



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY  
(International) in the United Kingdom  
Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



## Arabic Pasts: Histories and Historiographies Workshop Schedule

**Day One**  
**Thursday, 5 October 2023**  
**Face-to-face and Online**

10:00–10:30 am	Welcome: Leif Stenberg and Sarah Bowen Savant
10:30–12:00 pm	<p><b>Session 1: Administering Justice</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Arezou Azad, Oxford University</b></p> <p>Between a Rock and Hard Arabic: Epigraphy &amp; the Public Letters of ‘Abd al-Hamid (d. 750) <i>Nicholas Kyle Longworth, Department of Near Eastern Languages &amp; Civilisations, University of Chicago</i></p> <p>How to Be a Bad Ruler in Tenth Century Baghdad <i>Hugh Kennedy, SOAS University of London</i></p> <p>‘And to Our Master, the Illustrious Caliph, Belongs the Lofty Resolution Regarding This, If God Wills’: Written Petitions and the Administration of Justice in Fatimid Egypt. <i>Yusuf Umrethwala, Columbia University and Aga Khan University-ISMC</i></p>
12:00–1:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:30–3:00 pm	<p><b>Session 2: Digital Tools and Technology</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Aslisho Qurboniev, AKU-ISMC</b></p> <p>Can Digital Tools Help Teach Medieval Islamic History? From Assassin’s Creed Mirage to the Classroom <i>Sarah Slingsluff &amp; Deniz Vural, University of Edinburgh</i></p> <p>Digitally Capturing the Remnants of the Qaraite <i>dār al-‘ilm</i> in 11th Century Jerusalem <i>Gregor Schwarb &amp; Ronny Vollandt, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich</i></p> <p>Technologies of Communicative Media: The Hermeneutics of Technology and its Application to the Study of Early Islamic Intellectual History <i>Kevin Robert Jaques, University of Indiana</i></p>
3:00–3:15 pm	Coffee Break

3:15–4:15 pm	<p><b>Session 3: Modelling the Past</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Sarah Bowen Savant, AKU-ISMC</b></p> <p>Modelling the Development of Premodern Islamic Societies from Biographical and Historical Data  <i>Maxim Romanov, University of Hamburg</i></p> <p>Modes of Temporality in Islamicate Collective Biographies: A Comparative Study of Amal al-āmil fī ‘ulāmā’ Jabal ‘Āmil and Lu’lu’at al-Baḥrayn  <i>Majid Montazer-Mahdi, The University of Oxford; Institute of Ismaili Studies</i></p>
4:15–4:30 pm	Coffee Break
4:30–5:30 pm	<p><b>Session 4: Exploring Commemorations and Memorialisations</b></p> <p><b>Chair: TBC</b></p> <p>‘Picture His Torment Before Your Eyes’: Narrative Imagination in Shī‘ī Commemorative Ritual  <i>George Warner, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies University of Exeter</i></p> <p>Fallibilism and Certainty in Memorializing the History of Islamic Law  <i>Kamal R. Ahmed, Princeton University, Center for Culture, Society and Religion</i></p>
5:30–5:45 pm	Coffee Break
5:45–6:30 pm	Book Launch: Gowaart Van Den Bossche
6:30 pm	End of Day 1

**Day Two**  
**Friday, 6 October 2023**  
**Face-to-face and Online**

10:30–12:00 pm	<p><b>Session 1: Versioning</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Hugh Kennedy, SOAS University of London</b></p> <p>Remembering Past against history: What a Tripolitanian Memory Teaches Us  <i>Sébastien Garnier, Centre Jean Pépin, CNRS/LibMed</i></p> <p>‘Apple of the Eye’: Arabic Histories of Ottoman Iraq in the Early Twentieth Century  <i>Zeinab Azarbadegan, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Oxford University</i></p> <p>Islamic Science in the Arabic History of the West Syrians: Bar Hebraeus’  <i>Mukhtaṣar ta’rīkh al-duwal</i>  <i>Jennifer Fiona Griggs, FSCIRE – La Pira Library and Research Center on Islamic History and Doctrines</i></p>
12:00–1:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:30–3:00 pm	<p><b>Session 2: Representations, Emulations, and Consolations</b></p> <p><b>Chair: James McDougall, Oxford University</b></p> <p>Finding Zaynab in Al Rashad: Incarceration, Collective Memory, and Sectarian Identity in Ba’athist Iraq  <i>Noor Zehra Zaidi, University of Maryland, Baltimore County</i></p> <p>Fatima as a Motif of Contention and Suffering in Islamic Sources  <i>Vinay Khetia, Shia Research Institute, Toronto</i></p> <p>The Reader Between Loyalty and Faith: Mūsā al-Kāẓim in Imāmī Shīʿī Historiography  <i>Najam Iftikhar Haider, Department of Religion, Barnard College</i></p>
3:00–3:15 pm	Coffee Break
3:15–4:15 pm	<p><b>Session 3: Writing History in the Present</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Karen Bauer, Institute of Ismaili Studies</b></p> <p>The Islamist Approach in Contemporary Arabic Historical Writing: Al-Sallabi’s Narrative on Ottoman History as an Example  <i>Muna Asenwar, Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Basel</i></p> <p>Convening a new Cultural History of the Middle East and North Africa: The challenges of bridging disciplines to collaboratively rewrite 1620 years of history  <i>Hilary Kalmbach, University of Sussex</i></p>
4:15–4:30 pm	Coffee Break

4:30–6:00 pm	<p><b>Session 4: Reconstructing the Past</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Kevin Jaques, University of Indiana</b></p> <p>Hagiography as Autobiography: al-Baydhaq's <i>Akhbār al-Mahdī</i>  <i>Daniel Walting, Claremont McKenna College</i></p> <p>The Decline and Fall of the Rasulid Dynasty of Yemen: All Sides of the Story  <i>Rex Smith, University of Manchester</i></p> <p>Historical Providence in View of a Godforsaken Foe: Pious Execration of the Portuguese Encroachment on the Indian Ocean Islamic Ecumene in Sixteenth-Century Arabic Chronicles  <i>Gabriel Mathias Soares, University of São Paulo</i></p>
6:00–6:15 pm	Coffee Break
6:15–7:15 pm	<p><b>Session 5: Continuities</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Alex Bellem, AKU-ISMC</b></p> <p>Patronage and Households in the Qur'an  <i>Karen Bauer, Senior Research Associate, Qur'anic Studies, Institute of Ismaili Studies</i>  <i>Feras Hamza, Head of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Wollongong in Dubai; Senior Research Fellow, Qur'anic Studies, Institute of Ismaili Studies</i></p> <p>The Divine in Action: A Comparative Study of Miracles in Early Abbasid and Byzantine Hagiography  <i>Zhicheng Ye, SOAS University of London</i></p>
7:15 pm	Group Dinner and End of Day Two

**Enquiries to:**

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**Venue:**

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