

S.T. Lee Conference and Lecture

10-12 December 2025

Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton NJ

One Century of “Oriental” and Semitic Studies, 1830 through 1933 (and beyond): Scholarly Networks, Trajectories and Concepts¹

Convened by

Dorothea Weltecke (Humboldt University, Berlin)

Sabine Schmidtke (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton NJ)

Speakers' and Chairs' Short Biographies

Yury Arzhanov

holds a PhD in history of philosophy from the University of St. Petersburg. He has held positions at universities in Germany and Austria, as well as at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. He is currently a lecturer and researcher at the University of Salzburg, where his work focuses on Late Antique Syriac translations of Greek philosophy, particularly the Christian Oriental reception of Aristotle's logic.

Paul Babinski

is an assistant professor in the Department of Religion at the University of Georgia. He completed his PhD at Princeton in 2020 and was a postdoctoral researcher with the ERC project "The European Qur'an" at the University of Copenhagen from 2020 to 2024. He is currently writing a book on the practice of reading the Qur'an in early modern Europe.

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Peri Bearman

is at present Editor-in-Chief and Editor of Islamic West Asia of *JASPA* (formerly *JAOS*), as well as the society's essay series, and Acquisitions Editor for Arabic and Islamic Studies at Gorgias Press. She is widely known as an editor of major works of scholarship on Islamic Studies, inter alia, of the second edition of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* and of *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Politics*. She is the author of *A Guide to a Life of Moral Integrity: An Annotated Translation of Bustān al- 'ārifīn by Abū al-Layth al-Samarqandī* (Gorgias Press, 2025), *A History of the Encyclopaedia of Islam* (Lockwood Press, 2018) and co-editor of *The Ashgate Research Companion to Islamic Law* (Ashgate, 2014), *The Law Applied: Contextualizing the Islamic Shari'a* (I.B. Tauris, 2008), and *The Islamic School of Law: Evolution, Devolution, and Progress* (ILSP, Harvard Law School, 2005).

Sonja Brentjes

is a historian of science who currently investigates the corpus of 'Abd al- Rahman al-Sufi's Book on the Constellations and teaches at the Interdisciplinary Center for Science and Technology of the University Wuppertal a course for history students on the sciences in Islamicate societies from the 8th to the 17th century. She has broadly published on history of institutions, mathematical, mapmaking, traveling, cross-cultural relations, and historiographical issues.

Rainer Brunner

is Directeur de recherche at the Laboratoire d'études sur les monothéismes (CNRS / LEM) in Paris. In the past, he was Visiting Professor for Islamic Studies in Heidelberg and fellow of the Institutes for Advanced Study in Princeton and Jerusalem. His main fields of research are the history and theology of Shiite Islam, the relations between Sunnites and Shiites in modern times, the intellectual history of Muslim modernism, and the history of Oriental Studies. His main publications include, besides numerous articles, *Islamic Ecumenism in the 20th Century: The Azhar and Shiism between Rapprochement and Restraint* (2004; Arabic translation Cairo 2015), the edited handbook *Islam. Einheit und Vielfalt einer Weltreligion* (2016) and *Die Schia und die Koranfälschung* (2001, revised second edition in preparation). He is the editor-in-chief of the journal *Die Welt des Islams* (Brill, Leiden).

Thomas E. Burman

is Robert M. Conway Director Emeritus of the Medieval Institute and Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of *Religious Polemic and the Intellectual History of the Mozarabs, c. 1050-1200* (1994); *Reading the Qur'an in Latin Christendom, 1140-1560* (2007); and, with Brian A. Catlos and Mark D. Meyerson, of *The Sea in the Middle: The Mediterranean World, 650-1650* (2022). With Sergio LaPorta, Alison Vacca et al., he is editor and translator of *A Connecting Polemic in the Medieval Mediterranean: The Correspondence of Leo III and 'Umar II* (2025). He is currently writing a book entitled

Beyond the Mediterranean: The Intellectual Venture of Ramon Martí OP, 1250-84. His research has been supported by fellowships from the Rockefeller and Guggenheim Foundations as well as the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2025-26 he is a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

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.

Nora Derbal

is assistant professor of Islamic Studies at Hamburg University. Before moving to Hamburg in July 2024, she has lived ten years in the Middle East, where she worked for the Orient-Institute Beirut and held postdoc positions at the American University of Cairo and at the Martin Buber Society of Fellows at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Nora holds a PhD in Islamic Studies from Freie Universität Berlin and has studied Islamic Studies and History at Freie and Humboldt University in Berlin, Oxford University and King Abd al-Aziz University in Jeddah. She has published two books about charity and civil society activism in Saudi Arabia and articles on themes of Saudi youth activism, women and pop culture on the Arabian Peninsula. Currently she is writing a book about the life and works of the German Orientalist Heinrich von Maltzan.

Vincent Engelhardt

earned a BA in Islamic Studies from Freie Universität Berlin, where he worked on the reconstruction of former Palestinian manuscript libraries within the so-called Abandoned Property collection of the National Library of Israel. Vincent is currently pursuing a Research Master in Middle Eastern Studies at Leiden University, focusing on how German Orientalists collected Islamic antiquities in the Middle East during the early twentieth century.

Mathias Ghyoot

is a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, studying the social and intellectual history of the modern Middle East and South Asia. His work centers on radical politics, anti-colonialism, and religious activism, and he has written extensively on the history of Islamism. Mathias is also the co-founder of Arsheef.

Hanan Harif

specializes in modern Jewish history and the cultural-intellectual worlds of nationalism. His research examines Arab-Jewish encounters, educational institutions, German-Jewish Orientalism, and transnational academic networks. A faculty member at Tel-Hai Academic College (soon to become the University of the Galilee), he has published on pan-Asianism and pan-Semitism in Zionist discourse and on the circulation of knowledge between Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia. His book “*Anashim Achim Anachnu*”: *The Turn to the East in Zionist Thought* appeared in 2019. He is currently working on a biography of S. D. Goitein.

Stefan Heidemann

since 2011 Professor of Islamic Studies at Universität Hamburg, and director of “RomanIslam Center of Comparative Empire and Transcultural Studies” in Hamburg (2020-2027). Before that he was PI of the ERC Advanced Grant Project “The Early Islamic Empire at Work – The View from the Regions Toward the Center” (2014-2019), and is still editor-in-chief of the Journal *Der Islam*. Formerly he served as Associate Curator of Islamic Art at the Metropolitan Museum and taught as Professor of Islamic History and Material Culture at The Bard Graduate Center, New York.

Important for the conference may be that he taught before his move to America as assistant and associate professor (wissenschaftlicher Assistant) at Jena University between 1994 and 2010, where he submitted his habilitation, the German second thesis on the Renaissance of Cities in Northern Mesopotamia during the Seljuq period. During this time he was also responsible for the almost forgotten Oriental Coin Cabinet of the university founded by Johann Gustav Stickel. He rebuilt to a modern historical research instrument and started its digitization. This work required an intensive archival work on provenance, and the personal writings and correspondences of Stickel.

Lina Jabali

is a PhD candidate at the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris and Tel Aviv University. 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 her scholarly work integrates codicology, paleography, and philology of Islamic manuscripts.

Augustin Jomier

is a social and cultural historian of Modern North Africa (18-20th c.). Associate professor in the Arabic Studies Department at INaLCO, he teaches the Early Modern and Modern history of North Africa, and the Middle East. His first book, *Islam, Reform, and Colonialism: a*

history of Algerian Ibadis (1882-1962), explores the issue of Islamic reform at a local scale, from the Mزاب region in Southern Algeria, a French colony at that time. His current research project includes a social, cultural, and political history of libraries in modern North Africa (19-20th century). In the meantime, he has been led a collaborative research project on the Arabist and Berberist René Basset (1855-1924) and the history of orientalism in colonial North Africa, the subject of his talk today.

Marion Holmes Katz

is a Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at NYU, where she has been teaching since 2002. She received a PhD from the University of Chicago and has taught at Franklin and Marshall College and Mount Holyoke College. Her work focuses on the history of Islamic legal thought, primarily in the 11th-15th centuries CE, with an emphasis on issues of gender and ritual. Her publications include *The Birth of the Prophet Muhammad: Devotional Piety in Sunni Islam* (2007), *Prayer in Islamic Thought and Practice* (2013), *Women in the Mosque* (2014), and *Wives and Work: Islamic Law and Ethics Before Modernity* (2022).

George A. Kiraz

is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and teaches Syriac at Princeton University. He has written extensively on Syriac Studies, computational linguistics and the digital humanities. His latest book, *Algorithmic Musings in Syriac*, is an edition and translation of a mathematical poem attributed to George of the Arabs.

Henri Lauzière

is Associate Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History at Northwestern University. His first book, *The Making of Salafism: Islamic Reform in the Twentieth Century* (2016), traces the history of the conceptualization of Salafism. At IAS, he is writing his second book about another abstraction—reason—and how our conception of it affects the way in which we tell the history of modern Islamic thought.

Amit Levy

is a Martin Buber Postdoctoral Fellow in the Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research focuses on the history of knowledge and migration and their impact on cross-cultural encounters. He earned his PhD from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2021, and has held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Oxford, the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the Open University of Israel and the University of Haifa. His book *A New Orient: From German Scholarship to Middle Eastern Studies in Israel* (Brandeis University Press, 2024) received the Jordan Schnitzer First Book Publication Award, administered by the Association for Jewish Studies.

Bernhard Maier

was born in 1963 and studied Comparative Religion and Celtic, Indo-European and Semitic languages at the Universities of Freiburg, Aberystwyth (Wales), and Bonn. From 2004 to 2006, he was Professor in Celtic at the University of Aberdeen. Since 2006, he has been Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Tübingen. He has a special interest in the history of Oriental Studies in the 19th century, having published several monographs on William Robertson Smith, William Wright, and Theodor Nöldeke.

Sabine Mangold-Will

is a research associate at the Otto von Bismarck Foundation (Otto-von-Bismarck-Stiftung) in Friedrichsruh (near Hamburg) and she teaches modern and contemporary history (Neuere und Neueste Geschichte) as an associate professor (apl. Prof.) at the University of Wuppertal (Bergische Universität Wuppertal), focusing on the political and cultural history of the German Empire and the Weimar Republic. Her research interests have focused on the history of German Oriental studies and German-Turkish relations during the 19th century and the Weimar Republic, with a particular emphasis on the role of German-Jewish scholars and transnational transfers. Recently she has published on the history of Monarchy in Germany and the Berlin Africa Conference 1884/5.

Adam Mestyan

is a historian of the modern Middle East and the Ford Foundation Professor of Middle Eastern Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University. His research and teaching focus on how globalization and war have shaped Arab societies and cultures—especially Egypt, Syria, and the Red Sea region—from the late Ottoman Empire to today. He is the author of *Modern Arab Kingship - Remaking the Ottoman Political Order in the Interwar Middle East* (Princeton, 2023); *Primordial History, Print Capitalism, and Egyptology in Nineteenth-Century Cairo* (Ifao, 2021); and *Arab Patriotism: The Ideology and Culture of Power in Late Ottoman Egypt* (Princeton, 2017).

Omer Michaelis

is an Associate Professor of Jewish Philosophy at Tel Aviv University, where he chairs the Department of Jewish Philosophy and Talmud and serves as the Head of the Cymbalista Jewish Heritage Center. His research focuses on the history of philosophical and theological thought in the early medieval Islamic world, the Judeo-Arabic literature of the Middle Ages, and the intellectual history of Muslims and Jews in Muslim Spain. His recent publications include *Crisis Discourse and the Dynamics of Tradition in Maimonides' Oeuvre* (Magnes Press), recipient of the 2025 Matanel Prize, and *Interiority & Law: Bahya ibn Paquda and the Concept of Inner Commandments* (Stanford UP), both monographs published in 2023.

Athina Pfeiffer

is a fourth-year PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. She is writing a dissertation on notaries in the medieval Islamicate Mediterranean (10th-14th century) and is working with sources in Arabic, Persian, and Judeo-Arabic. Athina works primarily with documents and manuscripts, and is a co-founder of the online project Arsheef, which provides information on libraries and archives across the Muslim world.

Annca Pielenhofer

is a historian of science with a background in History and Jewish Studies. She is currently a PhD candidate at the Research School *Knowledge and its Resources: Historical Reciprocities* at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, as well as in the Department of Media Studies at Humboldt University of Berlin. Her dissertation traces the development of Sabaeen Studies and examines broader questions of disciplinary specialisation in the humanities, focusing in particular on how epigraphic media shape not only the interpretation of ancient inscriptions but also the production of European scholarly authority over distant pasts.

Rubina Raja

is a Professor of Classical Archaeology and Art at Aarhus University and Director of the Centre for Urban Network Evolutions (UrbNet), a Danish National Research Foundation Centre of Excellence. An internationally recognized scholar, she specializes in urban development, religion, and visual culture in the ancient Mediterranean and Near East. Raja leads major interdisciplinary projects, including the Palmyra Portrait Project, which has created the most comprehensive corpus of funerary portraiture from the oasis city of Palmyra. Other of her current projects include an investigation of the Danish archaeological engagement in the Middle East between the 19th and 20th centuries and the development of archaeological funding structures and their impact on research development. Her work bridges archaeology, history, natural sciences and digital humanities, advancing global understanding of cultural heritage and ancient social networks.

Christoph Rauch

is the head of Oriental Department, Berlin State Library (since 2010). At the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Christoph Rauch initiated and coordinated several projects and activities in the field of digitization and cataloging Oriental manuscripts. Currently he leads the DFG-funded project to establish a Union catalog of Oriental manuscripts in German collections (www.qalamos.net). His publications include *Oriental Manuscripts in Germany. Collection Histories between Academic Curiosity, Commercial Ambitions and Imperialism*. Berlin: de Gruyter (forthcoming 2026) (with Ute Pietruschka and Torsten Wollina) and *Heinrich Friedrich von Diez: Briefwechsel*. Berlin, de Gruyter, forthcoming 2026 (ed. with Arne Klawitter) (*Werkprofile, Philosophen und Literaten des 17. und 18. Jahrhunderts*; 13).

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 controluce* (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.

Jens Scheiner

is a full professor (W3) of Islamic Studies at the University of Göttingen, Germany. His work focuses on the political, cultural, and religious history of the Middle East from Late Antiquity to the post-classical period (600–1500). In addition, he conducts research on Hadith literature and he specializes in isnād-cum-matn analysis according to Harald Motzki's methodology. Outside the university setting, Jens Scheiner is involved in teacher training, school projects, and offers intercultural competence training.

His latest publication is the handbook *Baghdad. From Its Beginnings to the 14th Century* (Brill 2022), which he edited together with Professor Isabel Toral.

Currently a monograph on Josef Horovitz is under review by Mohr Siebeck (to published in 2026).

Sabine Schmidtke

is Professor of Islamic Intellectual History in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ since 2014. Her research areas include Islamic and Jewish Intellectual History, the Arabic Bible, and history of "Oriental" studies.

Stefan Schorch

is Professor at the Department of Bible, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His publications include *Euphemismen in der Hebräischen Bibel*. Wiesbaden: Verlag Otto

Harrassowitz, 2000 (Orientalia Biblica et Christiana; 12); *Die Vokale des Gesetzes: Die samaritanische Lesetradition als Textzeugin der Tora. Band 1: Genesis*. Berlin; New York: de Gruyter, 2004 (Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft; 339); *The Samaritan Pentateuch: A critical editio maior, vol. 1: Genesis*. Berlin / Boston: de Gruyter, 2021; *The Samaritan Pentateuch: A critical editio maior, vol. 3: Leviticus*. Berlin / Boston: de Gruyter, 2018; *Samaritan languages, texts, and traditions*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2025 (Studia Samaritana; 8).

Amy Singer

(Ph.D. Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, 1989) holds the Hassenfeld Chair in Islamic Studies and is Professor in the Department of History, and professor emerita in the Department of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University.

Her research began with an in-depth study of the relations between Ottoman officials and Palestinian peasants, published as *Palestinian peasants and Ottoman officials* (Cambridge, 1994). A second monograph, *Constructing Ottoman Beneficence* (Albany, 2002), focused on the Haseki Sultan *waqf*, an endowed public kitchen (*imaret*) founded in mid-sixteenth-century Jerusalem by the wife of Sultan Suleyman I. This led to broader questions about Islam and philanthropy, and the monograph *Charity in Islamic Societies* (Cambridge, 2008).

Singer's research now focuses on the Ottoman city of Edirne (Byzantine Adrianople) in the half century before the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453. Through a study of this early Ottoman capital, the project revisits our understand of the early Ottoman state, its capital city, and the nature of Ottoman rise.

Bruna Soravia

Born in Naples, she holds a degree in Romance Literature from the University of Naples (1984) and a degree in Islamic Studies from the Istituto Universitario Orientale of Naples (1988). She earned her Ph.D. in Arabic Studies at the Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris III in 1998.

A historian of classical Islam, she has written extensively on the history and culture of al-Andalus. Her most recent work includes an annotated translation, accompanied by an introductory study, of the *Iḥkām ṣanʿat al-kalām*, a treatise on epistolary rhetoric by the Almoravid secretary Ibn ʿAbd al-Gafur al-Kalaʿi (Cordoba, 2023) Ibn Ḥazm.

She has taught at several international and Italian institutions, including Yale University (New Haven, 1993), Université Lyon 2 (2001–2002), LUISS University (2004–2015), and the University of Perugia (2008–2012). She serves on the editorial board of the academic journal *Arabica* and contributes regularly to Italian cultural and literary reviews. Her current research and writing projects include participation in the international project “Intellectuals Displaced from Fascist Italy” (<https://intellettualinfuga.com/>), directed by Patrizia Guarnieri, which examines the trajectories of Italian scholars forced into exile during the Fascist period.

SherAli Tareen

is Professor of Religious Studies at Franklin and Marshall College and was a [member](#) in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ during the last academic year. His first book [Defending Muhammad in Modernity](#) (University of Notre Dame Press, 2020) received the American Institute of Pakistan Studies 2020 [Book Prize](#) and was selected as a [finalist](#) for the 2021 American Academy of Religion Book Award in the Analytical-Descriptive Studies Category. His second book called [Perilous Intimacies: Debating Hindu-Muslim Friendship after Empire](#) (Columbia University Press, 2023) was selected as a finalist for the 2024 American Academy of Religion Book Award in the Textual Studies category. His third book *Shah Waliyullah: Aspirations and Tensions of Islamic Cosmopolitanism* is scheduled to be published in Oneworld Publications' *Makers of the Muslim World* series in June 2026.

Peter Tarras

studied Philosophy, Islamic Studies, and Near and Middle Eastern Studies in Kiel, Munich and Sheffield. In 2024, he completed his PhD in Philosophy and Judaic Studies. He is currently a post-doctoral researcher in the ERC project "MAJLIS: The Transformation of Jewish Literature in Arabic in the Islamicate World". Previously, he has worked in two DFG projects based at the University of Würzburg, the "Arabic and Latin Glossary", and the "Arabic and Latin Corpus". Peter researches pre-modern manuscript traditions, primarily in Arabic and especially of Christian and Jewish communities of the Islamic world, from the perspectives of book history, institutional history, and intellectual history. He is particularly interested in scribal culture, materiality, and textual practices as well as the emergence of manuscript collections. In addition, his research has a strong focus on provenance and the present-day significance of cultural heritage objects. Peter is also an academic blogger and committed to communicating research in non-academic contexts. He is responsible as an editor for the "Biblia Arabica Blog", and the "Munich Research Centre for Jewish Arabic Cultures Blog" and "Newsletter". Since 2023, Peter is running the blog and resource site "Membra Dispersa Sinaitica", which is dedicated to the dislocated manuscripts of St Catherine's Monastery at Mount Sinai, Egypt.

Amir Theilhaber

is an associate researcher at the Moses Mendelssohn Center at the University of Potsdam and a postdoctoral researcher in the History Department at Bielefeld University. Theilhaber's research interests include entanglements of modern Middle Eastern and European history, diplomatic and political history, transregional intellectual and cultural history, transnational Jewish history, material culture as alternative archives and everything microhistory. Theilhaber completed his BA in International Affairs in Brussels (2006), his MA in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies in Jerusalem (2009), and his PhD in History at the Technical University of Berlin (2018). As a fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC, he researched the history of Orientalist knowledge circulation between Germany and the

US (2019-2020). He taught courses on the Aryan myth in global contexts at the Center for Antisemitism Studies at the TU Berlin and at the European Summer University for Jewish Studies in Hohenems. He is the author of a book on the Orientalist and German Foreign Minister Friedrich Rosen (De Gruyter, 2020). From 2021 to 2024, he led a research project funded by the German Lost Art Foundation on the provenance of the West and East African collections of the Lippisches Landesmuseum Detmold. Decentring the large ethnological collections of the imperial nodal points, in his habilitation project, he examines the ethnological collection of the Lippisches Landesmuseum as a global microhistory of accumulation, fragmentation, indifference, and contestation from 1835 to the present.

Jan Thiele

is a scholar in Islamic intellectual history and its textual heritage. Using primarily a manuscript-based approach, my work covers the history of the Mu‘tazila school and specifically its reception by the Zaydis, a Shiite community that has primarily survived in Yemen. This was the subject of two books, *Kausalität in der mu‘tazilitischen Kosmologie* (Brill, 2011) and *Theologie in der jemenitischen Zaydiyya* (Brill, 2013), which won the Research Prize of the Annemarie Schimmel-Foundation for Islamic Studies. More recently, my research has focused on Ash‘ari *kalām*, more specifically on one of the school's major figures, Abū Bakr al-Bāqillānī, and on the dissemination of Ash‘ari doctrines in the Maghreb and al-Andalus. I am the co-editor of the volume *Philosophical Theology in Islam: Later Ash‘arism East and West* (along with Ayman Shihadeh; Brill, 2020) and of the journal *Intellectual History of the Islamicate World*. In 2008, I earned a Magister Artium (M.A.) from Freie Universität Berlin. That same year, I joined the interdisciplinary doctoral programme at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, also at Freie Universität Berlin, where I completed and defended my PhD in 2012. I remained at the university for one year as a team member on an ERC Advanced Grant project. In 2013, I began a two-year Marie Curie Fellowship (co-funded by the EU and the Gerda Henkel Foundation), during which I was a Visiting Scholar at SOAS University of London. My second Marie Curie Fellowship—funded by the European Union’s FP7 under the Intra-European Fellowship (IEF) scheme—took me to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid. Following this, I was awarded a Ramón y Cajal Fellowship and became a permanent faculty member in 2021. I have held visiting positions, including a Visitorship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ (October 2017), and a Juynboll Fellowship at the Scaliger Institute, Leiden University (October 2025).

Mirjam Thulin

is Director of Research and Associate Director of the Institute for Advanced Research at the Center for Jewish History, New York. After studying History and Judaic Studies at the Free University of Berlin, she completed her doctorate at the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture in Leipzig in 2011. She then held research and teaching positions at Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) in Mainz, and the University of Potsdam, all in Germany. Postdoctoral positions took her to the

Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA, and the Max Kade Center for European and German Studies at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

Her publications include “Jewish Networks,” *European History Online (EGO)*, ed. by the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz, online and open access; “Institutionalising Wissenschaft des Judentums in Hungary: The Case of the Rabbinical Seminary in Budapest,” in: *Wissenschaft des Judentums in Hungarian Lands*, ed. Viktória Bányai, Gábor Buzási, and Stefan Schorch, 11–29. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2025); “A Doctoral Board for Rabbinical Students? Jewish Students at the Faculty for Oriental Studies at Halle University in the 19th Century,” in *Jüdisches Leben in Sachsen-Anhalt: Kultur, Musik, Gelehrsamkeit*, ed. Regina Randhofer, Carsten Lange, and Kathrin Eberl-Ruf (in German; Halle an der Saale: Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2023), 234–254; “Jewish Families as Intercessors and Patrons: The Case of the Wertheimer Family in the Eighteenth Century,” *Jewish Culture and History* 19 (2018), 39–55; and *Kaufmann's News Service: A Jewish Scholarly Network in the 19th Century* (in German; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2012).

Sofía Torallas Tovar

distinguished visiting professor in the School of Historical Studies since 2024. Her primary research interests are papyrology, Graeco-Roman Egypt, and the history of early Christianity in Egypt. Torallas Tovar has worked extensively on Coptic translations of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament and she is currently collaborating with Anne Boud'hors (IRHT, Paris) on “The Sahidic Versions of the Gospel of Mark: A Critical Edition and Textual History” (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, forthcoming).

Henning Trueper

PhD in History and Civilization EUI Florence, 2008, Habilitation (modern history) University of Zurich, 2018. Postdoctoral researcher, University of Zurich 2009-11; M4Human Marie Curie Fellowship (Gerda Henkel Foundation) at EHESS, Paris, 2012-15; Member, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, 2013-14; lecturer and adjunct lecture Technische Universität Berlin, 2014-16; Core Member, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, 2016-19; senior researcher, Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research (ZfL), Berlin, 2019-2025 (deputy director, 2023-24). PI ERC Consolidator Grant Project "Archipelagic Imperatives: Shipwreck and Lifesaving in European Societies since 1800," 2020-2025. Associate professor for the history of ideas, University of Oslo, from 2025. Selected publications: *Topography of a Method: François Louis Ganshof and the Writing of History* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2014); ed. with Dipesh Chakrabarty, Sanjay Subrahmanyam, *Historical Teleologies in the Modern World* (London: Bloomsbury, 2015); *Orientalism, Philology, and the Illegibility of the Modern World* (London: Bloomsbury, 2020); ed. with Wolfgang Hottner, *Japonismen der Theorie* (Vienna: Turia + Kant, 2021); *Unsterbliche Werte: Über Historizität und Historisierung* (Göttingen: Wallstein, 2024); ed.

with Jonathan Stafford, Burkhardt Wolf, *Moral Seascapes: On the Ethics and Aesthetics of Maritime Emergency* (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2024).

Tamás Turán

teaches Talmud and Rabbinics at the Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, Hungary, and is also a researcher at the Academy of the Hebrew Language in Jerusalem. His research interests include rabbinic literature, the history of the Hebrew book, and the history of Judaic scholarship in Central Europe.

Jacqueline Vayntrub

is an Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Yale Divinity School. She writes on biblical literature, its interpretation, and the history of biblical scholarship; she is the author of *Beyond Orality: Biblical Poetry on its Own Terms* (Routledge, 2019) and *Body Language: Voice, Embodiment, and Textuality in the Hebrew Bible* (Yale University Press, 2026) and is editor of the Library of Hebrew Bible and Old Testament Studies (Bloomsbury), Studies in Cultural Contexts of the Bible (Brill), and the International Critical Commentary (Bloomsbury).

Ismail Warscheid

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