



# Course Description: NISIS Autumn School 2019



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| Title            | Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies in the Digital Age  |
| Academic year    | 2019-2020  |
| EC               | 3-5  |
| Level            | 600  |
| Language         | English  |
| Keynote Speakers | Mona Abdel-Fadil<br>Bettina Gräf<br>Cornelis van Lit<br>Mirjam Shatanawi<br>Jo Van Steenbergen |
| Hosted by        | Utrecht University   |

## Admission requirements

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PhD candidates and research master students active in the field of Islamic Studies may apply for admission via [www.nisis.nl](http://www.nisis.nl).

NISIS junior members qualify automatically, but due to the limited number of participants, also need to apply for participation for the NISIS Autumn School via [www.nisis.nl](http://www.nisis.nl).

Please note that participants from outside of the Netherlands who are not a member of NISIS are kindly asked to pay a fee of 60 euros (€30 for lunches/coffee and tea and €30 for the conference dinner).



## Description

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During the Autumn School, keynote lectures will be given by Dr. Mona Abdel-Fadil (University of Oslo), Dr. Bettina Gräf (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Dr. Cornelis van Lit (Utrecht University), Mirjam Shatanawi MA (Stichting Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen) and Prof. Jo Van Steenberghe (Ghent University). The keynote speakers will chair panel sessions, during which PhD candidates and research master students can present their research related to the theme of the Autumn School. A presentation should take 15 minutes, and will be followed by a 15-minute Q&A session led by the chair.

Participants of the Autumn School are required to read a selection of important readings that will be prescribed by the keynote speakers.

Participants (PhD candidates and research master students) are required to:

For 3 EC:

- read the prescribed literature in advance, you will be asked to reflect on the literature during the lectures and the workshop
- hand in at least one question related to each article
- give a presentation in one of the panel sessions

For an additional 2 EC:

- make an assignment during the workshop 'First Steps in Digital Humanities for Islamic and Middle East Studies' and an additional assignment to be handed in after the NISIS Autumn School. More details will follow.

## Theme

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In 2012, the noted scholar of literature and digital humanist Jerome McGann wrote that "traditional programs are graduating Ph.D. students with no programmatic training in the tools and resources that have already become a regular part of their scholarly and educational lives... If our curricula and students are to be taken seriously in a globally digitized world, our undergraduate and graduate programs of study will have to be critically re-examined and redesigned" (McGann, 2012: 65). Despite such prophetic calls, study programmes in Islamic



and Middle Eastern Studies have been slow to take up the challenge of reflecting on the ongoing shift to studying digital phenomena and to the digitization of research tools. The NISIS Autumn School 2019 addresses these issues head-on, by showcasing senior scholars of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies who have made digital methods a cornerstone of their research, and by inviting contributors to reflect on the digital dimension of their work. Topics to be addressed will include: fieldwork on the internet (digital Islam, online fatwas, Middle Eastern and Arabic websites, etc.); the analysis of Muslim digital networks; authority, gender and diversity in Muslim digital environments; technical aspects of doing research in the digital age (OA publishing and data management); the rise of Islamicate Digital Humanities (including a workshop introduction to some basic programming tools and web-based portals); and more.

## Course objectives

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- Enlarging and deepening the already existing knowledge of Islam and Muslim societies
- Providing insight and participation in the current academic debate
- Introducing the candidates to an international network of scholars in the field
- Creating an academic community in which research in the field of Islam and Muslim societies can be optimally pursued
- Mediating between a new generation of researchers and innovative disciplinary and interdisciplinary developments, theoretical and methodological initiatives and explorations in the field
- Training presentation, writing and reflection skills.

## Time Table

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Monday, 28 October

13:00-14:00: Keynote 1 Cornelis van Lit

14:00-15:00: Keynote 2 Mirjam Shatanawi

15:00-17:00: Panel 1 Mirjam Shatanawi

Tuesday, 29 October

9:30-12:30: Keynote 3 Mona Abdel-Fadil and panel 2 Mona Abdel-Fadil

13:30-17:30: Panel 3 Jo Van Steenberg

17.30-18.30: Keynote 4 Jo Van Steenberg

18.30-: Conference dinner

Wednesday, 30 October

9:30-17:30: Workshop Digital Humanities Cornelis van Lit



Thursday, 31 October

9:30-12:30: Keynote 5 Bettina Gräf and panel 4 Bettina Gräf

Please make sure to be informed about program details and updates via our website:

[www.nisis.nl](http://www.nisis.nl).

## Mode of instruction

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- Lecture
- Workshops
- Presentation

## Course load

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Total course load for the course is 84 + 56 hours.

For 3 EC:

Lectures during the school: 35 hours

Preparation presentation: 27 hours

Preparation literature: 20 hours

Preparation discussant: 2 hours

For an additional 2 EC:

Assignment: 56 hours

## Assessment method

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PhD candidates and research master students will be judged on the basis of:

- Attendance and active participation at the keynote lectures and workshops
- presentation in a workshop **and/or** role as discussant in one of the presentations of the other PhD candidates or research master students
- an assignment during the workshop on Wednesday and afterwards (see next section for requirements).

## Assignment requirements

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T.b.a.



## Reading list

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T.b.a.

## Application

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You can apply for participation in the NISIS Autumn School 2019 as soon as a call for application has been opened. This will be announced on the NISIS website ([www.nisis.nl](http://www.nisis.nl)). Please note that the number of available places is restricted.

NISIS junior members qualify automatically, but due to the limited number of participants, also need to apply for participation for the NISIS Autumn School via [www.nisis.nl](http://www.nisis.nl).

Please note that participants from outside of the Netherlands who are not a member of NISIS pay a fee of 60 euros (€30 for lunches/coffee and tea and €30 for the conference dinner).

## Website

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[www.nisis.nl](http://www.nisis.nl)