Course Description:
NISIS Summer School 2021

Title	Spoken images of/in Islam: Languages and Translations in Texts and Images
Academic year	2020-2021
Location	Catania, Italy
EC	3-5
Level	600
Language	English
Keynote Speakers	Helge Daniëls (KU Leuven), Edhem Eldem (Boğaziçi University & College de France), Berfin Emre Cetin (London College of Communication), Christian Junge (Philipps Universität Marburg), Carmen Pérez González (Bergische Universität Wuppertal) and Ali Sonay (Universität Bern)
Hosted by	University of Catania

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 limited number of participants, also need to apply for participation for the NISIS Summer School via nisis.nl or by sending an email to nisis@uu.nl. Below you'll find the list of documents that

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is required for application. For more information about travel allowances, please contact Dorieke Molenaar (d.molenaar@uu.nl).

Description

The NISIS Summer School is usually organised in cooperation with several foreign research institutions and preferably takes place where these sister institutions are based. The programme consists of lectures by keynote speakers in the morning and parallel workshops in the afternoon. In the workshops, a selection of international PhD candidates and research master students present their research in relation to the general theme of the Summer School and act as discussants.

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

For 3 EC:
- read the prescribed literature in advance;
- give a presentation (15 minutes) in one of the afternoon workshops and act as **discussant*** for the presentations of one of the other participants.

For an additional 2 EC:
- write an essay in which you elaborate on your presentation and include feedback and insights gained during the Summer School (requirements can be found below).

*As a **discussant** during the Summer School, you are required to:
- carefully study the readings as prescribed by the keynote speakers in advance;
- prepare questions for discussion in advance in which you relate the topic of the presentation to the prescribed readings;
- pose the first question about the presentation;
- actively participate in and contribute to the discussion.

Theme

The main objective of this school is to investigate the image-text relations in Muslim traditions by applying to different genres of images and texts and by thinking about

how they are affected by translation or interpretation. The Summer School will bring together advanced academics and lecturers from different disciplines with doctoral and MA students to explore how the transfer of texts and images move from one culture to another in Muslim societies and beyond; and in what ways language functions as a mediator in this process.

Translation is an integral part of any culture, and Muslim societies are no exception. The Summer School attempts to investigate the extent to which ideology can impact the translator's style and selection of words that will, accordingly, shape the receivers' worldviews. For instance, in mediaeval times Arabic scholars translated Greek philosophical and medical works and employed this knowledge in their elaboration of Islamic sciences. Translations or rather adaptations of Western works, inspired Muslim scholars, writers and artists in the nineteenth century to produce new hybrid scholarly and artistic amalgamation of their own. Take for example, the heavy debates among Muslim scholars regarding the translation of the Qur'an throughout history. The debate has diminished and the translation of the Qur'an in almost all world languages is now reality. Also, western technologies of figurative painting and photography were introduced in the nineteenth century in the Middle East; they became striving media in the hands of local actors and practitioners. Today, Turkish television series conquer Netflix in adapted, dubbed and subtitled versions. What are the consequences of transferring a medium to another cultural context? Young researchers are stimulated to think about such questions by taking the textual and visual languages of Muslim societies as transmitters in this process throughout history.

Because they belong to a non-verbal system of representations, figurative images require specific methods of analysis taking into account the ambiguity of the meaning they project and the ways they are shaped by pre-established visual schemes and codes. Together, we aim to develop our skills pertaining to critical academic analysis and positioning the agency of texts and images in Islamic societies, their authorship and dissemination; and how this transfer impacts what texts and images may represent. This hypothesizes, for example, that images are mediated translations of reality, staged and edited before reaching their audience. In this sense we require participants to think about the question how images frequently function in association with words, through titles, captions and labels, since gathering and composing additional information about images and words has the power to transform their message. The specifics of visual

communication acquire extra weight in cultures that had long lived under a regime of aniconism, as is the case of the Sunni Muslim world.

The Summer School will also offer PhD and MA students the opportunity to develop research questions for their theses and/or present their research projects by singling out, describing, and analyzing the main semiotic features of Muslim texts and images and the ways they become a mirror, which may passively and actively reflect the mind of the exegete or the reader. The aim is to jointly further our knowledge of how translation or interpretation of texts, images or filmic materials affects their original meaning. How can we study Muslim texts and images in their different cultural, political, social and religious contexts? How are such translations or interpretations received in Islamic societies in different historical contexts? Can analytical methods grounded in the study of Western imagery be transferred to the analysis of the visual language in the Middle East and other Muslim regions?

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.

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Time Table

Please make sure to be informed about program details and updates via e-mail.

Mode of instruction

- Lecture
- Workshops
- Research

Course load

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

For 3 EC:
Lectures during the school: 40 hours
Reading prescribed literature: 14 hours
Preparation presentation: 27 hours
Preparation discussant: 3 hours

For an additional 2 EC:
Essay: 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 discussant for one of the presentations of others
- a paper afterwards in the form of a reflexive essay (see next section for requirements)

Paper requirements

The objective of the essay to conclude the Summer School, is to get your presentation on paper, process the feedback you received from senior scholars and the other participants and to include new insights from the keynote lectures and literature. To this purpose, you can follow these instructions:

A. Turn your presentation into an essay (including correct bibliographical references – please use one citation style throughout your essay - and footnotes).

B. Reflect on the feedback you received during the Q&A session following your presentation.

C. Process new insights gained during the Summer School in your essay, most concretely how the key note lecture(s) shed new light on and/or have been helpful for your own research.

In total, the length of your essay should be **between 3000 to 4000 words** (including footnotes and/or intext citations).

Reading list

Please consult the program booklet for the latest updates.

Application

The deadline for application is 1 April 2021. You can either send an email to nisis@uu.nl or register via 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 Summer School via www.nisis.nl.

Are you a NISIS junior member?
Your applications must include:
- a title and abstract* of 300 words (max.) of your presentation (15 minutes) to be given at the Summer school
- a short biography* of 50 words (max. in the third person)

If you are not a NISIS junior member, your application must include the following:
- a CV
- a motivation letter
- a one-page description of your PhD or MA project
- a title and an abstract* of 300 words (max.) of your presentation (15 minutes) to be given at the Summer school
- a short biography* of 50 words (max. in the third person)

*If your application is successful these will be used in the digital program booklet.
Please send your abstract and biography in Word format (.doc or .docx)

Website

www.nisis.nl