

# The other narratives of early Islam contemporary sources and critical readings

## CONFERENCE, MARCH 22nd-23rd 2024

### Friday March 22nd

10:00-10:50 registration

10:50-11:00 A very brief introduction: Hagit Nol

11:00-12:30 The Qur'an and Qur'an manuscripts,

chair: Serap Ermis

**Guillaume Dye**, Université libre de Bruxelles - What is the Qur'an's representative potential?

**Alba Fedeli**, Universität Hamburg - Reading the manuscript text as a system to find its narrative: methodologies and criticism of early Qur'anic manuscript studies

12:30-13:30 lunch

13:30-15:00 Manuscripts and narratives in Syriac,

chair: Nathan Gibson

**Adrian C. Pirtea**, Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna - Monastic book culture in Syro-Palestine and Sinai. Syriac and Christian Arabic manuscripts as sources for early Islamic history

**Marianna Mazzola**, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität - A critical reading of Christian sources on the surrender agreements during the Arab conquest

15:00 coffee break

15:30-17:00 Poetry,

chair: Bekim Agai

**Adam Talib**, The American University in Cairo - The taphonomy of early Arabic poetry

**Kirill Dmitriev**, University of St Andrews - The poetry of al-Walid Ibn Yazid (709-744), methodological approaches in recent scholarship

17:00 coffee break

17:30-19:00 Isnad-cum-matn applications,

chair: Mark Chalil Bodenstein

**Jens Scheiner**, Universität Göttingen - Isnad-cum-matn -analysis: chances and limitations

**Marjan Asi**, University of Edinburgh - Hadiths and isnad -cum-matn: tools for Islamic ideological history

19:00 reception

### Saturday March 23rd

9:30-11:00 Texts: narratives and papyri,

chair: Hartmut Leppin

**Hagit Nol**, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt - 'Big Data', patterns and contexts: examining the terminology used for early mosques

**Lajos Berkes**, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin - Navigating Greek, Coptic, and Arabic papyri from early Islamic Egypt

11:00 coffee break

11:30-13:00 Documents: papyri and coins,

chair: Hagit Nol

**Arietta Papaconstantinou**, Aix-Marseille Université - Do papyri only allow a 'micro' economic history?

**Stefan Heidemann**, Universität Hamburg - Reconstructing historical evidence (coins)

13:00-14:30 lunch

14:30-16:00 Inscriptions and excavations,

chair: Sepideh Maziar

**Ilkka Lindstedt**, University of Helsinki - New inscriptions, old poems: pre-Islamic *wasfiyyas* on stone and in verse

**Alison Gascoigne**, University of Southampton - Digging in and for dirt: archaeology, interpretation and story-telling

16:00 coffee break

16:30-18:00 Laboratory archaeology,

chair: Astrid Stobbe

**Vladimir Dabrowski**, University of Créteil - Sowing the seeds of archaeobotany: variety of disciplines, methodological challenges and application to the early Islamic Arabia

**Marcos García-García**, Universidad de Alicante - Putting flesh on the bones: archaeo(zoo)logical approaches to the study of al-Andalus

18:30 dinner

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The conference aims at allowing a direct dialogue between the various semi-disciplines of early Islamic history (the 7th to 9th century). For that purpose, it brings together scholars who study early Islam either through contemporary sources or through a critical reading of later texts. One objective is to introduce the different methodologies and discuss their merits and flaws. As part of the first objective, we hope to advance the use of both archaeological methods and archaeological theory in Islamic history in general and in discussions about early Islam in particular. The second objective is to examine which kind of historical questions can be answered by contemporary sources - fragmentary and local as they are. The third objective is to encourage students to use contemporary sources and critical methods by highlighting their advantages and slightly breaking the central position of the later narrative texts.

Room 1.314 (Eisenhower Saal), IG Farben building, Goethe-University Frankfurt

For registration, please write [h.nol@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:h.nol@em.uni-frankfurt.de) until March 10th 2024