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# Welcome



As Dean of the Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU-ISMC), I welcome you to our short courses.

As a research-grounded, non-denominational, liberal arts institute producing internationally recognised scholarship, education and outreach programmes, AKU-ISMC is founded on a scholarly and pluralistic approach of understanding Islam and Muslim cultures. Our faculty is diverse and specialising in a range of subjects, from archaeology to languages and popular culture.

At AKU-ISMC, we offer unique short courses, covering a vast array of topics for students, professionals, and academics. Most of our courses are held online, so that you can join from wherever you are in the world.

AKU-ISMC also designs and delivers tailor-made short courses for public, private, and third-sector organisations. For further details, please contact us.

I hope that you will find a course which matches your interests and join us this year.

Kind regards,

**Professor Leif Stenberg**

# About AKU-ISMC

Established in 2002, AKU-ISMC is a leading, research-focused institution that believes academic enquiry and education can enable understanding and positive social change. Informed by the wider work of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), we foster vital connections with Muslim societies for the benefit of many.

Our focus is the study of Muslim cultures and contexts across the diverse Muslim societies of the world, past and present. It is through world-leading research, publications, education, and outreach that we contribute to public discourse; enabling both citizens and leaders to address complex challenges and to shape the world around them.



# About the Short Courses

At AKU-ISMC, we aim to give a non-essentialist approach to the study of religion.

We do not aim to tell anyone what Islam or religion are or are not. Rather, we take a social scientific approach to the study of religion as a part of culture: different individuals will define Islam in different ways, and we aim to describe how these definitions are rooted in different contexts and in different prior traditions.

The short courses we offer are drawn from the varied expertise of our faculty. They range from instruction in technical skills, such as transliteration or the study of Arabic manuscripts, to explorations in how Muslim heritage is used and displayed in the built

environment and material culture. Other courses address the changing treatment of the Qur'an in different environments, or Islamicate traditions of weaponry. And an introductory course provides a basic treatment of the time of Muhammad and the early caliphs and a discussion of Muslim responses to modernity to whet the appetites of beginners, who are just starting their academic study of Islam and Muslims.

## Eligibility

There are a maximum of 20-25 places on each course, except for the courses on *Arabic Transliteration for Academics, Publishers and Librarians* and *Introduction to Arabic Translation (Arabic to English)*, where we have only 15 seats available. Participants will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.



Criteria for participants' eligibility are:

- An undergraduate degree
- Proficiency in the English language
- Potential to apply learning from the course(s) in their research and work.

The participants who have registered for the following two courses:

- Arabic Transliteration for Academics, Publishers and Librarians
- Introduction to Arabic Translation (Arabic to English)

must check the eligibility criteria on the respective course detail pages 10 and 14 before registering for the course.

## Course Fees

A contribution is expected from participants which is non-refundable and must be paid at the time of registration on Eventbrite.

## Timings

All times are in Greenwich Mean Time, UK

## Contact us

for all the short course-related queries, please contact [shortcourse.ismc@aku.edu](mailto:shortcourse.ismc@aku.edu) or write to the Programme Manager, Education [anjum.alam@aku.edu](mailto:anjum.alam@aku.edu).

A certificate of participation will be received upon request.



# Introduction to the Study of Islam and Muslims

This six-day course aims to give an overview of some important moments in medieval and modern Islamic history and in different theoretical approaches to the study of Islam and Muslims, such as the works of Edward Said and Talal Asad. It focuses on the Middle East and South Asia.

It does not aspire to give a complete chronological or geographical coverage, but it does aim to introduce key concepts and events that will be of relevance for anyone studying or teaching Islam. The course takes a social scientific perspective and does not assume any prior knowledge.

## Aims of the course

- Understand different theories for the formation of the Qur'an
- Situate Islamic theological developments into their political context
- Evaluate the use of the terminology of 'religion' in the study of Islam

### COURSE DATES

17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 April | 14:30 - 16:30

### COURSE VENUE

Via Zoom (Online)

### COURSE FEES

£79 professionals

£55 students, AKU alumni and staff

### COURSE LEADER

Professor Philip Wood



# The Qur'an in Muslim Practices

The course attempts to introduce participants to understanding ways in which Muslims use the Qur'an in practice in both religious and social contexts. After initially situating the Qur'an as a religious text within the context of Muslim beliefs and perceptions, the remaining sessions will explore the use of the Qur'an in calligraphy, in healing rituals, and in Sufi practices.

## Aims of the course

- Understand Muslim beliefs and perceptions about the Qur'an
- Explore the recitation and writing of the Qur'an, including the skill and art of calligraphy
- Consider activities that draw on the Qur'an as a source of comfort, healing and protection
- Explore Sufi beliefs and practices as derived from the Qur'an

### COURSE DATES

26 May | 13:00 - 15:00; 15:30 - 17:30  
27 May | 13:00 - 15:00; 15:30 - 17:30

### COURSE VENUE

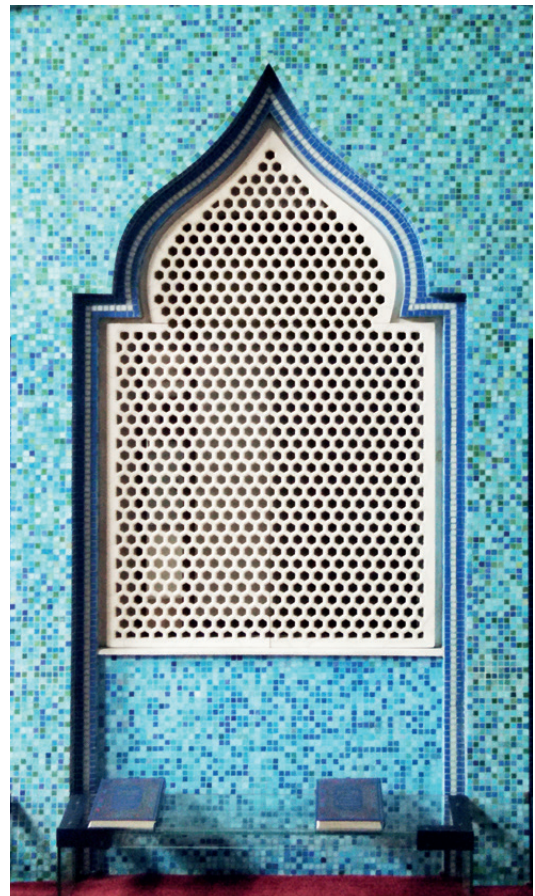
Via Zoom (Online)

### COURSE FEES

£79 professionals  
£55 students, AKU alumni and staff

### COURSE LEADERS

Professor Farouk Topan and Dr Walid Ghali



# Arabic Transliteration for Academics, Publishers and Librarians

AKU-ISMC's new Centre for the Languages of the Muslim World is delighted to offer this short course as part of its Professional Development series. The course is aimed at professionals, scholars and students who work with Arabic text and would like to acquire knowledge of transliteration systems and gain or improve their practical transliteration skills under the guidance of experienced tutors.

The course is a 5-hour practical workshop-style course taught in two highly interactive sessions. Both sessions incorporate tailored feedback from the tutors; prior to session II, participants are required to submit a short sample transliteration for discussion during the session. The course is equally well suited to native and non-native speakers of Arabic.

## Aims of the course

- Develop an understanding of transliteration and transcription, linguistic issues, contextual needs, and specific problems of Arabic-to-roman rendering
- Familiarisation with the various conventions and scholarly traditions
- Practise contextually appropriate practical transliteration, with tailored feedback from the tutors



### COURSE DATES

8 June | 14:00 – 17:00

15 June | 14:00 – 16:00

### COURSE VENUE

Via Zoom (Online)

### COURSE FEES

£99 professionals

£79 students, AKU alumni and staff

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The course assumes full reading ability of the Arabic script, and at least some basic knowledge of, or working familiarity with, the Arabic language. The course is equally well suited to both native and non-native speakers of Arabic.

### COURSE LEADERS

Dr Alex Bellem

# Manuscripts in Arabic Script: Introduction to Codicology

This course introduces students to the study of manuscripts (codicology). It will allow participants to apply the technical terminology of codicology and understand how writing materials were prepared. We also explore the institutional contexts in which manuscripts were produced and discuss how codicological methods can inform research in history and art history.

## Aims of the course

- Understand the technical terminology of codicology
- Differentiate the different technologies used to produce manuscripts
- Identify the institutional contexts where manuscripts are produced
- Apply codicological knowledge to historical research

### COURSE DATES

4 and 5 October | 11:30 – 15:30

### COURSE VENUE

Via Zoom (Online)

### COURSE FEES

£79 professionals

£55 students, AKU alumni and staff

### COURSE LEADER

Dr Walid Ghali



# Introduction to Arabic Translation (Arabic to English)

AKU-ISMC's new Centre for the Languages of the Muslim World is delighted to offer this new short course as part of its Professional Development series. *Introduction to Arabic Translation* is a 10-hour online course designed to introduce participants to key issues inherent in translation from Arabic to English and to provide a foundation for further study and professional practice in Arabic > English translation.

This stimulating course is taught in 2-hour sessions across 5 weeks and is highly interactive. The course is taught mostly via English, with extensive use made of Arabic, and is open to non-native speakers (of either/both languages) with advanced proficiency.

*Introduction to Arabic Translation* is open to participants from a wide range of educational and professional backgrounds. The course will function primarily to support potential translators considering a career move into Arabic/English translation, via the exploration of key issues in Arabic-to-English translation, and an introduction to the underpinnings of translation methodology. The course tutor is a trained linguist and Arabist, with extensive experience of teaching and examining Arabic > English translation to postgraduate and undergraduate university students of varying backgrounds within highly rated and accredited university programmes in the UK.

## Aims of the course

- Study a selected range of Arabic texts in order to comparatively analyse competing translations of each, via exercises in contrastive stylistics
- Identify and discuss typical rhetorical features of Arabic and English
- Facilitate an understanding of key issues in Arabic-to-English translation
- Introduce the underpinnings of translation methodology

### COURSE DATES

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 October | 14:00 – 16:00

### COURSE VENUE

Via Zoom (Online)

### COURSE FEES

£149 professionals

£99 students, AKU alumni and staff

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Advanced proficiency in both Arabic and English (not necessary to be native speaker)

### COURSE LEADER

Dr Alex Bellem



# Religious Cultural Heritage: Concepts and Issues in the Modern Middle East

This unique two-day introductory course examines the Middle Eastern Religious Cultural Heritage (RCH) conceptually and practically. Through different case studies and controversial issues, we offer the participants an exceptional opportunity to compare several local voices with the dominant international perspective. By provoking the RCH's connectedness to the modern challenges of ethnicity, professionalism, nationalism, and sectarianism, we aim to contextualise this type of heritage as a living and contemporary construct of its communities within their socio-political and religious milieus.

## Aims of the course

- Problematising the religious and cultural connections of the Middle Eastern RCH within the contexts of its modern communities
- Scrutinising the dominant international cultural heritage perspective of RCH by introducing authentic local voices.
- Contextualising the Middle Eastern RCH within the historical developments of the modern Middle Eastern communities
- Examining the Middle Eastern RCH as contact zones for peaceful and controversial encounters

### COURSE DATES

24 November | 13:15 - 16:00  
1 December | 13:30 - 16:00

### COURSE VENUE

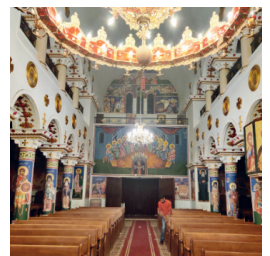
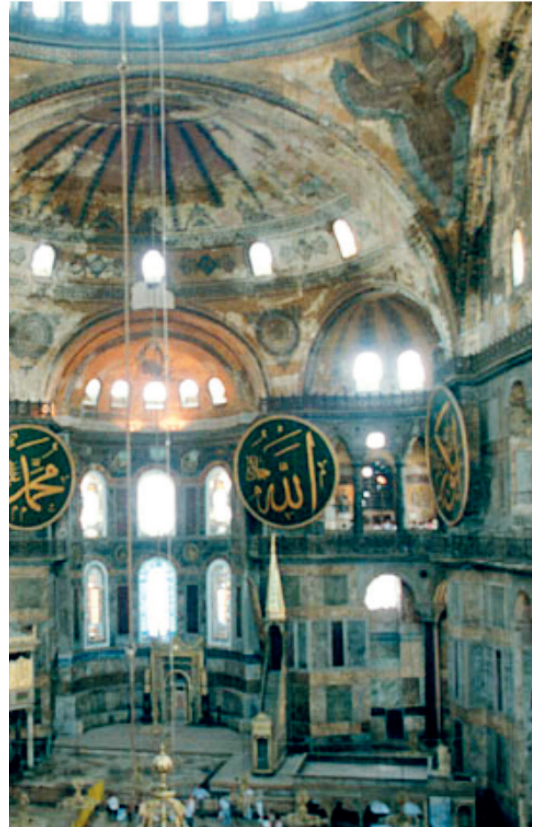
Via Zoom (Online)

### COURSE FEES

£79 professionals  
£55 students, AKU alumni and staff

### COURSE LEADERS

Professor Dick Douwe and Mohamad Meqdad



# Warfare in Muslim Material Cultures: From Egypt to Bilad al-Sham

The course presents Muslim material cultures in a very specific context: warfare in Egypt and Middle East during the Medieval and Modern Ages. War played a very important role in Muslim cultures and through the study of military architecture and arms and armour, the course will explore art and architecture in a war context to explain identity and changes in Muslim societies from the Arab conquest to the eve of the colonial period.

## Aims of the course

- Analyse and understand monumental military architecture, fortresses, castles, and city walls
  - Describe and interpret oriental arms and armour, their origins and influences, and their symbolic, aesthetic and social meanings
  - Receive a methodological background on the historiography of Muslim warfare
  - Have a systematic and nuanced understanding of the Arab conquests, the Crusades and jihad
- Understand the impact of the religion in Muslim Arts and Architecture, and how they relate to their wider Islamic and Mediterranean contexts

### COURSE DATES

4 and 11 December | 13:30 – 16:00

### COURSE VENUE

Via Zoom (Online)

### COURSE FEES

£79 professionals

£55 students, AKU alumni and staff

### COURSE LEADER

Professor Stéphane Pradines



Mamluk military exercise in Treatise on Military Art. [1470] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, World Digital Library – Partner National Library of France



# Course Leaders



**Dr Alex Bellem** is a Linguist and Arabist, and Assistant Professor at AKU-ISMC, where she leads on developing the Institute's new Centre for the Languages of the Muslim World. She specialises in comparative-theoretical phonology (& phonetics) and Arabic dialectology, with expertise in the languages & linguistics of the Middle East and contiguous regions. She collaborates with Rex Smith in a project on the language of texts composed in Literary Mixed ("Middle") Arabic and has previously collaborated on projects on the Modern South Arabian languages Mehri and Sheret (Jibbali). She has broader research interests in folk literature, and in cultural heritage, and has also published on Iraqi folk poetry. She has held academic posts at Durham University, Salford University and the CBRL British Institute (Amman & Damascus), and at these institutions as well as SOAS she has extensive experience teaching linguistics, Arabic translation, and Arabic language she holds a PhD in Arabic Linguistics from SOAS, an MA from UCL (Linguistics), and a BA from Manchester University (Turkish & Arabic).



**Professor Dick Douwes** holds the Chair of Global History at the Erasmus University, Rotterdam. He studied Languages and Cultures of the Middle East at Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. From 1994 to 1998, he was coordinator of the joint Indonesian-Netherlands' programme Cooperation in Islamic Studies (INIS) at Leiden University. From 1998 onwards, he was academic coordinator, and later executive director, of the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (ISIM) and editor of the *ISIM Newsletter/Review* and *ISIM Paper Series*. He has published on late Ottoman history in Syria and on religious plurality in the Middle East, as well as on Muslims in Western Europe. Currently, he researches changes in shrine culture and politics in Syria and the Lebanon, including the destruction of shrines.



**Dr Walid Ghali** is an Associate Professor at AKU-ISMC. He received his PhD from the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University, in 2012. Dr Ghali is Head Librarian at the Aga Khan Centre, where his current research focuses on the Islamic manuscript traditions, including Qur'anic manuscripts. He also teaches various subjects for MA students including Introduction to Sufism, Arabic Literature, and Muslim Thinkers in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

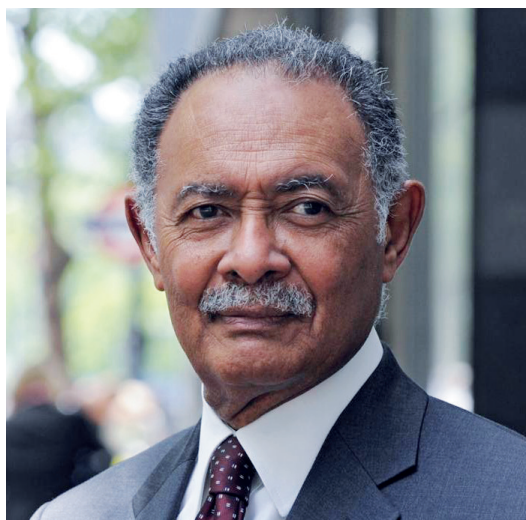


**Mohamad Meqdad** is a PhD student at the Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication, Erasmus University, Rotterdam. His main research focuses on religious cultural heritage at times of crisis. In 2006, Mohamad received his BA in Archaeology and Museum Studies from Aleppo University, Syria. He also took part in several national and international archaeological expeditions in Syria (2002-2008), where he worked on discovering its rich cultural heritage and preserving it for future generations. In 2010, Mohamad received an MA in Muslim Cultures from AKU-ISMC, London, with a focus on researching the display of Muslim material cultures in international museums, specifically at the British Museum's John Addis Islamic Gallery. Between 2011-2019, he was Arabic editor, and later acting manager, of the Muslim Civilisations Abstracts Project (MCA) at AKU-ISMC.



### Professor Stéphane Pradines

(Ph.D. in Islamic Archaeology from Sorbonne University, Paris, 2001), is Professor of Islamic Art, Architecture and Archaeology at AKU-ISMC, London and an archaeologist working in Egypt, East Africa, Pakistan and the Maldives. He is a specialist of Muslim warfare in the Medieval Middle East and Muslim trade in the Indian Ocean. Professor Pradines is the Editor-in-Chief of the Open Access *Journal of Muslim Material Cultures*. Prior to joining AKU-ISMC in 2012, he oversaw the Islamic Archaeology Department at the French Institute in Cairo. His books include *Fortifications et urbanisation en Afrique orientale*, 2004, *Gedi, une cité portuaire swahilie*, 2010, *Earthen Architecture in Muslim Cultures: Historical and Anthropological Perspectives*, 2018, *Ports and Forts of the Muslims. Coastal Military Architecture, from the Arab Conquest to the Ottoman Period*, 2020, *La Collection d'armes orientales de Pierre Loti*, 2019, and *Mosques in Sub-Saharan Africa*, 2022.



**Professor Farouk Topan** is a Professor Emeritus at AKU-ISMC. He has published widely on his research interests which cover Islam in East Africa, Swahili literature, language, and culture. His published works include *Polemics and Language in Swahili Translations of the Qur'an: Mubarak Ahmad* (2001), *Abdullah Saleh al-Farsy* (1982) and *Ali Muhsin al-Barwani* (2006), *The Qur'an and Its Readers Worldwide: Contemporary Commentaries and Translations* (2015), *Approaches to the Qur'an in Sub-Saharan Africa* (2019).



**Professor Philip Wood** is a historian of the Middle East at AKU-ISMC. He is the current holder of the endowed Tejpar Chair in Interreligious Studies. He has written widely on the histories of religious minorities in the caliphate and on the experience of Muslims as minorities in Britain. Together with Professor Leif Stenberg, he recently published *What is Islamic Studies?* He is also editing a second volume on Muslim and non-Muslim religious minorities in the Abbasid caliphate. His third monograph, on the Abbasid-era intellectual Dionysius of Tel-Mahre, was released with Princeton University Press in 2021.




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