orbis” (*Ṣūrat al-ard*) will help us to better understand spatial connections within the Islamic world, to visually study geographical and travel literature, and, most importantly, to study ample data from biographical collections by tracing geographies of different social and religious groups.

*2013–ongoing* ISLAMIC HISTORY COMMONS @ [islamichistorycommons.org](http://islamichistorycommons.org)

MAIN GOAL: to build an online community (‘a commons’) of scholars of early Islamic history, encourage collaborative research and promote digital methods of studying historical and religious sources.

**NB:** in collaboration with and under the lead of **Chase Robinson**, President and Distinguished Professor of History, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

*2013–2015* STUDYING CLASSICAL ARABIC LEGACY @ Tufts University

together with Gregory Crane @ Department of Classics & Perseus Project

MAIN GOALS:

- to develop a catalog of digitally available sources in classical Arabic (as an Arabic supplement to **The Perseus Catalog**), to facilitate access to these sources and better understand what Arabic sources are available and what sources have been overlooked.
- to develop courses for teaching classical Arabic with the use of computational tools (e.g., **Alpheios Reading Tools**) in order to enhance and speed learning process;
- to develop courses for studying specific classical sources in Arabic and in English translation in order to generate new knowledge about the Islamic world (research courses / digital projects).

*2008* REVIEWS OF/MANUALS FOR DIGITAL LIBRARIES OF ARABIC AND PERSIAN SOURCES together with Michael Bonner, University of Michigan

MAIN GOAL: to provide scholars of Islam with reviews of/manuals for available digital libraries; to conduct a workshop on how to use these resources.

RESULTS: reviews of over 10 digital libraries have been prepared as instructional materials for the Workshop on ELECTRONIC LIBRARIES/DATABASES OF ARABIC AND ISLAMIC SOURCES (conducted in May 2009 @ University of Michigan), which include:

- *al-Muʿjam al-fiqhī*, Qumm, Iran;†
- *al-Mawsūʿa al-shiʿriyya*, Abu Dhabi, OAE (available @ [www.alraqmiyyat.org](http://www.alraqmiyyat.org));
- a series of libraries by al-Turāth, Amman, Jordan;
- *Jāmiʿ*, Ahl al-bayt Institute, Iran;†

† based on materials prepared earlier with Stanislav Prozorov, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.  
*Reviews/Manuals are available upon request.*

## Teaching: Classes

*Classical Language, Religion, DH* CLASSICAL ARABIC THROUGH THE WORDS OF THE PROPHET  
(Introduction to Classical Arabic through the Corpus of Ḥadīth)  
*Tufts University*, Spring 2015



- Digital Humanities, Methods* INTRODUCTION TO TEXT MINING FOR THE STUDENTS OF HUMANITIES  
 Tufts University, Spring 2015.  
 (also as an *independent study* with two students: Tufts University, Fall 2014)
- History, Digital Humanities* MAPPING THE CLASSICAL ISLAMIC WORLD  
 Tufts University, Winter 2014; *Digital Project*: Mapping Data from al-Muqaddasi's geographical treatise (10<sup>th</sup> century CE)
- History, DH* THE FIRST MILLENNIUM OF THE ISLAMIC NEAR EAST 600–1600 CE  
 U of Michigan, Fall 2012 (as a teaching assistant); *Digital Project*: **Timemaps**
- Religion* INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM  
 U of Michigan: Spring 2011, Winter 2011 (as a teaching assistant), Spring 2010
- Language* ELEMENTARY MODERN STANDARD ARABIC  
 U of Michigan: Fall 2010, Fall/Winter 2009–2010, Fall/Winter 2008–2009, Fall/Winter 2007–2008
- Classical Language* ELEMENTARY CLASSICAL ARABIC  
 U of Michigan, Fall/Winter 2006–2007

## Teaching: Workshops

- February 2015* DIGITAL HUMANITIES & ISLAMIC STUDIES @ the University of California, Los Angeles.  
 Organized by Asma Sayeed & The Gustav E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA.
- October 2014* TEXTUAL CORPORA AND THE DIGITAL ISLAMIC HUMANITIES @ Brown University  
 as a session leader together with Elli Mylonas; organized by Elias Muhanna.  
 For details: <http://islamichumanities.org/workshop-2014/>
- May 2009* ELECTRONIC LIBRARIES/DATABASES OF ARABIC AND ISLAMIC SOURCES  
 a part of the Project “The Reviews of / Manuals for Electronic Databases of Arabic and Islamic Sources,” in cooperation with Michael Bonner @ U of Michigan.
- 2008–2009* detailed reviews and manuals for over 10 different databases / electronic libraries  
 were prepared to be used as instructional materials for the Workshop
- June 2005* SOURCES FOR RESEARCH ON ISLAM: TEXTUAL, VISUAL, DIGITAL.  
 in cooperation with Professor Marion Katz (New York University) @ SSRC Summer Institute “Teaching Islam in Eurasia,” Kazan, Russia.

## Fellowships, grants, awards & honors received

- F2015–W2016* (declined) Research Fellowship (Visiting Fellow) at Islamic Legal Studies Program,  
 Harvard Law School, Harvard University.
- F2012–S2013* Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship,  
 Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.
- Summer 2013* Hajja Razia Sharif Sheikh Scholarship Award in Islamic Studies, U of Michigan.
- Fall 2013* **People's Choice Award** for the poster “Social History of the Muslim World in the Digital Age: Making Sense of 29,000 Biographies from al-Dhahabi's ‘History of Islam’ ” @ Cyberinfrastructure Days, U of Michigan, November 7-8, 2012.
- W2012–S2012* Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, U of Michigan.

- F2011–W2012* Supplementary Grant for the 2011–2012 academic year, Global Supplementary Grant Program, Open Society Institute.
- Winter 2011* Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, U of Michigan.
- Winter 2011* Radcliffe/Ramsdell Fellowship, U of Michigan.
- Spring 2008* George and Celeste Hourani Award in Arabic, Armenian, Persian, Turkish, and Islamic Studies, the Department of Near Eastern Studies, U of Michigan.
- Winter 2005 & 2004* Honorary awards for Website development, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS:  
[www.orientalstudies.ru](http://www.orientalstudies.ru)
- Winter 2004* Honorary award for the best articles and papers by young scholars (for the article “The Paradigm of the Science of the Ḥadīth”), SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.

## Additional training & experience

- Summer, 2012* “Working with Text in a Digital Age”  
 3-week summer institute @ Tufts University (Perseus Project)
- Winter, 2012* THATCamp @ the Annual Meeting of the  
 American Historical Association, Chicago, IL
- Winter, 2011* Introduction to ArcGIS, a series of workshops @ U of Michigan
- 2009–2010* Cataloguing Arabic manuscripts @ U of Michigan, Special Collections
- May, 2009* Introduction to Manuscript Studies,  
 a five-day workshop with Dr. Adam Gacek @ U of Michigan
- 2005–2006* Digitalization of Manuscripts from the Dunhuang Collection, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS

## Other publications in Arabic and Islamic studies

### Reference Materials

- 2006* Girgas, Vladimir. Arabic-Russian Dictionary for the Qurʾan and Ḥadīth (*Slovarʾ k arab-skoy khrestomatii i Koranu*). Kazanʾ, 1881; Preparation of the improved reprint edition; in cooperation with Dr. Stanislav M. Prozorov. COVER TITLE: *Arabsko-Russkiy Slovarʾ k Koranu I Hadisam*, St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers, 2006, ISBN 978-5-88503-555-2.

### Translations from Russian into English

- in progress* Krachkovskii, Ignatii Yulianovich. *Arabic Geographical Literature*, translation into English. In cooperation with Michael Bonner @ U of Michigan.

### Translations from English into Russian

- 2010* Chittick, William. *Sufism: a Beginner's Guide*. Oxford, England: Oneworld Publications, 2008 (Moscow: “Vostochnaya Literatura”: ISBN 978-5-02-036498-1)
- 2006* Cook, Michael. *Forbidding Wrong in Islam*. Cambridge University Press, 2003; in print (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers: ISBN 978-5-88503-684-9); translation into Russian, editing.
- 2006* Watt, W. Montgomery. *Muḥammad in Mecca*. Oxford, 1956 (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers, 2006: ISBN 5-88503-507-5); editing, indices, proof-reading.



- 2006 Burton, John. *Introduction to the Ḥadīth*. Edinburgh University Press, 1994, (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers, 2006, ISBN 5-88503-461-3); translation into Russian (with a co-translator), editing, indices, proof-reading.
- 2005, not published Leaman, Oliver. *Islamic Aesthetic: An Introduction*. Edinburgh University Press, 2004, (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers); translation into Russian (with a co-translator), editing.
- 2005 Watt, Montgomery & Richard Bell. *Introduction to the Qurʾān*. Edinburgh University Press, 1970 (first published), (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers, 2005, ISBN 5-88503-385-4); translation into Russian (with a co-translators), pre-editing, indices, proof-reading.
- 2004 Knysh, Alexander. *Islamic Mysticism: a short history*. Leiden; Boston; Köln: Brill, 2000; translation into Russian, indices, proof-reading and cover design (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers, 2004, ISBN 5-88503-232-7).

## Natural languages

*Arabic* modern standard & classical

*English* fluent spoken & written

*Russian* native

*other* reading knowledge of German, French, Indonesian; elementary Persian & Turkish

## Formal languages & computer skills

*Actively using* Python, R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, QGIS, Adobe Photoshop & Indesign

*Learning* Javascript, D3

## Professional membership

2012–present American Oriental Society (AOS)

2008–present Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

*Panels Organized @ MESA*

*New Orleans, 2013* Digital Humanities in Middle East Studies (organized together with Børre Ludvigsen and Will Hanley), a series of two panels and a round table: “Traditional Sources, Nontraditional Methods,” “Digital Communication,” and Roundtable.

[More details...](#)

*San Diego, 2010* Islamic Preaching

## References

MICHAEL D. BONNER *University of Michigan*

Professor of Medieval Islamic History & Chair, Department of Near Eastern Studies  
University of Michigan, 4147 Thayer Academic Building  
202 South Thayer St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1608, United States  
[mbonner@umich.edu](mailto:mbonner@umich.edu); Tel: (734) 647-0093

GREGORY R. CRANE *Tufts University & Universität Leipzig*  
 Professor of Classics, Department of Classics  
 Winnick Family Chair of Technology and Entrepreneurship  
 Editor-in-Chief, Perseus Digital Library Project  
 Tufts University, 134C Eaton Hall  
 5 the Green, Medford MA 02155, United States  
[gregory.crane@tufts.edu](mailto:gregory.crane@tufts.edu); Tel: (617) 627-3830  
 — & —  
 Alexander von Humboldt-Lehrstuhl für Digital Humanities  
 Institut für Informatik, Universität Leipzig  
 Augustusplatz 10, 04109 Leipzig, Deutschland  
[crane@informatik.uni-leipzig.de](mailto:crane@informatik.uni-leipzig.de); Tel: (+49) 341 97 32354

SHERMAN A. JACKSON *University of South California*  
 King Faisal Chair in Islamic Thought and Culture  
 Professor of Religion and American Studies and Ethnicity  
*University of South California*, 230 Ahmanson Center (ACB)  
 825 Bloom Walk, Los Angeles, CA 90089, United States  
[sajackso@usc.edu](mailto:sajackso@usc.edu); Tel: (213) 740-0270

ALEXANDER D. KNYSH *University of Michigan*  
 Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies  
 University of Michigan, 3111 Thayer Academic Building  
 202 South Thayer St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1608, United States  
[alknysh@umich.edu](mailto:alknysh@umich.edu); Tel: (734) 615-1963

SARAH B. SAVANT *Agha Khan University, London*  
 Associate Professor, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations  
 Agha Khan University, 210 Euston Road  
 London, NW1 2DA, United Kingdom  
[sarah.savant@aku.edu](mailto:sarah.savant@aku.edu); Tel: +44 207 380-3859; +44 207 380-3800

ANDREW J. SHRYOCK *University of Michigan*  
 Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology  
 University of Michigan, 205-C West Hall, 1085 S. University Ave.  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1107, United States  
[ashryock@umich.edu](mailto:ashryock@umich.edu); Tel: (734) 764-7274

## Dissertation

*Title* **Computational Reading of Arabic Biographical Collections with Special Reference to Preaching in the Sunnī World (661–1300 ce)**

*Abstract* A project in the digital humanities, the dissertation explores methods of computational text analysis. Relying on text-mining techniques to extract meaningful data from unstructured text, the study offers an effective and flexible method for the analysis of Arabic biographical collections, the most valuable source for the social history of the pre-modern Islamic world. It uses the largest collection, “The History of Islam” of al-Dhahabī (d. 1348), as a case-study of applying the new method and shows how almost 30,000 biographies can be studied as a whole.

A step toward finding a viable solution for studying the entire digital corpus of classical Islamic texts (400 mln. words), Chapter I offers a detailed explanation of “computational reading” that was built upon existing digital approaches from a variety of disciplines. Chapter II models big data extracted from the main source to further our understanding of the social geography of the Islamic world and its major social transforma-

tions, simultaneously providing an important background for the next chapter. Chapter III applies the devised method to the study of Islamic preaching from chronological, geographical and social perspectives that have been overlooked in the academic treatment of this subject. Largely an exploratory overview, it traces long-term changes in preaching practices as well as statuses of preachers within the Islamic élites. This chapter demonstrates how exactly computational reading can contribute to the studies of specific phenomena and practices. The final section overviews broad prospects of the further application of “computational reading” to a variety of genres of pre-modern Arabic literature.

The dissertation heavily relies on the visual display of information in the form of graphs, charts, maps, and tables that are used in the main body and supplied in Appendices.

*More details...*

*Committee* Alexander Knysh, Chair, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Michigan; Michael Bonner, Professor of Medieval Islamic History, University of Michigan; Richard Bulliet, Professor of History, Columbia University; Sherman Jackson, Professor of Religion and American Studies, University of South California; Andrew Shryock, Professor of Cultural Anthropology, University of Michigan