



Course description: NISIS Autumn School 2019

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

Admission requirements

PhD candidates and research master students active in the field of Islamic Studies may apply for admission via www.nisis.nl.

NISIS junior members qualify automatically, but due to the limitation in the number of participants, they also need to apply via www.nisis.nl. **The application deadline 2 September 2019.**

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

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 Steenbergen (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. In addition, for each presentation, one of the participants acts as discussant and prepares questions for his/her fellow participants. Finally, participants of the Autumn School are asked to read a selection of important readings that will be prescribed by the keynote speakers.

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

For 3 EC:

- read the prescribed literature in advance, so that you will be able to contribute to the discussion of the literature during the lectures and the workshop
- give a presentation of max. 15 minutes in one of the panel sessions
- act as discussant for one of the presentations

For an additional 2 EC:

- write a paper in which your own research is related to the theme of the Autumn School (requirements can be found below)

Theme

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 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

- 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.

Timetable

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 Steenbergen

17.30-18.30: Keynote 4 Van Steenbergen

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 programme details and updates via our website:

www.nisis.nl.

Mode of instruction

- Lecture
- Workshops
- Presentation

Course load

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

For 3 EC

Lectures during the school: 27 hours

Preparation presentation: 23 hours

Preparation literature: 4 hours

Preparation discussant: 2 hours

For an additional 2 EC

Paper: 56 hours

Assessment method

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 role as discussant in one of the presentations of the other PhD candidates or research master students
- a paper afterwards (see next section for requirements).

Paper requirements

The objective of the reflexive essay is to relate the theme of the Autumn School as presented in the keynote lectures to your own research. To this purpose, you choose at least one keynote lecture and follow these instructions:

A. As a first step, you write a short introductory section. In the first subsection of the introduction you present the objectives, research question and subject matter of you own research in max. 200-

400 words. In the next subsection (max. 300-600 words) you explain to what purpose you have selected the articles and keynote lecture(s) from the Autumn School to apply to your own research.

B. The next section of 1500 to 2000 words consists of a few paragraphs in which you answer, for each of the articles and keynote lecture(s), the following questions:

- Which key theories, concepts and ideas are addressed?
- What are the main questions and problems that are addressed?
- What is the nature and content of the empirical data/sources that are analyzed and how is (the analysis) of the data organized?

C. The next section of 1500 to 2000 words is dedicated to a two-step ‘what if’ exercise in creativity:

1. For each of the selected articles and keynote lecture(s) you ask yourself: If you were to apply the approach/ line of argument etc. to your own research, what new questions would you ask of your data, and what kind of data would you have to collect alternatively or additionally? If you were to adopt the approach/focus etc. of the article to develop an argument along similar lines on the basis your own material, what might that argument look like?
2. For each of the possibilities that you can come up with, you reflect on the pro’s and con’s and take stock of and explain which options are interesting and feasible to follow up on.

D. In the concluding section you take stock of how the theme of the Autumn School, most concretely how the articles and key note lecture(s) selected, shed new light on and/or have been helpful for your own research.

In total, the length your essay should be **between 3500 to 5000 words**.

Reading list

T.b.a.

Application

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). Please note that the number of available places is restricted. **Application deadline: 2 September 2019.**

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Website

www.nisis.nl