

Dr. Paolo Sartori – *curriculum vitae*

January 2023

Education

16.03.2006 — Ph.D. in Islamic Studies, University of Rome ‘la Sapienza’. Dissertation: *Ambiguous definitions: The Tashkent ‘Ulama between Tradition and Revolution, 1917-18* (in Italian)

7.11.1998 — M.A. in Oriental Languages and Literatures (Iranian and Turkic Studies) with honours of the first class (*magna cum laude*), University of Venice ‘Ca’ Foscari’. Thesis: *Soviet Iranology and Persian-Russian Bilingual Lexicography* (in Italian)

Present Status

Senior Research Associate (W6 - tenured in 2016), Austrian Academy of Sciences

Chairman of the Commission for the Study of Islam in Central Eurasia (1552 – 2000s), Austrian Academy of Sciences

06/2022-05/2026 — Principal Investigator of the FWF Stand-Alone Project “Central Asia in Russian Diplomatic Archives (17th – 19th Centuries) (320,258.40 €) [Co-worker Dr. Ulfat Abdurasulov]

Academic Experience

2019 – Present Member of the Kommission für Transformationsprozesse und Imperium in den antiken Welten Afro-Eurasiens at the Austrian Academy of Sciences

2019 – Present Member of the Stiftungskommission at the Austrian Academy of Sciences

01/2014 – 2020 Principal Investigator: START Project *Seeing like an Archive: Documents and Forms of Governance in Islamic Central Asia (18th-19th Centuries)*, funded by the Austrian Research Fund (FWF)

08/2018 Eligibility to Full Professorship (*Abilitazione Prima Fascia*) in History of Central Asia and the Far East (10/N3), Ministry of Education, Italy

08/2018 Eligibility to Associate Professorship (*Abilitazione Seconda Fascia*) in History of the Middle East (10/N1), Ministry of Education, Italy

08/2011–12/2013 Deputy Director of the Research Project *The Archives Talk: Writing the Social History of Colonial Central Asia* funded by the Volkswagen Foundation

Spring semester 2011 Graduate Instructor, Institute of Oriental Studies, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Halle)

7/2007–07/2011 Volkswagen Foundation Fellow, Institute of Oriental Studies, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Halle)

Spring semester 2007 Invited professor at the University of Palermo for “Turkic Languages and Cultures of Central Asia”

Spring semester 2006 Invited professor at the University of Trieste for “History of Islamic Law”

Editorship

- 2013 – Present Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Economic and Social History of the Orient* (Brill)
- 2017 – Present Series Editor of *Handbooks of Oriental Studies (Section 8 Uralic & Central Asian Studies)* (Brill)
- 2021 – Present Editorial Board Member of *Quaderni Storici* (il Mulino)
- 2021 – Present Arbeitsgruppe of the *Anzeiger* (Verlag der ÖAW)
- 2022 – Present Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Central Asian History* (Brill)

Visiting Fellowships

- 2022 Petra Kappert Senior Research Fellowship, University of Hamburg, Cluster of Excellence “Understanding Written Artefacts” [October-December 2022, declined]
- 2022 Mohammad Bin-Laden Visiting Fellowship, Oxford Center for Islamic Studies [January-June 2022, declined]
- 2019 Bahari Visiting Fellowship in the Persian Arts of the Book, Bodleian Libraries, Oxford [August–October, 2019]
- 2018 Central Asian Visiting Scholar, University of Leiden [Spring semester]
- 2012 École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris), pp. *Professeur invité* (Visiting Professor), [April– May 2012]

Prizes

- 2019 Ab Imperio Award for the Best Study in New Imperial History and History of Diversity in Northern Eurasia for the book *Éksperimenty imperii: adat, shariat, i proizvodstvo znaniy v Kazakhskoi stepi* [with Pavel Shabley]
- 2016 Elected Member of the Young Academy of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- 2014 Best Publication Award, Austrian Academy of Sciences for the article “Colonial Legality in Russian Central Asia: on Guardianship”, *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 56/2 (2014), pp. 419-47
- 2013 Austrian Science Fund (FWF), START Prize for the project *Seeing Like an Archive: Documents and Forms of Governance in Islamic Central Asia (18th-19th Centuries)* [1.052.060 €]

Grants

- 2022 Grant from the Veranstaltungstopf (ÖAW) to organize the launch event (public lecture and workshop) of the *Journal of Central Asian History* [10.000 €]
- 2020 Grant from the Young Academy (ÖAW) to support the Open Access publication of *Seeking Justice at the Court of the Khans of Khiva (19th-Early 20th Centuries)* (Leiden: Brill, 2020) [7.000 €]
- 2018a Grant from the Austrian Academy of Sciences for the constitution of a Thematic Platform “Religion, Society and Politics in Eurasia” (2018-2020) with Prof. Kristina Stöckl [40.000 €]

- 2018b Grant of the Young Academy of the Austrian Academy of Sciences for the organization of the Summer School “Documents and Archives in Persianate Eurasia: (15th – 19th Centuries), planned in early June 2019 [5000 €]
- 2016 Open Access Grant from the Volkswagen Foundation [5,630 €]
- 2015 Brill Publishers Grant for the organization of the JESHO lecture series in Asian History at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, 2016-2022 [7.500€ x year]
- 2012 Gerda Henkel Foundation: Research Grant for the Creation of a Catalogue of the Manuscript Fund of the Institute of History, Ethnography and Archeology, Qaraqalpaq Branch of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences, Nukus (2012-14) in collaboration with Abdusalim Idrisov [13.120€]
- 2010–2013 Volkswagen Fellowship, Research Project “The Archives Talk: Writing the Social History of Colonial Central Asia” [544.000 €]
- 2009 German Research Foundation (DFG), pp. Grant for the workshop “Social History of Early Modern and Colonial Central Asia: A Focus on Arabic-script documents (18th-20th centuries)”, University of Halle-Wittenberg 11-12.12.2009 [12.000 €]
- 2008 Gerda Henkel Foundation: Grant for the workshop “Islamic Institutions and Muslim Culture in the Interwar Soviet Union (1919-39)”, University of Halle-Wittenberg 11-12.12.2008 [10.000 €]
- 2007–2010 Volkswagen Fellowship, Research Project “Islamic Law in Central Asia under Tsarist and Soviet Rule (1865–1928) [271.300 €]
- 2006 Short-term grant by IFEAC (French Institute for Central Asian Studies), Tashkent
- 2002–2005 Ph.D. scholarship at the Graduate School of Oriental Studies, University of Rome ‘la Sapienza’
- 2001–2002 Grant awarded by the post-graduate international programme at the University of Perugia
- 1999 Award for distinguished Master degree’s thesis

Invited Lectures and Papers

40. “Islam in the Caucasus Inside Out,” Panel Discussion, Plenary Assembly of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, 18.10.2022;
39. “Knowledge for the Masses? On the Persianization of Islamic Jurisprudence in Transoxiana,” Institute of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, 06.06.2022
38. “Khiva 1873: The Archive that Never Was,” al-Beruni Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, Uzbek Academy of Sciences, Tashkent. 18.04.2022;
37. “Splendid Encounters: The Cosmopolitan Roots of the Uzbek Language,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, 24.03.2022;
36. “The Soviet Archives of Muslimness,” Central European University, 22.02.22;
35. “In the House of Islam: On Being Muslim in the Russian Empire and the USSR”, invited lecture at the Mat.-Nat Klasse der ÖAW, 25.06.2021
34. “Between Kazan and Kashghar: On the Vernacularization of Islamic Jurisprudence in Central Eurasia,” invited lecture at the Sharia Workshop, Middle East Institute, Columbia University, 28.01.2021.
33. “Central Asia and Islamic History”: 3 Lectures at the Universities of Tokyo and Kyoto organized by Professor Nobuaki Kondo, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, 14-28.02.2020

32. “Imperial Unknowns: What Can Sharia Tell us About Russian Imperial History”, International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, 16.04.2019
31. “Why Sharia Matters: Writing Islamic Law into Imperial and Global History”, Doctoral Program in Global History of Empires, University of Turin, 07.03.2019
30. “Vernacular Canon: Re-assembling Islamic Jurisprudence in Central Eurasia (16th – early 20th Centuries),” Workshop on Pre-Modern Codification and Canonization of Islamic Law, University of Bergen, 29-30.11.2018 [read in absentia]
29. “Of Saints, Shrines, and Tractors: Writing Muslim Religiosity into Soviet History”, Central Asia Seminar Series, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, 19.11.2019
28. “Multilingualism in the Humanities”, Panel Discussion, Joint Academy, Austrian Academy of Sciences, 11.10.2018
27. “Taking Stock of Vernacularization from Kazan to Yarkand: Entexting Before Codification,” at the *Uses of the Past in Islamic Law: Past and Present* international symposium, University of Exeter, 27-29.09.2018
26. “Twilight of the Persianate: The Vernacularization of Central Asia (18th – early 20th Centuries), TOSCCA Seminar, New College, University of Oxford, 31.06.2018
25. “Between Holy War and Quietism: On Uzbek Khanates Facing Russian Invasion,” Invited Commentator on Alexander Morrison’s forthcoming monograph *The Conquest of Central Asia* (Cambridge University Press), New College, University of Oxford, 29.06.2018.
24. “Twilight of the Persianate: The Vernacularization of Central Asia (18th – early 20th Centuries)” University of Leiden, 12.04.2018
23. “How Can We Study Islam in post-WWII Central Asia?”, Masterclass at the University of Leiden, 17.04.2018
22. “The Secular that Never Was: Untangling the Meaning of Islam in Soviet Central Asia,” Opening Keynote Speech at the Joint CESS-ESCAS Conference, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek 29.06.2017
21. “Modern Local: The World Seen from Khiva,” Leon B. Poullada Memorial Lecture Series (3 lectures), Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Princeton, Spring 2017
20. “Sufis in the Archive: The Ethnographic State According to the Khans of Khorezm,” École Normale Supérieure, Paris, 23.05.2016.
19. “Sufism, Ethnography, and Soviet Islam: Lessons from Khorezm”, European University, St Petersburg, 20-21.04.2016.
18. “Checking the Archive? The Khan and the Historian,” 6 Lucis Lecture Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society, 10. 03.2016.
17. “On the Reconfiguration of Islamic Law in Modern Central Asia”, Department of Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, 16.11.2015.
16. “Into the Archive: Information, Writing, and the Meanings of Knowledge in 19th-Century Khorezm”, Committee on Inner Asian and Altaic Studies, Harvard University, 11.11.2015.
15. “Taking Stock of Justice: Writing Sharia in Post-Chinggisid Central Asia,” Department of History, University of Exeter, 23-24.05.2015.
14. “Changing Legal Consciousness in 19th-Century Central Asia”, School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris, 19.01.2015.
13. “Law and Society in the Middle East”, Beer-Sheva University of the Negev, 03-04.01.2015

12. “Rethinking the Islamic Juridical Field: a View from Modern Central Asia”, *Reimagining Asia: 50 Years Anniversary of the Indian Economic and Social History Review*, The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi, 14.12.2013
11. “Neither Imperial nor Global: The History of Muslim Family Law in a Russian Colony,” Institute of Area Studies, Leiden University, 07.02.2013.
10. “The Archive of the Khans of Khiva: An Islamic Culture of Documentation?”, University of Naples, 06.12.2012.
09. “Assessing the Imperial Rights Regime in Turkestan”, University of Liverpool, 23.11.2012.
08. “On the Consumption of Law in Modern Central Asia: Who Cares for Doctrinal Citations in the Fatwas?” Institute of Ismaili Studies, London 20-30.05.2012.
07. “Solicited Legal Opinions and their Applicants: Making Sense of Central Asian *Fatawa*”, School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris 04.05.2012.
06. “An Imperial Rights Regime? A Reappraisal from Central Asia”, School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris 13.04.2012.
05. “Revoking *Awqāf* in a Situation of Legal Pluralism”, School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris 12.04.2012.
04. “On Muslims’ Normative Agency in Russian Central Asia”, Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna 27.01.2011.
03. “Legal Pluralism and Muslims’ Legal Consumption in Colonial Central Asia”, School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris 14.01.2011.
02. “The Birth of a Custom: Nomads, *Sharī‘a* Courts and Established Legal Practices in the Tashkent province (ca. 1880-1919)”, School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris 13.01.2011.
01. “Imperial Discourse vs. Legal Practice: Islamic and Customary Law in Russian Turkestan”, guest lecture at the Plenum SFP 586 *Differenz und Integration*, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle 27.02.2009.

Events Organized

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| 16.11.2022 | Workshop ‘What is Asia to Us’ to mark the 65 th anniversary of continuous publication of the <i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i> , Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna; |
| 24.–25.10.2022 | Public lecture and workshop to launch the <i>Journal of Central Asian History</i> , Kommission for the Study of Islam in Central Eurasia at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna; |
| 27.09.2022 | Workshop ‘Russia’s Muslims and Global Radicalism,’ Kommission for the Study of Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna; |
| 27.06–01.07.2022 | Summer School ‘The Archives of Islam in the Russian Empire (16 th – early 20 th Centuries), Kommission for the Study of Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna; |
| 05.05.2022 | Fifth <i>JESHO</i> Lecture on Asian History, Austrian Academy of Sciences (lecture series sponsored by Brill) |
| 03.05–04.05.2022 | International conference ‘Local Modern: Exploring Vernacular Cultures across Central Eurasia, Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna; |

- 15.12.2021 Symposium ‘Soviet and Post-Soviet Islam: State of the Field and New Directions’, Kommission for the Study of Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
- 17.–18.11.2021 Workshop ‘Turkic: Probing the Frontiers of a Lingua Franca’, Kommission for the Study of Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
- 26.11.2019 Fourth *JESHO* Lecture on Asian History, Austrian Academy of Sciences (lecture series sponsored by Brill)
- 02.–07.06.2019 Summer School ‘Cultures of Documentation in Persianate Eurasia (15th-19th Centuries)’, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
- 06.11.2018 Third *JESHO* Lecture on Asian History, Austrian Academy of Sciences (lecture series sponsored by Brill)
- 04.–05.10.2018 Symposium “Beyond the Islamicate Chancery: Archives, Paperwork, and Textual Encounters across Eurasia”, Austrian Academy of Sciences, (with Dr. James Pickett)
- 23.–24.05.2017 Symposium “Islamic Cultures of Documentation: Archive, Paperwork and State Power in Eurasia”, University of Pittsburgh, (with Dr. James Pickett)
- 24.–25.03.2017 Authority in Islam in Muslim Eurasia, Indiana University, Bloomington (with Devin DeWeese and Ron Sela)
- 03.–04.11.2016 Second *JESHO* Lecture on Asian History, Austrian Academy of Sciences (lecture series sponsored by Brill)
- 23.–24.06.2016 Symposium “Persianate Cultures of Documentation”, Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna (with Dr. James Pickett, Yale University and University of Pittsburgh)
- 02.–05.08.2016 Panel “Connectivity and Remoteness across Transoxiana” at the Eleventh Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, University of Vienna
- 26.–28.05.2016 Conference “Empires of Water: Water Management and Politics in the Arid Regions of China, Central Eurasia and the Middle East (16th-20th Centuries)”, University of Hong Kong (with Dr. Niccolò Pianciola and Dr. Loretta Kim, Honk Kong University)
- 02.–04.11.2015 Symposium “Sharia in the Russian Empire”, Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna
- 13.10.2015 First *JESHO* Lecture on Asian History, Austrian Academy of Sciences (lecture series sponsored by Brill)
- 12.12.2014 Workshop “Sharia in the Russian Empire”, Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna
- 09.–10.10.2014 Workshop “On Khorezmian Connectivity: Space, Mobility, Imagination”, Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna (with Dr. Christine Nölle-Karimi, Austrian Academy of Sciences)
- 26.–27.04.2014 Workshop “Beyond Muslim Modernism: Re-assessing Cultural Change among the Muslim Communities of Central Asia, Russia and Western China in the 19th and the 20th Centuries”, Harvard University (with Dr. Jeff Eden, Harvard University)
- 03.–07.09.2012 Summer-school “Towards a New Social History of 19th- and early 20th- Century Central Asia”, Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna (with Dr. Thomas Welsford, All Souls College, University of Oxford)
- 09.–10.12.2010 Workshop “The Dynamics of Muslim Legal Pluralism under Colonial Rule,” Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, Halle
- 11.–12.12.2009 Workshop “Social History of Early Modern and Colonial Central Asia: A Focus on Arabic-script documents (18th-20th centuries)”, Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg (with Prof. Jürgen Paul, Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg)

- 29.–30.10.2009 International Conference “Religion and Society in Central Eurasia. New Sources for the Religious History of Kazakhstan”, Cini Foundation, Island of St. George, Venice (with Niccoló Pianciola, Lingnan University of Hong Kong)
- 11.–12.12.2008 Workshop “Islamic Institutions and Muslim Culture in the Interwar Soviet Union (1919-39), pp. The Limitations and the Potentials of the Archival Revolution”, University of Halle-Wittenberg (with Prof. Jürgen Paul, Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg)

Manuscript Reviewer for

- *Acta Slavica Iaponica*
- *Arabica* (Brill)
- *Asiatische Studien* (De Gruyter)
- Brill Academic Publisher (Middle East, Islam & African Studies)
- *Central Asian Survey* (Francis Taylor & Co.)
- California University Press
- De Gruyter
- DFG
- *Die Welt des Islams*
- *Encounters: An International Journal for the Study of Culture and Society* (Zayed University Press)
- *Europe-Asia Studies* (Francis Taylor & Co.)
- European Research Council (ERC)
- *Cahiers du Monde Russe* (editions EHESS)
- *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (Cambridge University Press)
- *Indiana University Press*
- Institute of Advanced Studies (The School of Historical Studies, Princeton University)
- *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* (Brill)
- Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS – KNAW)
- Pittsburgh University Press
- *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (Wiley)
- *Yale University Press*

Memberships

- International Society of Iranian Studies
- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
- Central Eurasian Studies Society
- European Society for Central Asian Studies