

GRUPO DE ESTUDIOS ARABES (GEAR-DEFIHIS) – ILC SEMINARIO

Are there alternatives to the
decline-progress paradigm for the
history of science in Islamic societies?

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The notion of scholarly decline in the Ottoman Empire appeared first in writings of Italian envoys to the Sublime Porte and their doctors in the last years of the sixteenth century. It resulted from a complex mix of factors: historical theory, political confrontation, applications for positions, concepts of cultural superiority, lack of competence. The idea spread quickly across Catholic and Protestant Europe without, however, eliminating the older concept of scholarly vivacity in Arabic societies. Rather, the Ottomans were increasingly portrayed as the destructors of the knowledge of their religious predecessors. In the nineteenth century, Ernest Renan sharpened the conflict to a confrontation between social progress as result of scientific progress in Europe and scientific decline as result of religious superstition and social barbarism in the Islamic world. While some of the edges of this interpretation of the history of scientific activities in Islamic societies have been chipped away during the second half of the twentieth century, the paradigm of progress in the classical period (8th-12th centuries) and decline in the post-classical period (13th-17th centuries) continues to dominate the historiographical practice until today. I will discuss my work-in-progress presenting alternative possibilities for studying the sciences and their relevance in late medieval and early modern Islamic societies.

Jueves 16 de Junio 2011, 12h.
Sala 2E10-2E27 Sánchez Albornoz.
Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, CSIC
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Susana CALVO CAPILLA (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), “Las mezquitas en el centro de la vida urbana: su impacto visual y sus funciones”.

Lunes 17 de enero de 2011

Marta MORENO García (GI Arqueobiología, IH-CCHS), “Una aproximación arqueozoológica al mundo andalusí”.

Martes 15 de febrero de 2011

Laura FERNÁNDEZ FERNÁNDEZ (Dpto. de Historia del Arte I -Medieval- Universidad Complutense de Madrid), “El taller científico de Alfonso X: procesos textuales y producción libraria”.

Martes 15 de marzo de 2011

Juan Carlos RUIZ SOUZA (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), “Al-Andalus y la Corona de Castilla en la Baja Edad Media. Arquitecturas aljamiadas. Historicismos, conceptos y formas”.

Lunes 11 de abril de 2011

José BELLVER (Departamento de Historia de la Filosofía, Estética y Filosofía de la Cultura -Universidad de Barcelona), “La Ciencia de las letras en Ibn 'Arabi: simbolismo y correspondencia”.

Viernes 13 de mayo de 2011