

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)

Program

10 December 2025

8:15 Breakfast

8:45 Welcome

9:00-10:20 Session 1 (chair: Henri Lauziere)

Paul Babinski

A Center of Islamic Studies in Vienna: The Oriental Academy Library, 1754–1938

Rainer Brunner [zoom]

“A man of retiring habits”: Biographical Fragments of Franz Steingass

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Mathias Ghyoot

Reassessing Ḥanbalism in Orientalist Scholarship: Western Interpretations and Islamic Modernist Parallels before Henri Laoust, 1849–1937

10:20-10:40 Coffee Break

10:40-12:00 Session 2 (chair: Paul Babinski)

Stefan Heidemann

A De Sacy Student Returns to Germany, Johann Gustav Stickel (1805–1896)

Nora Derbal

Heinrich von Maltzan: Travel Writer, Philologist and Outsider on the Inside

Peri Bearman

Pioneers and Pathbreaking Corpora: The Late 1800s and Islamic Studies

12:00-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:50 Session 3 (chair: SherAli Tareen)

Valentina Sagaria Rossi

On the Hunt for Arabic Manuscripts: The Correspondence between Carlo A. Nallino and Eugenio Griffini (from 1897 through 1922)

Lina Jabali

Behind the Deals: Abraham Shalom Yahuda and his Agents in Islamic Manuscript Trade between Legitimacy and Manipulation

Garrett Davidson

Between Paris, London, and Cairo: Abraham Shalom Yahuda and Sāmī Amīn al-Khānjī

14:50-15:10 Coffee Break

15:10-16:30 Session 4 (chair: Peri Bearman)

Christoph Rauch

The Correspondence of Heinrich Friedrich von Diez (1751–1817): Ambitions and Limitations of an Amateur Orientalist in the Early 19th Century

Vincent Engelhardt

The Circulation of Islamic Antiquities in the Early Twentieth Century: The Example of Bernhard Moritz

Amir Theilhaber

Transnational Transformations: Oriental Studies between Germany and the US in the long Nineteenth Century

18:00 Conference dinner (Marquand House)

11 December 2025

8:30 Breakfast

9:00-10:20 Session 5 (chair: George A. Kiraz)

Jens Scheiner [zoom]

From “Oriental” Studies to *Islamwissenschaft*: Josef Horowitz’s Impact on German Academia in the early Twentieth Century

Amit Levy

German Orientalism and Political Engagement: Knowledge Production and Arab-Jewish Relations in Mandate Palestine

Athina Pfeiffer and Mathias Ghyoot

The Making of *Hagarism*: Preliminary Findings

10:20-10:40 Coffee Break

10:40-12:00 Session 6 (chair: SherAli Tareen)

Mirjam Thulin

The *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* (ZDMG): A Forum for Jewish Orientalists

Adam Mestyan

Genealogy, Race, Philology: Ignaz Goldziher's "The National Question Among Arabs"

The IAS NES Cohort of 2025/26

Genealogies of Scholars in Near Eastern Studies from 1930 to 1950: Toward a Proof of Concept

12:00-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:50 Session 7 (chair: Marion Katz)

Sonja Brentjes [zoom]

The Journals "Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte der Mathematik, Astronomie und Physik" and "Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte der Mathematik", their Conceptualization and their Scholarly Networks

Tamás Turán

Oriental Rearview Mirror: Late Nineteenth-Century Jewish Orientalists Look at Western Society and Contemporary Jewry

Annca Pielenhofer

Tapping Ancient South Arabia: The Making of Paper Squeezes in Late Nineteenth-Century Sabaean Studies

14:50-15:10 Coffee Break

15:10-16:10 Session 8 (chair: Yury Arzhanov)

George A. Kiraz

The Mustašriq and the Šarqī: The Ethical Terrain of Syriac Biblical Philology

Sofia Torallas Tovar

Disiecta membra: The Dispersion of Papyri and the Birth of Papyrology

17:00 S. T. Lee Lecture (Dorothea Weltecke)

18:30 Reception (3 Newlin Road)

12 December 2025

8:30 Breakfast

9:00-10:20 Session 9 (chair: Ismail Warscheid)

Augustin Jomier [zoom]

What Colonialism Does to Orientalist Scholarship: René Basset and His Networks in Colonial Algeria (1880–1924)

Bernhard Maier [zoom]

The Middle Man: Martin Haug (1827–1876) in India and Europe

Peter Tarras [zoom]

‘The Desire to Possess’: Scholars’ Involvement in the Dispersion of the Eastern Christian Manuscript Heritage of St Catherine’s Monastery

10:20-10:40 Coffee Break

10:40-12:00 Session 10 (chair: Dorothea Weltecke)

Henning Trüper

All Science Some Form of Love? Fringe Orientalism and the Search for Other Others

Bruna Soravia

The Reluctant Jew: Giorgio Levi Della Vida and Italian Judaism, from the Giolitti Era to the Racial Laws (1903–1938)

Jacqueline Vayntrub

Jews, Biblical Philology, and “the Higher anti-Semitism” of the German Academy: The Case of Abraham Heschel and *Die Prophetie*

12:00-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:20 Session 11 (chair: Amy Singer)

Hanan Harif

When Frankfurt Met Sanaa: S. D. Goitein and the Turn of “Jewish Orientalism” in Mandate Palestine

Sabine Mangold-Will

The Librarian Gotthold Weil: Trajectories and Networks of a German Jewish Orientalist between Berlin and Jerusalem

Stefan Schorch

Focusing at the Marginal: The Establishment of Samaritan Studies as a Core Endeavor of *Wissenschaft des Judentums*

Rubina Raja

Oriental Studies, *Islamvidenskab*, and the Archaeology of the Orient: Some Notes on the Danish Engagements in the Region in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Omer Michaelis [zoom]

Fritz (Shlomo Dov) Goitein and his Doctoral Dissertation, “Das Gebet im Qorān”

Jan Thiele [zoom]

The Beginnings of the Journal *Al-Andalus*

15:20-15:40 Final Discussion (chair: Sabine Schmidtke, Dorothea Weltecke)