Maxim Romanov

Current position	Universitätassistent für Digital Humanities
Institutional affiliation	Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien
Ph.D.	in Near Eastern Studies (2013), University of Michigan
Institutional email	maxim.romanov@univie.ac.at
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Employment

2017– *Universitätassistent für Digital Humanities*,
Universität Wien, Institut für Geschichte

2015–2017 *Research Fellow*
Leipzig University, Computer Science Institute,
The Humboldt Chair for Digital Humanities

2013–2015 *Postdoctoral Associate*
Tufts University, Department of Classics & Perseus Project

2006–2012 *Graduate Student Instructor (Teaching Assistant)*,
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).
(available in open access through the University of Michigan Digital Library:
http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/102300).
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 (ʿulamāʾ) 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.

Working papers

(2016) "Important New Developments in Arabographic Optical Character Recognition (OCR)"
Authors: Benjamin Kiessling, Matthew Thomas Miller, Sarah Bowen Savant, Maxim Romanov. *Working paper can be accessed at Academia.edu*: https://www.academia.edu/28923960/.

Articles in peer-reviewed editions

most publications can be downloaded from univie.academia.edu/MaximRomanov

(2017, in print) "Algorithmic Analysis of Medieval Arabic Biographical Collections" accepted for publication in *Speculum* (*Digital Medieval Studies*, Speculum Digital Supplement (October 2017)). (Download Submitted Version in PDF)

(2017, in print) "Observations of a Medieval Quantitative Historian?" accepted for publication in *Der Islam* (ISSN-Online: 1613-0928, ISSN-Print: 0021-1818). (Download Submitted Version in PDF)

2016 (*Authors, alphabetically:* Yonatan Belinkov, Alexander Magidow, Maxim Romanov, Avi Shmidman and Moshe Koppel) "Shamela: A Large-Scale Historical Arabic Corpus", in *Proceedings of the Workshop on Language Technology Resources and Tools for Digital Humanities (LT4DH)*, pp. 45–53, Osaka, Japan, December 11-17 2016. *Available at:* https://www.clarin-d.net/images/lt4dh/pdf/LT4DH07.pdf

2016 "After the Classical World: the Social Geography of Islam (c. 600—1300 CE)", in *ARS ISLAMICA: Festschrift in Honor of Stanislav Mikhailovich Prozorov*. Edited by Mikhail Piotrovsky and Alikber Alikberov, Russian Academy of Sciences (Institute of Oriental Studies), Moscow: "Vostochnaya Literatura", 2016, pp. 247–277 (Download Pre-print Version in PDF)

2016 "Digital Age, Digital Methods", in *ARS ISLAMICA: Festschrift in Honor of Stanislav Mikhailovich Prozorov*. Edited by Mikhail Piotrovsky and Alikber Alikberov, Russian Academy of Sciences (Institute of Oriental Studies), Moscow: "Vostochnaya Literatura", 2016, pp. 129–277 (Download Pre-print Version in PDF)

2016 "Toward Abstract Models for Islamic History," in *The Digital Humanities + Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies*, ed. Elias Muhanna (Berlin, De Gruyter, 2016), pp. 117–149. (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 *Pismennyie 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 *Pismennyie 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 Ḥadīṯ (*ʿilm/ʿulūm al-ḥadīṯ*)", in *Oriens/Vostok*, issue 5, 2004, 5–11; *summary in English* (Download PDF)

2003 (2009), in Russian "*Ḥadīṯ* Reports in Ibn al-Ǧawzī'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

November, 2016 "Of A Network and A Node: 'The History of Islam' of al-Ḏahabī (d. 1348) and its place in the Premodern Arabic Textual Tradition" @ *Networked Texts: New Ways of Seeing the Arabic Textual Tradition (750-1500)*, a Panel co-organized by Sarah Savant and Maxim Romanov @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

September, 2016 Presentation on Islamic[ate] DH Projects at Leipzig University @ Activism, Advocacy, and Scholarship on Islam in the Digital Realm: Prospects, Progress, and Challenges, a workshop organized by the Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies & Civilizations, Boston University (September 16 & 17, 2016)

October, 2015 "al-Ḏahabī'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)

Video recording of this presentation is available @ Brown University's website: `tinyurl.com/IslamicDHatBrown2015` → Scene 106 (or timestamp 3:22:00; the Q&A starts right after the presentation).

September, 2015 The *Taʾrīḫ al-islām* of al-Ḏahabī (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 Aga Khan University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations and SOAS, University of London (September 25–26, 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, 2015)

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, Aga 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-ʿārifīn* @ 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: `tinyurl.com/IslamicDHatBrown2013` → Day One, Scene 166 (or timestamp 2:47:50; 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-Ḏahabī's (d. 1347 CE) *Taʾrīkh al-islām* @ 223rd Meeting of the American Oriental Society (AOS), Portland, OR; also @ the 8th 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) @ 7th 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-Ḏahabī'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-Ḏahabī'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 Universitet, Leuven & the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium (KVAB), Brussels.
November, 2010	"Popular" Preaching in the Sunnī Context and the Legitimization of *Waʿẓ* 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 *Ḥadīṯ* Reports in Ibn al-Ǧawzī'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 Ḥadīṯ (*ʿilm al-ḥadīṯ*) (in Russian) @ Annual Academic Session, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.
April, 2002	Ibn al-Ǧawzī's Image in the Western Scholarship (in Russian) @ 24th Annual Session of St. Petersburg Arabists, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.

Invited talks, guest lectures

November 17, 2016	From Text to Map: Arabic Biographical Collections and Geospatial Analysis @ Center for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University

2016 Writing a 50-volume book in 14th-century Damascus: Algorithmic Analysis, Text Reuse & the Arabic Written Tradition. Different versions of this invited lecture @

- Davidson College (November 9, 2016)
- University of Michigan (March 10, 2016)

2015–2016 Of Graphs, Maps, and 30,000 Muslims: Premodern Arabic Texts & the Digital Humanities. Different versions of this invited lecture @

- Center for Digital Humanities/Department of History, University of South Carolina (November 14, 2016)
- Duke University (November 11, 2016)
- School of Oriental and African Studies [SOAS], University of London (November 23, 2015)
- University of Manchester (November 25, 2015)
- University of St Andrews (November 27, 2015)
- University of Maryland [MITH] (March 2, 2016)
  for more details: http://mith.umd.edu/dialogues/dd-spring-2016-maxim-romanov/)
- University of Tübingen (May 11, 2016)

June 1, 2016 Future in the Past: Using Modern Computational Methods for the Analysis of Premodern Arabic Texts, Guest Lecture @ "Society and Religion in the Arab World" (an introductory Arabic and Islamic Studies seminar taught by Marie Hakenberg), Leipzig University

May 4, 2016 Annotation of geographical data (together with Chiara Palladino), Session 14 of the Sunoikisis Digital Classics 2016, for more details: https://github.com/SunoikisisDC/SunoikisisDC-2016

April 26, 2016 [Discovering] Spatial and Chronological Patterns in Historical Texts @ Unlocking the Digital Humanities, A Seminar organized by Leipzig University & Tufts University, Spring 2016

December, 2015 Arabic and Islamic Studies and the Digital Humanities @ The Brill Workshop on the Digital Humanities (December 2-3, Leiden; May 1-2, Boston)

March, 2015 Introduction to Classical Arabic Through the Words of the Prophet, A "Lightning talk" on DH Topics (over Skype) @ Digital Humanities Institute—Beirut 2015, American University of Beirut. For more details, 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.

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.

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 and collaborations

2016—ongoing *Open Islamicate Texts Initiative (Open ITI)* is a multi-institutional effort to construct the first machine-actionable scholarly corpus of premodern Islamicate texts. Led by researchers at the Aga Khan University (AKU), Leipzig University (LU), and the Roshan Institute for Persian Studies at the University of Maryland (College Park) and an interdisciplinary advisory board of leading digital humanists and Islamic, Persian, and Arabic studies scholars, ITI aims to provide the essential textual infrastructure in Persian and Arabic for new forms of macro textual analysis and digital scholarship. In the process, Open ITI will enable new synergies between Digital Humanities and the inter-related Islamicate fields of Islamic, Persian, and Arabic Studies. ITI team members work on bringing together a united Islamicate textual corpus that would contain approximately 10,000 Islamicate texts (ca. 7,000 Arabic and 3,000 Persian texts). **Co-PIs (*alphabetically*)**: Matthew Miller (UMD), Maxim Romanov (LU), Sarah Savant (AKU). For more details: http://iti-corpus.github.io/.

2016—ongoing *Kraken ibn Ocropus*. Building on the foundational open-source OCR work of the Leipzig University's (LU) Alexander von Humboldt Chair for Digital Humanities, the Open ITI team develops a flexible, trainable OCR pipeline for Islamicate languages. We are building on an open-source OCR software called `Kraken` (developed by Benjamin Kiessling, LU) that enables us to make this our OCR technology freely available to the broader Islamic, Persian, and Arabic Studies communities in the near future. Unlike more traditional OCR approaches, `Kraken` relies on a neural network—which mimics the way we learn—to recognize letters in the images of entire lines of text without trying first to segment lines into words and then words into letters. This segmentation step—a mainstream OCR approach that persistently fails on connected scripts—is thus completely removed from the process, making `Kraken` uniquely powerful for dealing with a diverse variety of ligatures in connected Arabic script. We have achieved accuracy rates for classical Arabic texts in the high nineties, and currently testing `Kraken` on Persian and Syriac printed texts. Our efforts also focus on the development of an online interface that will facilitate the production and collection of training data and the post-correction of the initial OCR output. **Team (*alphabetically*)**: Elijah Cooke (UMD), Benjamin Kiessling (LU), Matthew Miller (UMD), Maxim Romanov (LU), Sarah Savant (AKU). For the detailed report on the state of the project: https://www.academia.edu/28923960/.

2015—ongoing *OpenArabic Project*. The goal of the project is to build a machine-actionable corpus of premodern texts in Arabic to encourage computational analysis of the Arabic written tradition. The project is in the process of being merged into the *Open ITI*. A detailed progress report is available on GitHub at: https://github.com/OpenArabic/Annotation/.

2014—ongoing *OpenArabic mARkdown*. The main goal is to provide a simple system for tagging structural and semantic information in premodern and early modern Arabic texts that are being prepared within the framework of the *OpenArabic Project* that would facilitate algorithmic analysis in the same way (and even more efficiently) as more complex TEI XML does. A detailed description of and instructions for using *OpenArabic mARkdown* can be found at: http://alraqmiyyat.github.io/mARkdown/

2014—ongoing *Islamic Geography*. 2014–2016: in collaboration with Cameron Jackson (Class 2016, double-major in Arabic and Computer Science, Tufts University); 2016–: in collaboration with Masoumeh Seydi (PhD Student in Digital Humanities, Leipzig University). The project includes two main parts: 1) *al-Ṯurayyā* (*Pleiades* in Arabic)—a digital gazetteer of the classical Islamic world; the latest working version version of *al-Ṯurayyā* is available at `https://althurayya.github.io/`; for a previous version, see: `http://alraqmiyyat.github.io/projects/althurayya_02/`. 2) *Ṣūrat al-arḍ* (*The Shape of the World* in Arabic)—a computational geospatial model of the classical Islamic world for studying of geospatial data from premodern Islamic texts. *Ṣūrat al-arḍ* is inspired and builds upon `http://orbis.stanford.edu/`, the Stanford geospatial Network Model of the Roman World (developed by Elijah Meeks and Walter Scheidel). The *Ṣūrat al-arḍ* 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. The working demo version of *Ṣūrat al-arḍ* is available at `alraqmiyyat.github.io/projects/surat_al_ard_01/`.

2013—ongoing *Kitab* (an acronym that also means "book" in Arabic), a cultural history project treat-

ing 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. Project website (*in progress*): kitab-project.org (User: `kitab-user`; password: `Kitab321`). **NB**: Collaborative project led by Sarah Savant (Islamic History, Aga Khan University—London); in collaboration with David Smith (Computer Science, Northeastern), and Alexander von Humboldt Chair for Digital Humanities (Leipzig University); my contribution, among other things, includes the study of *Arabic Biographical Collections* as a genre.

2013–2015   *Studying Classical Arabic Legacy* @ Tufts University together with Gregory Crane @ Department of Classics & Perseus Project. *Main goals*: 1) 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. Pilot Arabic catalog: http://catalog.perseus.org/ (In "Work Original Language" select *Arabic*); 2) to develop courses and course materials for teaching classical Arabic with the use of computational tools in order to enhance and speed up learning process; **Specific outcome:** *Introduction into Classical Arabic Through the Words of the Prophet: A Frequency-Based Ḥadīṯ Reader* (available at: http://alraqmiyyat.github.io/2016/05-30.html) ; 3) 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).

2012—ongoing   *al-Raqmiyyāt: Digital Islamic History* (`alraqmiyyat.github.io`)
Personal research blog that highlights my digital studies of Islamic historical sources in Arabic, with the 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.

Teaching: Classes

Islamicate Texts, DH   *Islamicate World 2.0: Studying Islamic Cultures through Computational Textual Analysis*. In this new project-based course, students from two universities will come together to learn the basics of computational textual analysis while participating as student researchers in the nascent project of exploring the vast and largely unexplored tomes of textual data about the Islamicate world. It will also introduce students to theoretical and methodological debates in the field of global digital humanities. Like the digital humanities field that inspires its approach, it will be a highly interdisciplinary course that studies texts from multiple genres (lyric poetry to historical chronicles, legal treatises to the Qur'ān) and languages (Arabic, Persian) with the aid of computational textual analysis tools. There are no language prerequisites, but it is preferable if students at least have elementary knowledge of either Arabic, Persian, Turkish, or Urdu. (http://islamicate-dh.github.io/) @ the *U of Maryland (College Park)* and the *Leipzig U*, Fall/Winter 2016-7; co-taught with Matthew Miller (UMD).

GIS, DH   *From Text to Map*, A two-week intensive introduction (32 contact hours) to a variety of ways of thinking about and working with humanities data in digital mapping environments; co-taught with David J. Wrisley, American University of Beirut @ "Culture & Technology"—The European Summer University in Digital Humanities, *Leipzig University*, Summer 2016 (www.culingtec.uni-leipzig.de)

Classical Language, Religion, DH   *Classical Arabic Through the Words of the Prophet* (Introduction to Classical Arabic through the Corpus of Ḥadīt̲), *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-Muqaddasī's geographical treatise (10th 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, History   *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

December 2016   Georeferencing Printed Maps @ *Analyzing Text Reuse @ Scale / Working with Big Humanities Data* @ Leipzig University, organized by Thomas Köntges & Maxim Romanov (within the framework of Leipzig Workshop Week, 14–18 December 2015).

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 @ University 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.

Organizing: Workshops, Panels, Roundtables

November 2016   *Networked Texts: New Ways of Seeing the Arabic Textual Tradition (750-1500)*, *a Panel* co-organized with Dr. Sarah Savant (Aga Khan University—London) at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston 2016

November 2016   *Non-traditional methods for Teaching Traditional Languages*, *a Roundtable* at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston 2016

December 2015   *Analyzing Text Reuse at Scale / Working with Big Humanities Data* @ Leipzig University, organized by Thomas Köntges & Maxim Romanov (within the framework of Leipzig Workshop Week, 14–18 December 2015).

December 2015   *Digital Arabic and Digital Persian Research Workshop* @ Leipzig University, organized by Maxim Romanov (within the framework of Leipzig Workshop Week, 14–18 December 2015).

November, 2013   *Digital Humanities in Middle East Studies* (organized together with Børre Ludvigsen and Will Hanley), a series of two panels and a roundtable: "Traditional Sources, Nontraditional Methods," "Digital Communication," and Roundtable at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans 2013

November, 2010   *Islamic Preaching*, *a Panel* at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, San Diego, 2010

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-Ḏahabī'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

Last update: *July 5, 2017*

Winter 2004 Honorary award for the best articles and papers by young scholars (for the article "The Paradigm of the Science of the Ḥadīṯ"), SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.

Additional training & experience

Summer, 2012 "Working with Text in a Digital Age", a 3-week summer institute @ Tufts University (Perseus Project)

Winter, 2012 THATCamp @ the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago

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 (Dr. Adam Gacek) @ U of Michigan

2005–2006 Digitalization of Manuscripts from the Dunhuang Collection, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS

Other academic publications in Arabic and Islamic studies

Reference Materials

2006 Girgas, Vladimir. Arabic-Russian Dictionary for the Qur'"an and Ḥadīth (*Slovar' k arabskoy khrestomatii i Koranu*). Kazan', 1881; Preparation of the improved reprint edition; in cooperation with Dr. Stanislav M. Prozorov. *Cover title*: *Arabsko-Russkiy Slovar' 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 and computer skills

Actively using Python, R, LaTeX, QGIS, Cluster Computing

Learning Javascript, D3

Professional membership

2016–present Middle East Medievalists (MEM)

2012–present American Oriental Society (AOS)

2008–present Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

Service to the field

2013–present I am regularly consulting my colleagues on the design of digital projects—both formally and informally—in the area of historical studies of the Islamic world. Over the past three years I have been in touch with over two dozen junior and senior colleagues in the US, the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Israel and Germany.

Participating in workshops as an invited expert (selected list):

November 11, 2016 [**Duke University**] Jaraʾid 2.0: Indexing the Early Arabic Public Sphere, A Workshop in Arabic Digital Humanities (organizer: Adam Mestyan)

November 16, 2016 [**Harvard Law School**] Digital Islamic Law and History: Resources and Methods @ Harvard Law School, SHARIAsource (invited by Intisar Rabb, Founding Editor-In-Chief, SHARIAsource, Professor at Harvard Law School

November 17, 2016 [**Harvard Law School**] Resource Sharing Workshop: Comparing and Sharing Digital Archival Projects and Resources @ Harvard Law School, SHARIAsource (together with Intisar Rabb, Founding Editor-In-Chief, SHARIAsource, Professor at Harvard Law School)

June 20–24, 2016 [**Institute for Advanced Study**] Digital Ottoman Platform II, organized by Sabine Schmidtke (IAS) and Amy Singer (Tel Aviv University).

June 8–12, 2015 [**Institute for Advanced Study**] Digital Ottoman Platform I, organized by Sabine Schmidtke (IAS) and Amy Singer (Tel Aviv University).

Supervising

Leipzig U, 2016– Masoumeh Seydi, PhD candidate in Digital Humanities: "Modeling and Visualizing Geographical Information from Premodern Textual Sources"

Tufts U, 2015–2016 Cameron Jackson, BA Honors Thesis (Class 2016): "An Interactive Model of the Classical Islamic World" (http://cjacks0413.github.io/imiw/). Defended with highest honors.

References

» » *available upon request*

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 premodern Islamic world. It uses the largest collection, "The History of Islam" of al-Ḏahabī (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 transformations, 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...*

Last update: *July 5, 2017*

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