

Dr. Viola Allegranzi – curriculum vitae

September 2023

EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D. in ‘Oriental Languages, Societies and Civilisations’, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3 and Università degli studi di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’, Italy (joint PhD).
Thesis title: ‘Les inscriptions persanes de Ghazni, Afghanistan. Nouvelles sources pour une contribution à l’histoire culturelle et à la tradition épigraphique ghaznavides (Ve VIe/XIe XIIe siècles)’
Supervisors: Maria Szuppe (CNRS); Roberta Giunta (‘L’Orientale’)
Panel members: Oliver Bast (Sorbonne Nouvelle); Gabrielle van den Berg (Universiteit Leiden); Michele Bernardini (‘L’Orientale’); Frantz Grenet (Collège de France); Bernard O’Kane (The American University in Cairo)
- 2011 M.A. in ‘Oriental Languages and Civilisations’, Università di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’, Italy.
- 2009 B.A. in ‘Languages, History and Cultures of the Islamic Countries’, Università di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’, Italy.
- 2006 High school diploma (classical studies), Liceo ‘Michelangiolo’ of Florence, Italy.

Awards and Scholarships

- 2019 Award for a European Ph.D. Thesis in Iranian Studies of the *Societas Iranologica Europaea*.
- 2017–2018 Best Ph.D. dissertation of the year 2017/2018 on a topic of Iranian Studies of the Foundation for Iranian Studies (Maryland, US).
Thesis prize of the year attributed by the Presses Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris, France).
Special mention by the committee of the Prix de thèse 2018 attributed by the Institut d’étude de l’Islam et des sociétés du monde musulman (IISMM) and the Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique (GIS) Moyen-Orient et Mondes Musulmans (France).
- 2015 Mobility grant awarded by the Institut français d’études sur l’Asie centrale (IFEAC), for conducting 2 months of field research in Uzbekistan.
- 2012–2015 Doctorate scholarship at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3, Paris.
- 2010–2011 Erasmus scholarship at the Institut National de Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO, Paris).

Language courses

- 2020–23 Course of German level A2 to B2 (Sprachenzentrum Univie; inlingua Wien)
- 2018 Intensive course of Russian language (INALCO, Paris).

- 2013 Advanced course of Persian language at the University of Isfahan (Iran).
- 2012 Advanced course of Persian language at the Loghatnameh Dehkhoda Institute & International Center for Persian Studies (Tehran, Iran).
- 2008 Course of Classical Arabic at the Damascus University (Syria).

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

- 2020– Post-doctoral research fellow at the Institute of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Vienna, Austria).
- 02–03/2022 Visiting researcher at the Institut für Europäische Kunstgeschichte, Universität Heidelberg, in the framework of the SFB *Materiale Textkulturen* [Collaborative Research Cluster *Material Text Cultures*], sub-project *Präsenz des Künstlers. Mittelalterliche Artefakte mit Künstlerinschriften* [*The Artist's Presence. Medieval Artefacts with Artists' Signatures*] (dir. R. Müller).
- 2019–20 Lecturer in Islamic Art, Institut Catholique de Paris, France.
- 2018–19 Musée des Beaux Arts de Lyon, France. Participation in the cataloguing project: *L'Islam au palais Saint-Pierre. Traitement, analyse et publication d'un fond muséal inédit: les collections islamiques du Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon* (D. S. Aube, E. Brac de La Perrière, S. Hellal). Reading and translation of Persian inscriptions on objects from the museum's collection.
- 2017–19 Teaching and research fellow, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3 and research unit Mondes iranien et indien (CNRS), Paris, France. MA programme in Iranian Studies.
- 2016 Louvre Museum, Paris, France, internship at the Islamic Art Department in the framework of the project *Objets inscrits* (dir. C. Juvin). Reading and translation of inscriptions on objects from the collection of Iranian metalwork (10th–17th c.).

Academic qualification

- 2023– National Scientific Habilitation (*Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale*) for the rank of associate professor, Settore Concorsuale 10/N1 « Culture del Vicino Oriente antico, del Medio Oriente e dell'Africa » (MIUR, Italy).
- 2017– *Qualification aux fonctions de maître de conférences* (Eligibility to tenured lectureship): section 15 (Langues et littératures arabes, chinoises, japonaises, hébraïques, d'autres domaines linguistiques) and section 21 (Histoire, civilisations, archéologie et art des mondes anciens et médiévaux) of the Conseil national des universités (CNU, France).

Current projects

- 2020– *A carved history. Reappraising material culture from early Islamic Iran*. Postdoctoral research project at the Institute of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Study cultural landscape of Iran and Central Asia in the early Islamic period (ca. 8th–13th century), through a cross-reading of material culture and textual sources, with a special focus on the stucco corpora retrieved from several archaeological sites (Samarkand, Balkh, Isfahan, etc.) and on monumental inscriptions recorded in modern Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics.

Member of the project *Research on Calligraphic Scripts from the Frontier Regions of the Islamic World* (sub-project 'Indian sub-continent'), dir. E. Brac de La Perrière and M. Durocher (Sorbonne Université), funded by Observatoire des Patrimoines Sorbonne

Université, Barakat Trust, Fondation Max van Berchem (2020–22), French National Research Agency - ANR (2022–).

Member of the scientific committee of the project *Medieval Kâshi*, co-directed by D. Miroudot (Sèvres – Manufacture et Musée nationaux), E. Pomet (Musée du Louvre), P. Chevalier (INHA). Creation of a unified online database of Iranian luster tiles (13th–14th c.) kept in several international collections.

2012– *Buddhist and Islamic Archaeological Data from Ghazni, Afghanistan. A multidisciplinary web-based archive for the managing, study, and preservation of an endangered cultural heritage* (Università degli studi di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’ and Gerda Henkel Stiftung). Elaboration and insertion of photos and data in the digital archive and website of the Italian Archaeological Mission in Afghanistan: < <http://ghazni.bradypus.net/> >

2008– *Islamic Ghazni. An IsIAO Archaeological Project in Afghanistan* (Università degli studi di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’ and IsIAO, Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente), directed by R. Giunta. Study and publication of the archives of the Italian Archaeological Mission in Afghanistan.

Fieldwork

09/2017 Field research at the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan (Samarkand). Inventory of the stucco fragments from the mosque of Samarkand/Afrasiab, exhibited and stored in the Museum of Afrasiab. Mission funded by Collège de France, chair of History and cultures of pre-Islamic Central Asia, held by F. Grenet.

09–10/2015 Field research in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, regions of Samarkand and Bukhara). Documentation of monuments and museum objects, bibliographic research about the epigraphic tradition in Transoxiana between the 9th and the 13th centuries.

Languages

Italian (native speaker), English, French, Persian (fluent), German (intermediate), Arabic (good reading and translating proficiency), Russian (basic knowledge).

Memberships

2023– Member of the editorial board of the series *Studies in Persian Cultural History* (Brill)
Member of the advisory board of the *Journal of Islamic Art & Architecture* (Edinburgh University Press)
Member of the editorial board of *Islamic Art*, journal of the Institute of Islamic Art Studies (Tehran, Iran)

2020– Member of the editorial committee of the journal *Oriente Moderno*, edited by Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino (Roma) and published by Brill.

Affiliation to the following scientific societies:

- *Societas Iranologica Europaea* (SIE)
- *Association pour l’avancement des études iraniennes* (AAEI)
- *Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino* (IPOCAN)
- *Historians of Islamic Art Association* (HIAA)
- *NUME – Gruppo di ricerca sul Medioevo latino*
- *Diwân. Association des doctorants en histoire des mondes musulmans médiévaux*

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2023

- *Paper*: ‘The surviving inscriptions of the late Khwarazmshahs: some preliminary observations’. *10th European Conference of the Societas Iranologica Europaea* (Leiden, 21-25 August 2023).
- *Invited paper*: ‘Islamic epigraphy at the intersection of textual and visual cultures’. Workshop *Looking into the multi sources for the Šāhis’ history*, convened by N. Verdon, Université de Lausanne (Lausanne, 7-8 June 2023).
- *Invited paper*: [with S. Aube] ‘Le décor architectural aux débuts de l’Islam en Asie centrale: l’exemple des stucs de la Mosquée carrée d’Afrasiab’. Conference *Autour de l’exposition Splendeurs des oasis d’Ouzbékistan: nouveaux terrains, nouvelles problématiques*, Louvre Museum, Collège de France (Paris, 16–17 January 2023).

2022

- *Invited paper*: ‘Le rôle des inscriptions dans la compréhension du site archéologique de Ghazni’. Conference *Arts et patrimoine de l’Afghanistan. Cent ans de recherches archéologiques, 1922–2022*, Musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Délégation Archéologique Française en Afghanistan, Fondation Inalco (Paris, 18–19 November 2022).
- *Lecture*: ‘Les gunbads de Chisht-i Sharif: Nouvelles perspectives sur un site méconnu et sur l’histoire des Ghourides en Afghanistan (moitié XIIe – début XIIIe s.)’, Seminar *Sociétés, politiques et cultures du monde iranien*, Centre de recherche sur le monde iranien (CeRMI/CNRS) (Paris, 17 November 2022).
- *Lecture*: ‘Out of bricks and verses. Poetic inscriptions from medieval Iran, 11th-13th century’, Lecture series *Epigraphik in der Hollandstraße*, Institut für Mittelalterforschung (IMAFO), Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Vienna/online, 28 June 2022).
- *Invited paper*: ‘Religious policy and practice in Medieval Iran and Central Asia through the lens of epigraphic sources’. Conference *Heresy and Infidelity: Islamic Politico-Religious and Legal Discourses in the 10th and 11th Centuries*, convened by B. Auer, W. Halawi, Université de Lausanne (Lausanne, 2–3 June 2022).
- *Invited paper*: ‘Multilingualism as reflected in the epigraphic sources from the Persianate world, 11th-13th century’. Workshop *Mixing Languages and Scripts: Material from Manuscripts and Inscriptions*, convened by S. Sövegjártó, Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (Hamburg, 19–21 May 2022).
- *Invited paper*: [with S. Aube] ‘The Noh Gonbad Mosque in Balkh: New insights into its stucco decoration’. Conference *Stucco in the Architecture of Iran and Neighbouring Lands: New Research – New Horizons*, convened by I. Aghajani, A. Grbanovic, L. Korn, M. Mishmastnehi, Otto-Friedrich Universität Bamberg (Bamberg, 4–7 May 2022).
- *Lecture*: ‘Islamic Inscriptions from Medieval Afghanistan: Innovations in the Content and Style of Royal Epigraphy’, Webinar series *Regards sur les arts du monde iranien (période islamique)*, Institut Français de Recherche en Iran (IFRI), Centre de recherche sur le monde iranien (CeRMI/CNRS) (Tehran/online, 26 April 2022).
- *Keynote lecture*: ‘A Discreet Presence. Signed Artefacts from the Medieval Islamic Lands’. Kolloquium *Signaturetragende Artefakte. Schriften, Materialien, Praktiken im transkulturellen Vergleich*, convened by R. Müller, M. Telle, N. Dietrich, J. Fouquet, Universität Heidelberg (Heidelberg, 11–12 March 2022).

2021

- *Paper*: ‘Il Repertorio epigrafico’, *panel*: ‘L’Afghanistan in epoca medievale’. *Afghanistan crocevia di mondi, Seminario di studi storici, archeologici e letterari* [Afghanistan at the crossroads of worlds, Seminar of historical, archaeological, and literary studies], Università degli studi di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’, Department Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo (Naples/online, 15–16 November 2022).
- *Invited paper*: ‘L’*épigraphie islamique en Asie centrale: état de la recherche*. Symposium *Où en est l’*épigraphie arabe/islamique 100 ans après la mort de Max van Berchem? Bilan et perspectives**, convened by F. Bauden, Ch. Genequand, L. Kalus, Fondation Max van Berchem (Geneva, 30 September–2 October 2021).
- *Invited paper*: ‘Monumental inscriptions from the Ghurid Sultanate: New research perspectives’. Workshop of the project CALLFRONT – Research on Calligraphic Scripts from the Frontier Regions of the Islamic World, sub-project Indian sub-continent (Paris/online, 9 July 2021).
- *Paper*: ‘An undisclosed corpus: stucco decoration from the Abbasid Mosque in Afrasiab/Samarkand’ [with S. Aube]. 4^{ème} Congrès du GIS Moyen-Orient et mondes musulmans (online, 28–30 June 2021).
- *Paper*: [with V. Laviola and C. Passaro] ‘Un palazzo sultanale del Medioevo islamico: casi-studio ricostruttivi del materiale disperso di Ghazni (Afghanistan)’. VII Ciclo di Studi Medievali (NUME21) (Firenze/online, 7–10 June 2021).
- *Lecture*: ‘Royal lineage in epigraphic sources from pre-Mongol Iran. Some observations on dedicatory inscriptions and their possible misinterpretations’. Research and training workshop *Reading Sources in Area Studies: Epigraphy and craftsmanship in the Iranian world*, CNRS/CeRMI, IREMAM, GIS MOMM and Inalco (Paris/online, 20 April 2021).
- *Lecture*: ‘La poesia ubiqua: fonti letterarie non manoscritte nel mondo iranico medievale (XI-XIV sec.)’. Doctoral seminar, Università degli studi di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’, Department Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo (Naples/online, 23 February 2021).
- *Paper*: [with S. Aube] ‘Early Abbasid stuccoes from the mosque of Afrasiyab’. Conference *A Carved History. New Researches on Medieval Iranian Stucco (8th – 14th c.)*, Austrian Academy of Sciences (Vienna/online, 22 January 2021).

2020

- *Lecture*: ‘L’*épigraphie monumentale de Ghazni dans son contexte historique et culturel (Afghanistan, Xe -XII e s.): entre tradition et innovation*’. Seminar of Islamic art and architecture, Sorbonne Université (Paris, 14 février 2020).

2019

- *Lecture*: ‘La culture matérielle de Ghazni (Afghanistan, X^e-XII^e s.): une capitale islamique à la frontière entre l’Iran et l’Inde’. Doctoral seminar, Université de Lausanne - Section de langues et civilisations slaves et de l’Asie du Sud, Université de Lausanne (Lausanne, 29 octobre 2019).
- *Invited paper*: ‘Expressing power and piety. The Ghurid inscriptions at Chisht-i Sharif reconsidered’. Conference *Inscriptions from the Islamic World*, convened by A. Peacock, B. O’Kane and M. Muehlhaeusler, The American University in Cairo (Cairo, 6–8 September 2019).
- *Paper*: ‘L’interaction des langues arabe, persane et turque sous les premières dynasties turco iraniennes: le témoignage de l’*épigraphie*’ 3^{ème} Congrès du GIS « Moyen-Orient et mondes musulmans » (Paris, 3–5 July 2019).

2018

- *Paper*: ‘Royal inscriptions from pre-Mongol Iran revisited’. International round table *Text and contexts: On-going Researches on the Eastern Iranian world (9th–15th c.)*, Università degli studi di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’ (Naples, 14 September 2018).
- *Paper*: ‘Call for prayer (*du‘ā*) in funerary epigraphy at the eve of the Mongol invasion. Some fresh evidence from Ghazni (Afghanistan)’. 14th Colloquium of the Ernst Herzfeld Society for Studies in Islamic Art and Archaeology *The History of Material Cultures and Visual Arts in Islamic Lands: Current State of Research and New Perspectives*, Graduate students meeting (Strasbourg, 5 July 2018).
- *Lecture*: ‘Le poète Sanā’ī et le vizir ghaznavide: à propos des inscriptions poétiques d’un tombeau de Ghazni (Afghanistan, XII^e s.)’. *XX^e Journée Monde Iranien*, FRE 2018 Mondes iranien et indien (Paris, 16 March 2018).

2017

- *Invited paper*: ‘Le décor épigraphique des métaux iraniens (Xe-XIII^e siècles): quelques recoupements’. Conference *Inscribed Objects in the Islamic World*, convened by F. Déroche and C. Juvin, Collège de France - Louvre Museum (Paris, 24 November 2017).
- *Invited paper*: ‘The Epigraphic Tradition Between the Ghaznavids and the Ghurids: Evidence from Ghazni and Bust/Lashkari Bazar’. Workshop *Indo-Ghuria: Continuities and Ruptures in 12th–13th Century South and Central Asia*, convened by A. Manan and A. Patel, Columbia University (New York, 30 August 2017).
- *Paper*: ‘Nouvelles données sur la diffusion de l’épigraphie persane aux XI^e–XII^e siècles’. *2^{ème} Congrès du GIS Moyen-Orient et mondes musulmans* (Paris, 6–8 July 2017).
- *Lecture*: ‘Les citations du Shāhnāme dans l’épigraphie monumentale : un mythe légitimateur dans le monde iranien médiéval’. Seminar *Le Livre des Rois de Ferdowsi et les épopées sistaniennes : strates textuelles, strates iconographiques*, Collège de France - EPHE (Paris, 2 June 2017).

2016

- *Report*: ‘Bilan 2016 sur les inscriptions en persan du programme « Objets inscrits »’. *Séminaire scientifique du DAI [Islamic Art Department]*, Louvre Museum (Paris, 15 December 2016).
- *Invited paper*: ‘The Medieval Urbanism of Ghazni (Afghanistan), A Cross-reading of Textual and Material Evidence, 10th–12th centuries’. Conference *Khurasan Heartland of Islamic Art and Culture, From early Islam to the Mongols and beyond*, convened by L. Korn and M. Tupev, Linden-Museum (Stuttgart, 3–4 November 2016).
- *Lecture*: ‘Le regretté vizir et le poète Sanā’ī vers inscrits sur un tombeau de Ghazni (Afghanistan, début XII^e siècle)’. Monthly conference of the *Société Européenne pour l’Etude des Civilisations de l’Himalaya et de l’Asie Centrale*, Cernuschi Museum (Paris, 17 May 2016).
- *Paper*: ‘Les inscriptions poétiques du palais royal de Ghazni : à la recherche d’un mécène’. International workshop *Les Ghaznavides et leurs voisins: nouvelles recherches sur le monde iranien oriental (Xe-XIII^e s.)*, convened by M. Szuppe and V. Allegranzi, CNRS - UMR 7528 (Ivry-sur-Seine, 26 February 2016).

2015

- *Paper*: ‘Royal Architecture Portrayed in the *Tarīḥ-i Mas‘ūdī* and Archaeological Evidence from Ghazni (Afghanistan, 11th–12th c.)’. 8th European Conference of the *Societas Iranologica Europaea*, The State Hermitage Museum and Institute of Oriental Manuscripts (St. Petersburg, 15–19 September 2015).
- *Lecture*: ‘Les écritures de l’histoire : données textuelles et matérielles pour une reconstitution des architectures médiévales de Ghazni (11^e–12^e s.)’. Seminar *Sources écrites et supports matériels*, Institut de recherches et d’études sur le monde arabe et musulman, Aix-Marseille Université (Aix-en-Provence, 28 May 2015).

2014

- *Paper*: ‘Persian inscriptions from Ghazni: the links with the poetic tradition’. 10th Biennial Conference of the *International Society for Iranian Studies* (Montreal, 6–9 August 2014).
- *Lecture*: ‘Les Ghaznavides et la langue persane. Témoignages épigraphiques dans la documentation archéologique de Ghazni, Afghanistan (fin X^e–moitié XII^e s.)’. Seminar *Sociétés, politiques et cultures du monde iranien*, UMR 7528 Mondes iranien et indien (Paris, 6 February 2014).

2013

- *Poster*: ‘Inscriptions on Ghaznavid Marbles’. *International Conference for the Safeguarding of Afghanistan’s Cultural Heritage*, UNESCO, Università degli studi di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’, Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo (Naples, 13 December 2013).
- *Paper*: ‘Evidence of the use of Persian in Monumental Epigraphy from Ghazni’. 1st Biennial Graduate Conference in Iranian Studies *Symposia Iranica*, University of St. Andrews (St. Andrews, 13–14 April 2013).

Organisation of conferences and workshops

- 2021 Co-convener [with Sandra Aube] of the panel ‘A blooming caliphate: Abbasid stucco corpora reconsidered (8th-9th c.)’ in the framework of the *4ème Congrès du GIS Moyen-Orient et mondes musulmans* (Aix-en-Provence/online, 28–30 June 2021).
- Convener of the international conference and round table *A Carved History. New Researches on Medieval Iranian Stucco (8th – 14th c.)*, Austrian Academy of Sciences (Vienna/online, 15 and 22 January 2021).
- 2018 Co-organiser [with Valentina Laviola] of the international workshop *Text and contexts: Ongoing Researches on the Eastern Iranian world (9th–15th c.)*, convened by V. Allegranzi, M. Bernardini, R. Giunta, V. Laviola, funded by Università degli studi di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’, FRE 2018 Mondes iranien et indien, Université franco-italienne, ISMEO and Istituto per l’Oriente C.A. Nallino (Naples, 14 September 2018).
- 2017 Convener of the panel ‘Les voix du pouvoir : souverains, poètes, artisans dans le monde musulman oriental’, funded by UMR 7528 Mondes iranien et indien and held in the framework of the *2ème Congrès du GIS Moyen-Orient et mondes musulmans* (Paris, 6–8 July 2017).
- 2016 Co-convener [with Maria Szuppe] of the international workshop *The Ghaznavids and Their Neighbours: New Researches on Eastern Iranian World (10th - 12th c.)*, funded by UMR 7528 Mondes iranien et indien, CNRS (Ivry-sur-Seine, FR, 26 February 2016).

- 2015 Co-organiser [with Mathilde Mechling] of the 3rd edition of the *Journée des doctorants de l'UMR7528*, funded by UMR 7528 Mondes iranien et indien, CNRS (Paris, 23 November 2015).
- 2013, 2014 Member of the board of the 15th and 16th *Rencontres Jeunes Chercheurs*, annual conference of the Doctoral School ED 268 of the University Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3 (Paris, May 2013 and 2014).