



**IM@T - Islamicate Manuscripts and Texts Reading Colloquium**  
The Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford  
Tuesdays, 13 October to 1 December 2020



**Convenor:** Dr Arezou Azad, Programme Director, Invisible East, Oriental Institute (<https://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/invisible-east-on-the-trails-of-lapis>); with Tommy Benfey and Dr Zhan Zhang, ERC-Go.Local Post-doctoral Researchers.

**Introduction:**

Islamicate culture, in the words of Marshall Hodgson, refers to “the social and cultural complex historically associated with Islam and the Muslims, both among Muslims themselves and even when found among non-Muslims.” In this colloquium, we will read texts from the Islamicate world, from Nile to Oxus and beyond, written in different languages and scripts of the pre-modern Islamicate world, including Arabic, New Persian, Middle Persian, Pāzand, and Hebrew.

**Meetings:**

Weekly online sessions every Tuesday of Michaelmas Term 2020 of up to 90 mins, each on a new document or set of documents from one part of the Islamicate world. Each session has 2 parts. 1) Speakers in the first 45 minutes give a historiographical, historical, and/or literary context to the texts. Participants do not need to know the primary source language (first 45 minutes). 2) The subsequent 45 minutes are devoted to a close, group reading of the text (s) by participants familiar with the source language. Participants need not attend both parts, and can join whichever part they prefer.

**Schedule:**

**13 October 2020: Arabic deeds of sale and Islamic law in Christian Sicily**

**Jeremy Johns**, Director of the Khalili Research Centre; Professor of the Art & Archaeology of the Islamic Mediterranean

**Nadia Jamil**, Senior Researcher in Arabic, ERC-DocuMult project, Khalili Research Centre

**20 October 2020: Al-Muzani's al-Mukhtasar: An Arabic legal text from 9th century Egypt**

Christopher Melchert, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies

**27 October 2020: In Search of the *Arkand*: Astral Science between India, Sasanian Iran, and the Early Islamicate World**

Tommy Benfey, ERC-Go.Local Post-doctoral Researcher

**3 November 2020: A Zoroastrian Critique of Islam in the Škand Gumānīg Wizār in Pāzand**

Christian Sahner, Associate Professor of Islamic History

**10 November 2020: Embryonic New Persian: two letters by a Jewish Sogdian in eighth-century Khotan**

Zhan Zhang, ERC-Go.Local Post-doctoral Researcher

**17 November 2020: [Jewish Books in the Islamicate World – specific title TBD]**

Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, Director of the Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

**24 November 2020: Book-picking from a Conquered Citadel in the Summer of 1517**

Zeynep Yurekli-Gorkay, Associate Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture

**1 December 2020: Remembering the Barmakids in a Persian Fürstenspiegel**

Arezou Azad, Programme Director, Invisible East and Senior Research Fellow

Pejman Firoozbakhsh, AHRC-PersDoc Post-doctoral Researcher