

## Maktabat al-Khanji Archive Workshop, September 4-5, 2025

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### Said Aljoumani

is Research Associate at Universität Hamburg (Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures) and holds a PhD in Library Studies from Cairo University. He is the author of numerous journal articles as well as books such as *The Library of a Madrasa in Aleppo at the End of the Ottoman Era* (German Orient Institute Beirut, 2020; awarded the 2021 Book Price of the Middle East Librarians Association).

### Güler Doğan Averbek

a faculty member in the Marmara University Department of Turkish Language and Literature, graduated from the Boğaziçi University Department of Turkish Language and Literature. She completed her master's degree at Boğaziçi University with her thesis titled "Tâ'ib Mehmed Çelebi ve Dîvânı" under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Günay Kut and her doctoral studies at Marmara University with her dissertation titled "Edirneli Nazmî Dîvânı," which she prepared under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Orhan Bilgin. She has worked as a researcher at the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture (IRCICA) and lectured at Istanbul Medeniyet University and Istanbul 29 May University. She has conducted various studies on Islamic manuscripts in Türkiye, Germany, the Vatican, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Austria. She is currently studying the manuscript trade mediated by Oskar Rescher (d. 1972).

### Mohammed Ayub Khan

is an independent researcher of South Asian Islam based in Toronto, Canada. His research explores the international connections of Indian Muslim intellectual networks. His most recent academic publication is a co-authored chapter in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy* (2023). He has also published in *the Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, *Sikh Studies*, *Muslim World Book Review* and other publications. He is currently working on a translation of the travelogue of Hyderabad Muslim politician and intellectual Nawab Bahadur Yar Jung. He is also associated with preservation and digitization of archives projects.

### Guy Burak

is the Middle East, Islamic, Jewish and African Studies Librarian at NYU's Elmer Holmes Bobst Library. Most recently, he co-edited with Said Aljoumani and Konrad Hirschler *The Library of Ahmad Pasha al-Jazzar: Book Culture in Late Ottoman Palestine* (Brill 2025) and completed a book manuscript titled *Kanun: Genealogies of Law in the Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Middle East*.

### Moya Carey

(PhD SOAS, 2001) is the Curator of Islamic Collections at the Chester Beatty in Dublin, responsible for a museum collection of c. 6,000 works produced across North Africa and West and South Asia. Her Chester Beatty exhibitions include *Meeting in Isfahan: Vision and Exchange in Safavid Iran* (2022), and *Routes and Realms – al-Masalik wa al-Mamalik; Contemporary Art Response by Dīaa Lagan* (2025). In 2009-2018, Moya worked as the Iran Heritage Foundation Curator for the Iranian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, where she published *Persian Art. Collecting the Arts of Iran for the V&A* (London: V&A, 2017). She is interested in historic visual culture in all media, most particularly the arts of the book, carpets and metalwork, science illustration, and the cultural contexts surrounding later appropriation and museum provenance in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her relevant publications include: "A real mine for all kinds of research': Abraham Yahuda's exchanges with Chester Beatty, and the introduction of Arabic Rare Texts" (A. S. Yahuda as Cultural Broker: Between Near Eastern Philology and the Manuscript Trade, Eds. Stephanie Luescher, Marina Rustow and Samuel Thrope, De Gruyter, forthcoming).

### Garrett Davidson

is Associate Professor of Arabic and Muslim World Studies at the College of Charleston. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He lived and conducted research extensively in Cairo, completing an M.A. in Arabic Studies at the American University in Cairo, and has also lived, studied, and conducted research in Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Malaysia, and India. Garrett's research focuses on the Islamic scholarly tradition, Arabic manuscript culture, and provenance history. He has held fellowships at Princeton University, Yale University, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the Chester Beatty.

### Konrad Hirschler

is Professor of Middle Eastern History at Universität Hamburg (Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures) and previously held professorships of Middle Eastern History at SOAS (University of London) and Freie Universität Berlin.

### Mostafa Hussein

is a faculty member in the Judaic Studies Department at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His scholarship focuses on Jewish-Muslim intersectionalities, shedding light on the complex cultural and historical interconnections between these communities in the Arabic speaking world. Dr. Hussein's forthcoming book titled *Hebrew Orientalism: Jewish Engagement with Arabo-Islamic Culture in Late Ottoman and British Palestine* (Princeton University Press, 2025) provides a nuanced understanding of Hebrew orientalism by focusing on the practical activities of Hebrew writers, such as recuperating the Jewish past in the East, constructing Jewish indigeneity, consolidating Jewish ties to Palestine's landscape, enhancing understanding of the Hebrew Bible, reviving Hebrew language, and undertaking translation projects. He also examines various perceptions of Jews in the Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and the evolution of Jewish imageries from the late nineteenth to late twentieth centuries. Dr. Hussein has recently published a new book titled: *Remembering Jews in Maghrebi and Middle Eastern Media* (Penn State University Press, September 2024).

### Lina Jabali

is a PhD candidate at the École Pratique des Hautes Études–PSL in Paris and Tel Aviv University, under the supervision of Professor Nuria de Castilla and Dr. Ahmad Ighbariah. Her research focuses on the trade in Islamic manuscripts during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with a particular focus on the contributions of Abraham Shalom Yahuda. Alongside her doctoral studies, Lina serves as the cataloger of Islamic manuscripts at the National Library in Jerusalem, where she is also involved in cataloging Yahuda's archive. She teaches a course on manuscript studies at Tel Aviv University and collaborates in the introductory seminar on Arabic codicology with Nuria de Castilla and François Déroche. Her scholarly work integrates codicology, paleography, and philology.

### William J. Kopycki

served as field director for the Library of Congress' Overseas Office in Cairo, Egypt, from 2009-2023, with oversight for acquiring and processing library materials from 22 countries of the Middle East and North Africa, and overseeing the Library's Middle East Cooperative Acquisitions Program (MECAP). He is currently posted as field director for the Nairobi Overseas Office. He holds a Master's degree in Arabic Language and Literature from the American University in Cairo, and an MLIS from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

### Rana Mikati

is Associate Professor of Islamic History at the College of Charleston. She holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago and trained as an archaeologist at both the American University of Beirut and the University of Chicago, specializing in Islamic archaeology. Her research focuses on the cultural and intellectual history of the eastern Mediterranean in the early medieval period, with particular attention to early Islamic frontiers, warfare, and material culture. Her recent book, *Creating an Islamic City: Beirut, Jihad, and the Sacred* (March 2024), examines the intersection of urban development, religious ideology, and the transformation of Beirut into an Islamic city.

### Valentina Sagaria Rossi

is Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. She is a leading expert in Arabic manuscript studies, codicology, and the transmission of classical Arabic texts, with a distinguished career spanning over three decades. From 1990 to March 2023, she served as Chief Curator of the Arab-Islamic Department (Leone Caetani Legacy) at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Rome. Her scholarly contributions include over 40 publications, among them critical editions, translations, and studies such as *Kitab al-amthal* (Naples, 2004), *Libri islamici in controtuce* (Rome, 2008), and the co-authored handbook *I manoscritti in caratteri arabi* (2012) with François Déroche, the most comprehensive guide on Arabic manuscript traditions. From 2009 to 2014, she was a member of the European COMSt network (Comparative Oriental Manuscripts Studies), Team Codicology and Palaeography. Between 2017 and 2024, she initiated and coordinated the AMBULO project (Arabic Manuscripts in the Bologna University Library Online), focused on the digitization, study, and online cataloguing of 480 Arabic manuscripts held by the Bologna University Library. Since April 2018, she has been collaborating with the Zaydi Manuscript Tradition (ZMT) project led by Sabine Schmidtke at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton, playing a pivotal role in the recognition, digitization, and study of over 3,100 Arabic-Yemeni manuscripts in Italian collections. In May 2019, she was a visitor at the IAS School of Historical Studies, Princeton, and since August 2020, she holds the position of Senior Research Associate there.

### Walid Saleh

is Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Toronto. He is a specialist on the Qur'an and the history of its interpretation. He has published on the Qur'an, Tafsir, the Bible in the Islamic tradition, and apocalyptic literature. In addition to many articles, he has published two books, *The Formation of the Classical Tafsir Tradition* (Brill, 2004) and *In Defense of the Bible* (Brill, 2008).

### Deborah Schlein

is the Near Eastern Studies librarian at Princeton University Library. She received her PhD in 2019 from Princeton's Near Eastern Studies department where she wrote her dissertation on the history of Graeco-Arabic medicine in Mughal and colonial India, focusing on the production and use of Arabic and Persian medical manuscripts. As Near Eastern Studies librarian, she works closely with researchers focusing on the Middle East, North Africa, and the broader Islamic world. She is a senior fellow in the Andrew Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography at the University of Virginia's Rare Book School.

### Sabine Schmidtke

is Professor of Islamic Intellectual History in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ. Her main research areas and topics are Islamic Studies, Islamic and Jewish Intellectual History, Bible in Arabic, Judeo-Arabic, Shiism, Zaydiyya, Islamic Theology (kalam), Islamic manuscripts, Muslim reception of the Bible, Islamic philosophy, History of Oriental Studies, Geniza, Yemen and the History of Libraries.