



Course Description: NISIS Autumn School 2021



Title	Islamic(ate) Classics From Manuscript to the Digital Age
Academic year	2021-2022
EC	3-5
Level	600
Language	English
Keynote Speakers	Beatrice Gründler (Free University Berlin), Brinkley M. Messick (Columbia University), Ahmed El Shamsy (University of Chicago), Peter Verkinderen (Aga Khan University- ISMC Kitab project)
Hosted by	KU Leuven

Admission requirements

Registration is open for PhD candidates and advanced MA students. Those whose research is germane to the topic are especially invited to contribute. You can register for the NISIS Autumn School 2021 via www.nisis.nl. The application deadline is **10 September 2021**.

NISIS junior members qualify automatically, but also need to register for participation for the NISIS Autumn School via www.nisis.nl.

In addition to the Autumn School program, NISIS junior members are invited to register for our regular **one-day writing clinic** which will take place during the Autumn School in Leuven on Friday 12 November 2021. You can obtain an additional 1 EC by participating in the writing clinic. In order to register, please send a description of the chapter you want to discuss to nisis@uu.nl before **10 September 2021**. Please note that the number of available places is limited. You will receive an e-mail to inform you whether you have been



selected for the clinic. If that is the case, you will be asked to send your updated chapter/paper to nisis@uu.nl around two weeks prior to the Autumn School (deadline t.b.a.).

The NISIS Autumn School has limited funds available to support young researchers on the basis of priority, relevant research and motivations. Please note that successful applicants must arrange their own visa (if applicable), transport and accommodation.

Description

During the Autumn School, keynote lectures will be given by Beatrice Gründler (Free University Berlin), Brinkley M. Messick (Columbia University), Ahmed El Shamsy (University of Chicago), Peter Verkinderen (Aga Khan University London-ISMC Kitab project).

Emad Mohamed (Research Institute of Information & Language Processing, University of Wolverhampton) will be giving a **master class on “Digital Humanities in Arabic and Islamic Studies.”**

For NISIS junior members, we also offer our **one-day writing clinic** which takes place on Friday 12 November. If interested, please get in touch with the NISIS office (nisis@uu.nl).

Theme

Inspired by Ahmed El Shamsy’s recent book, *Rediscovering the Islamic Classics: How Editors and Print Culture Transformed an Intellectual Tradition* (Princeton University Press, 2020), the autumn school will highlight the impact of technological changes on Islamic(ate) primary sources and scholarship not only during the printing age, but up until the current digital era as well. By ‘classics’ we roughly refer to the most significant pre-modern primary sources, which affected and continue to affect Muslim beliefs, religious duties and practices as well as ways of life in different regions.

In the Islamic(ate) learned culture manuscripts remained in normal use for many centuries and even after the invention of modern printing techniques. In recent years, digitization and the application of digital tools have started to exercise a tremendous and ubiquitous impact on the circulation and academic understanding and analysis of these classical sources.

Invited speakers will be asked to reflect on the concept of “Islamic classics,” and how primary texts were produced, shaped, transmitted and transformed throughout Islamic(ate) book history. How did the written culture affect the circulation and interpretation of Islamic(ate) classics through the centuries of Islam? In what ways did the process and implementation of various technologies in the last two centuries transform this written culture in Muslim societies? To what extent did the



physical means of printing and digital tools affect the reception and influence of these primary sources in both the Muslim world and Europe?

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.

Time Table

T.b.a. For the most up-to-date information about the program and further news, please consult our website: www.nisis.nl.

Mode of instruction

- Lecture
- Workshop
- Presentation

Course load

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:

Paper: 56 hours

Assessment method

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

- attendance and active participation at the keynote lectures and panel sessions
- presentation in a panel session and/or role as discussant in one of the presentations of the other PhD candidates or research master students
- a paper to be handed in after the Autumn School (optional; see further details below)

Assignment requirements

Participants of the Autumn School are required to read a selection of 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
- give a presentation in one of the panel sessions
- act as a discussant during one of the presentations

For an additional 2 EC:

- write a paper after the Autumn School; more details will follow.

Reading list

T.b.a.

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Registrations must include the following:

- a title and an abstract of 300 words (max.) of your presentation (15 minutes) to be given at the spring school
- a short biography of max. 50 words in the third person

If you are not a member of NISIS, your registration must also include:

- a CV and a short motivation letter (ca. 1 A4)
- a one-page description of your PhD or MA project

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Website

www.nisis.nl