IAS | INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Virtual Events Series

Scholarly Correspondences: A Window into the DNA of Scholarship

Sabine Schmidtke

Professor, School of Historical Studies

FRIDAY, MARCH 26 AT 11:00 A.M. ET

As consumers of scholarship we are as a rule limited to what has come down to us in published form. If we want to understand the DNA of the final product—what it was that prompted a scholar to approach a certain topic or problem, how he or she selected and analyzed the material at hand, and what guided him or her throughout the process—we need to get our hands on at least some of the material that reflects the genesis of the published work, and this in addition to taking into consideration the wider social, political, and intellectual context a scholar is working in, as well as the material and economic conditions the scholar in question was working under. One genre that is particularly conducive to allow insights into the scholarly production of knowledge is epistolary exchanges. The talk will discuss the potential of these scholarly correspondences for the study of the historiography of "Oriental studies" writ large during the late modern period.

Sabine Schmidtke is a scholar of Islamic intellectual history whose pioneering research has transformed perspectives on the interrelations and connections among different strands of intellectual inquiry, across time, place, religions, and philosophical schools. She has played a central role in the exploration of heretofore unedited and unknown theological and philosophical writings including critical analysis of manuscripts in Arabic, Judeo-Arabic, and Persian. Schmidtke is currently working on the history of Islamic thought in the post-classical period and a comprehensive study of the Muslim reception of the Bible.

IAS 90 YEARS

UPCOMING

APR 22

Nathan Seiberg

Professor, School of Natural Sciences

THURSDAY, APRIL 22 at 3:00 P.M. ET