



Aram Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies

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ARAM Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies Fifty-Eighth International Conference:

**Orientalism and the Levant during the Second Half of the Second
Millennium (1500-2000),**

and

Western Educational Missions in the Levant, 1300-1945

6 – 8 July 2026

Programme

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026

(Venue: The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

Chairperson: **Dr. Shafiq Abouzayd** (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford)

09:00-09:45 **Prof. Dr. Rafaella Pierobon Benoit** (University of Napoli, Italy*)

“THE JOURNEY BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND MARKET.”

09:45-10:30 **Dr. Anne-Marie Misconi** (SOAS, London, UK)

“A SYRIAC CATHOLIC ORIENTALIST IN PARIS: DOMINIQUE BASHIR MISCONI (1892-1961) AND HIS WORK ON AL-FĀRĀĪ’S *KITĀB AL-MŪSĪQĪ AL-KABĪR*.”

10:30-11:00 *Tea/Coffee*

11:00-11:45 **Dr. Michel Al-Maqdissi** (Musée du Louvre, Paris, France)

“THE ACTIVITIES OF MAURICE PILLET (1881-1964) IN 1926 ON THE SYRIAN COAST, AND HIS WORK IN BYBLOS-JBEIL AND AT NOTRE DAME DE TORTOSE-TARTOUS.”

11:45-12:30 **Dr. Erica Hunter** (University of Cambridge)

“THE ERPENIUS COLLECTION OF SYRIAC MANUSCRIPTS IN THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.”

12:30-13:15 **Dr. Carsten Walbiner** (Catholic University of Eichstätt, Germany)

“EARLY MODERN ARABIC PHRASE BOOKS FOR THE LANGUAGE TRAINING OF ORIENTALISTS: A REFLECTION OF THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE ARAB WORLD AND A VEHICLE FOR EXPRESSING THEIR OWN WORLD VIEW IN ARABIC.”

13:15-15:30 *Free time for lunch in the City Centre.*

15:30-16:00 *Tea/Coffee (The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)*

Chairperson: Dr. Erica Hunter (University of Cambridge)

16:00-16:45 **Dr. Maroun El Hokayem** (Chatsworth House, London, UK)

“MINING THE SACRED: MONASTERIES, MANUSCRIPTS, AND THE HISTORIES OF ORIENTALIST COLLECTING.”

16:45-17:30 **Dr. Rev. Claudia Rammelt** (Universität-Göttingen, Germany)

“WE HAVE TO GO TO JERUSALEM: JOHANN LUDWIG SCHNELLER AND HIS ORPHANAGE AS A WORLD OF CONTACT IN THE 19TH CENTURY.”

17:30-18:15 **ASST. Prof. Dr. Borja W. Gonzales Fernandez** (Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey)

"BETWEEN BARRÈS AND HINDIYYA. ORIENTALISM AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF MEMORY."

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026

(Venue: The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

Chairperson: **Dr. Carsten Walbiner** (Catholic University of Eichstätt, Germany)

09:00-09:45 **Prof. Dr Mariam Nanobashvili** (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia*)

“VOYAGE TO THE HOLY LAND BY THE 17TH-CENTURY ITALIAN PILGRIM GIOVANNI BENEDETTI.”

09:45-10:30 **Dr. Souad Slim** (Balamand University)

“THE RUSSIAN SCHOOLS IN THE LEVANT.”

10:30-11:00 *Tea/Coffee*11:00-11:45 **Prof. Irene Kamberidou** (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), Greece*)

“LEVANTINE EXPLORATIONS OF THE ‘WEAKER SEX’: MISSIONARIES, VOLUNTEERS AND PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES.”

11:45-12:30 **Dr. Ahmad Shahi** (University of Oxford, UK)

“PETER LIENHARDT AND JESUITS’ WRITINGS ON SOME ISLAMIC RITUALS.”

12:30-13:15 **Mr. Issam S. Chemaly** (École Supérieure d'Architecture de Beyrouth - Université Saint-Joseph, Lebanon*)

“SYMPATHETIC ATMOSPHERE: EMBODIED SIMULATION IN ORIENTALIST TRAVEL NARRATIVES.”

13:15-15:30 *Free time for lunch in the City Centre.*

15:30-16:00 *Tea/Coffee (The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)*

[illegible]16:00-16:45 **Dr. Dagmar Riedel** (Columbia University, New York, USA*)

“RICHARD GOTTHEIL (1862-1936) AND THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH (ASOR) IN JERUSALEM.”

16:45-17:30 **Dr. Jakob Zollmann** (University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany*)

“WESTERN LEGAL TRAVELLERS TO THE LEVANT.”

Prof. Fahad M. Al-Otaibi (King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)

“JULIUS EUTING AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDIES ON ANCIENT ARABIA.”

17:30-18:15 **Dr. Tony Nasrallah** (Lebanese American University, Lebanon)

“BETWEEN ORIENTALISM AND OCCIDENTALISM: EAST AND WEST IN THE THOUGHT OF CHARLES MALIK.”

19:00-22:00 **Dinner offered by ARAM**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

(Venue: The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

Chairperson: **Dr. Tony Nasrallah** (Lebanese American University, Lebanon)

- 09:00-09:45 **Mr. Mohammad Alqarawi** (PhD Candidate, Edinburgh University, Scotland)
“CHARLES MONTAGU DOUGHTY’S *TRAVELS IN ARABIA DESERTA*: ARCHAISM AND THE ORIENTALISATION OF ENGLISH.”
- 09:45-10:30 **Dr. Ani Shahinian** (St Nerses Armenian Seminary; St Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary, New York, USA) & **Dr. Ruth Gornandt** (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford)
“DOMINICAN MISSIONS IN THE ARMENIAN LANDS AND THEIR IMPACT ON ARMENIAN THOUGHT IN THE LATE MIDDLE AGES.”
- 10:30-11:15 **Prof. Paola Pizzo** (University of Chieti-Pescara, Italy*)
“THE ITALIAN DIPLOMATIC ACTION TOWARD THE ETHIOPIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN JERUSALEM BETWEEN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURIES.”
- 11:15-11:30 *Tea/Coffee*
- 11:30-12:15 **Prof. Alessandro Mengozzi** (University of Torino, Italy*)
“ANTI-LUTHERAN POLEMICS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF THE DOMINICANS IN THE MOSUL REGION (19TH CENTURY).”
- 12:30-13:15 **Rev. Dr. Shafiq Abouzayd** (University of Oxford, UK)
“WESTERN-EASTERN CHRISTIAN ENCOUNTER IN MOUNT LEBANON: CULTURAL INTERCHANGE AND MISUNDERSTANDING OF MARONITE IDENTITY.”
- 13:15-14:00 **Dr. Rita Kalindjian** (University of Balamand, Lebanon*)
“Maria Jacobsen, Mama of the Bird’s Nest Orphans.”
- 14:00 **Conference ends.**

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The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Oxford University
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