



‘Arabic Pasts: Histories and Historiography’ and Digital Method Workshop 8–10 October 2025

Wednesday 08 October: Digital Methods Workshop

- 11:30 Introduction and workshop
- 13:00 Lunch Break
- 14:15 Workshop: Digital Methods (Cont.)
- 15:45 Coffee Break
- 16:00 Workshop: Digital Methods (Cont.)
- 17:30 End of Workshop

Only for registered participants. Click [here](#) to register for the workshop by Monday, 25 August. Limited seats are available, and they will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Thursday 09 October: Arabic Pasts Workshop, Day One

- 10:00 Welcome by the Dean, Aga Khan University (International) in the United Kingdom
- 10:15 **Session 1: Origins and Their Traces**

Chair: Anna Chrysostomides, Queen Mary University of London

The ‘History of Mecca’ Genre: Its Origins and Purpose
Gerald Hawting, SOAS, University of London

The Discovery of a Lost Arabic Translation of a Greek Treatise of the Physician Rufus of Ephesus (1st century AD): New Insights into the Transmission of Medical Knowledge in Early Islam

Robert Hoyland, New York University

- 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:30 Session 2: Gendered Pasts

Chair: Lorenz Nigst, Aga Khan University (International) in the United Kingdom

Historiographical Constructions of Masculine Normativity and Deviance among 11th-Century Taifa Rulers

Aurora González Artigao, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Ornament of the Saints: Gender and Authority in The Marvels of Lady 'Ā'ishah al-Mannūbiyyah

Daniel Watling, Pomona College

12:30 Lunch Break

13:45 Session 3: The Local History of Palestine

Chair: Yossi Rapoport, Queen Mary University of London

Ottoman Palestine: Territorial Continuity and Regional Connectivity Before the Mandate
Mohannad Abusarah, University of Toronto

The Ahmadiyya Madrasa Library in Akka and the Modern Re-birth of Waqf Libraries in Palestine

Samah Hijab, Independent Researcher

14:45 Coffee Break and Group Photograph

15:15 Session 4: Archival Interventions

Chair: Nuha Alshaar, American University of Sharjah and University of Lisbon

Contested Histories and Silenced Sources: Baathist Iraq's Arab Historiographies
Myriam Essid, Paul Valéry University-Montpellier 3

Abbasid Continuities and Seljuk Innovations: A Palaeographic Study of the Bamiyan and Firuzkuh Papers

Edward Shawe-Taylor, University of Oxford

Sharī'a as Lived Practice: Reimagining Sultan Law in Ottoman Jerusalem through Digital Workflows

Sefer Korkmaz and Ilyes Mechentel, University of Bern

16:45 Coffee Break

17:00 Session 5: Exploring the Sīrah

Chair: Peter Verkinderen, Aga Khan University (International) in the United Kingdom

Between Poetry and Prose: Literary Diversity in Sīrah Narratives

Tuba Nur Saraçoğlu, Mardin Artuklu University

Was Ibn Ishāq a Qadarī? Exploring Ibn Ishāq's Association with Ghaylān b. Abī Ghaylān and His Impact on the Sīrah

Kevin Jaques, Indiana University

18:00 **End of Day One and Group Dinner for Presenters**

Friday 10 October: Arabic Pasts Workshop, Day Two

10:30 **Session 6: Embedded Pasts**

Chair: Hugh Kennedy, SOAS, University of London

Between Stars and Thrones: Investigating the Conflation of the Ptolemies and Claudius Ptolemy in Pre-Modern Arabic Historiography

Fotis Katsigiannis, School of Theology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

A Lost Historiography? Tracking Down Fragments of Fatimid-era Biographies

Mathew Barber, Aga Khan University (International) in the United Kingdom

Fatimid History in Mamluk Historiography: Agency of the Past in Shaping Historical Writings

Dawood Mirza, Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah (Karachi)

12:00 **Lunch Break**

13:15 **Session 7: Invisible East**

Chair: Bruce Fudge, Université de Genève

Continuities and Innovations in Medieval Writerly Culture of the Islamicate East: A Study of the Arabic and Persian Literary and Paraliterary Texts in the Bamiyan and Firuzkuh Papers

Arezou Azad, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco) and University of Oxford, Oxford Lifelong Learning

A Judaeo-Arabic Bible commentary in the Bamiyan Papers and its Linguistic and Historical Implications

Nadia Vidro, Invisible East Programme, University of Oxford, Oxford Lifelong Learning

14:15 **Coffee Break**

14:30 **Session 8: Movement and Fluidity**

Chair: Karen Bauer, The Institute of Ismaili Studies

Non-Binary Gender in Abbasid Baghdad: Reality vs. Fiction

Anna Chrysostomides, Queen Mary University of London

Arab Sources in Spanish Archives: Challenges and Possibilities for the Study of Sixteenth-Century Algeria

Cristina de la Rosa García, Universitat de Barcelona

The Veiled Bedouin's History of the Arab Diaspora in South America

Philipp Bruckmayr, Institute of Oriental Studies, University of Bamberg

16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:30 **Session 9: Influences and Innovations**

Chair: Mathew Barber, Aga Khan University (International) in the United Kingdom

Understanding the Spread of Indo/Arabic Numerals in the Abbasid Caliphate: A Research Proposal

Hugh Kennedy, SOAS, University of London

Shrines as Sites of Identity: An Interdisciplinary Inquiry into the Sacred Landscape of early Shi'ism

Edmund Hayes and Aila Santi, Leiden University

17:30 **End of the Arabic Pasts Workshop**

Enquiries to:

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Organised by:

Aga Khan University (International) in the United Kingdom – Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

Queen Mary University of London
SOAS, University of London

Venue:

Atrium Hall, The Aga Khan Centre, 10 Handyside Street, London N1C 4DN