

Word of Welcome
International Conference “Ignaz Goldziher and His Participants”
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Dear participants in the International Conference “Ignaz Goldziher and His Correspondents”!

I warmly welcome you on behalf of the *CORO*, the *Centrum Orbis Orientalis et Occidentalis* at the University of Göttingen. The Centre is an interdisciplinary platform for the study of ancient and oriental cultures, and one of the hosts of the conference, Sebastian Günther, as well as other participants are longstanding members of the *CORO*.

The topic of the conference, “Ignaz Goldziher and His Correspondents,” is in fact an ideal subject within the *orbis orientalis et occidentalis*. Goldziher’s impressively large correspondence documents essential aspects of the foundational stage in European Oriental and Islamic studies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The wide network of scholarly relationships established by Goldziher represented the *orbis occidentalis* of the humanities of his age, while Goldziher’s and his correspondents’ research was primarily dedicated to the *orbis orientalis*.

There is also some connection between Ignaz Goldziher and the university of Göttingen and the Göttingen academy of science and humanities. Among Goldziher’s correspondents in Göttingen was Julius Wellhausen who frequently communicated with Goldziher and supported him in publishing some of his work by the Göttingen academy, most notably Goldziher’s 1907 edition of the *Kitâb ma’ânî al-nafs*, ‘das “Buch vom Wesen der Seele”.’

I applaud the organizers of this international conference, Heinz-Jürgen Becker, Kinga Dévényi, Sebastian Günther, and Sabine Schmidtke, for having chosen such a fascinating topic of the history of research, and I congratulate them for having set up this impressive program with such a wide range of presenters from many institutions and countries.

Let me wish you a most fruitful conference, illuminating discussions, and a scholarly discourse as enriching as possible.