

HISTORIES OF BOOKS IN THE ISLAMICATE WORLD

International Conference

Madrid, March 9-11 2015

Scientific committee: Maribel Fierro, Sabine Schmidtke, Sarah Stroumsa

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Despite the constantly growing research regarding the literary history of the Islamicate World, our knowledge about what was available/popular/read in different periods and regions is still dismally patchy. There is hardly a period or a region during the long and diverse history of the Muslim world for which we can present a clear and detailed picture of which books were available and popular in any given discipline among the various circles, communities and societies (Muslim and non-Muslim alike). Nor do we know much, regarding most periods of Islamic history, about the diffusion of books, the processes of survival, selection and transmission of books, or the mechanisms and ways to include books in a teaching curriculum (the term "curriculum" itself carrying a rather vague meaning), exclude them from it, or remove them from the library shelves. We do not know why at certain stages works by authors of earlier generations became obsolete, while at other periods a clear preference for the more antique literature prevailed. We are equally ill informed regarding the different ways to manage scholarly information at any given time, nor do we possess comprehensive studies discussing theoretical and practical approaches of Muslim scholars towards scholarship or their changing predilection for specific literary genres. Related social practices of writing, copying, commenting, excerpting, citing or reading are similarly understudied. These lacunae appear even more glaring when compared to the far more advanced and refined state of scholarship on similar issues in Western contexts, ranging from the ancient Greek and Latin world, to the European Middle and Late Middle Ages as well as Early Modernity. What we have so far are mostly snapshots, each one of which focusing on a limited perspective. They show that the process of transmission was a dynamic and highly variegated one and that on many relevant issues there is a wealth of data and sources that need to be analyzed carefully. Moreover, the results of examining one area can at times be complemented, at times contradicted by those gained in a different context. Seemingly contradictory observations can be made for one and the same region and period (when we look, for example, at different religious communities). On the other hand, Islamicate societies (Muslim and non-Muslim) share meta-contextual characteristics of book culture and mechanisms of transmission of knowledge that render comparisons between the findings for different regions, periods and circles a rewarding enterprise. This is the rationale of the conference and volume "Histories of Books in the Islamicate World". The papers will address some of the most pressing desiderata in the study of the literary/intellectual history of the Islamicate World. It is our hope that by bringing such diverse studies together and discussing them among the participants of the conference, we will be able to distinguish between what is contextual and what is meta-contextual, what is specific to certain regions, periods, circles or religious contexts and what is characteristic for the Islamicate world and its book culture(s). As the same time, we expect that the papers and discussions will help to refine the methodological approach(es) towards this field of study.

Monday 9 March

- 08.45-09.15 Registration
09.15-09.30 Opening address
- 09.30-11.00 First Session: Libraries (I).**
Chair: Mercedes García-Arenal (CSIC-Madrid).
- 09.30-09.50 Jack **Tannous**, *Lost Worlds: 'Abdisho' bar Brikha's library and the Survival of Syriac Literature.*
09.50-10.10 Beatrice **Gründler**, *Abbāsid Libraries*
10.10-10.30 Paul **Walker**, *Libraries, Book Collection and the Preservation of Texts by the Fatimids and their Ismaili Da`wa.*
- 10.30-11.00 Discussion
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break**
- 11.30-13.00 Second Session: Libraries (II).**
Chair: Fernando Rodríguez Mediano (CSIC-Madrid).
- 11.30-11.50 Konrad **Hirschler**, *The Thematic Profile of a 13th Century Endowment library*
11.50-12.10 Ahmed **El Shamsy**, *Islamic Book Culture through the lens of private libraries, 1850-1940.*
12.10-12.30 Sarah J. **Pearce**, *'Let Your Bookshelves Be Your Pomegranate Orchard: The Contents of an Andalusí Library in Comparative Context'.*
12.30-13.00 Discussion
- 13.00-15.00 Lunch**
- 15.00-16.00 Third Session: Libraries (III).**
Chair: Giuseppe Mandalá (CSIC-Madrid).
- 15.00-15.20 Sabine **Schmidtke**, *Imam al-Mu'ayyad bi-llah Yahya b. Hamza (b. 669/1270-d. 749/1348-9) and his library.*
15.20-15.40 Sarah **Stroumsa**, *Between Canon and Library: On the Medieval Jewish Philosophical Tradition.*
15.40-16.00 Discussion
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee break**
- 16.30-17.30 Fourth Session: Reconstructing the circulation of books.**
Chair: María Angeles Gallego (CSIC-Madrid).
- 16.30-16.50 Dror **Weil**, *A reconstruction of the Arabo-Persian Corpus of Islamic texts found in 17th and 18th Century China*
16.50-17.10 Judith **Olszowy-Schlanger**, *Cheap books in medieval Egypt. Rotuli from the Cairo Geniza.*
17.10-17.30 Samer **Traboulsi**, *Transmission of knowledge and book preservation in the Tayyibi Ismaili tradition.*
17.30-18.00 Discussion

Tuesday 10 March

- 09.30-11.00 Fifth Session: Manipulating texts.
Chair: Eduardo Manzano (CSIC-Madrid).**
- 09.30-09.50 Sarah **Bowen Savant**, *What the Study of 'Text Reuse' Can (and Cannot) Tell us about the History of Books in the Islamicate World.*
- 09.50-10.10 Elias **Muhanna**, *New Books from Old Books: Compilation and Authorship in the Mamluk Period.*
- 10.10-10.30 Deborah **G. Tor**, *Lost in time and translation: Changes in literary transmission of Historical Evidence*
- 10.30-11.00 Discussion
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break**
- 11.30-13.00 Sixth Session: Seminal books.
Chair: Alejandro García Sanjuán (Universidad de Huelva).**
- 11.30-11.50 Daniella **Talmon-Heller**, *Scriptures as Sacred Objects in the Medieval Middle East: the Qur'an and the Torah in comparative historical perspective.*
- 11.50-12.10 Jaako **Hämeen-Anttila**, *The Books of Kings and Their Audience.*
- 12.10-12.30 Nuria **Martínez de Castilla**, *"Much used books that never existed..."*.
- 12.30-13.00 Discussion
- 13.00-15.00 Lunch**
- 15.00-16.00 Seventh Session: Books and authors (I).
Chair: Esperanza Alfonso (CSIC-Madrid).**
- 15.00-15.20 Camilla **Adang**, *A quarrel in the mosque as a catalyst for a written polemic: Ibn 'Arafa and Ibn Lubd on the modes of transmission of the Qur'an*
- 15.20-15.40 Wilferd **Madelung**, *The History of Maslama al-Qurṭubī's Kitāb Rutbat al-ḥakīm.*
- 15.40-16.00 Godefroy **de Callatay** and Sébastien **Moureau**, *A milestone in the history of Andalusī baṭīnism. Maslama al-Qurṭubī's riḥla in the East.*
- 16.00-16.30 Discussion
- 16.30-16.45 Coffee break**
- 16.45-17.45 Eighth Session: Books and authors (II).
Chair: Linda Jones (Universidad Pompeu Fabra-Barcelona).**
- 16.45-17.05 Reza **Pourjavadi**, *The World-Revealing Cup by Mir Ḥusayn al-Maybūdī and its Arabic, Latin and Turkish translations.*
- 17.05-17.25 Hasan **Ansari**, *'Umar al-Khayyam, the first commentator of Ibn Sina.*
- 17.25-17.45 Discussion
- 20.30 Conference Dinner**

Wednesday 11 March

- 09.30-11.00 Ninth Session: Books in context.**
Chair: Amalia Zomeño (CSIC-Madrid).
- 09.30-9.50 Maribel **Fierro**, *How do we know about the circulation of books in al-Andalus?*
- 9.50-10.10 Sonja **Brentjes**, *The multiplicity of formats: scientific texts alone and in collections.*
- 10.10-10.30 Miquel **Forcada**, *Intellectual locales and the circulation of scientific books in al-Andalus between the 9th and 10th centuries.*
- 10.30-11.00 Discussion
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break**
- 11.30-13.00 Tenth Session: Books in context.**
Chair: Javier del Barco (CSIC-Madrid).
- 11.30-11.50 Jan **Thiele**, *The History of Aš'arite books in North Africa and al-Andalus.*
- 11.50-12.10 Collette **Sirat** and Marc **Geoffroy**, *Muslim philosophical books copied by Jews (in Hebrew characters) in 15th century Spain.*
- 12.10-12.30 Miriam **Frenkel**, *Authorship and Canon in the Geniza Society.*
- 12.30-13.00 Discussion
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch**
- 14.30-16:00 Eleventh Session: Books in context (III).**
Chair: Rachid El Hour (Universidad de Salamanca).
- 14.30-14.50 Anka **Stoilova**, *Arabic Manuscripts Readers: Presence and roles*
- 14.50-15.10 Asim **Zubčević**, *Book-ownership in Ottoman Sarajevo according to the probate records 1763-1828*
- 15.10-15.30 Dagmar **Riedel**, *How to think about and with Islamic Books in the Digital Age*
- 15:30-16:00 Discussion
- 16:00-16:15 Closure**
- 16:15-16:30 Coffee**

All sessions will take place in

Residencia de Estudiantes

Pinar St., 21-23

28006 Madrid

Subway Gregorio Marañón (lines 7 and 10)

Bus Serrano St. (nos. 9, 16, 19 and 51)

República Argentina (line 6)

Paseo Castellana (nos.7, 12, 14, 27,40,45,147 and 150)

