

**Call for papers:**

## **The Mongols' Baghdad: Knowledge Transmission through Manuscript Cultures Before and After the Conquest.**

**Location: Vienna, 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022**

The city of Baghdad occupies a central role in the history of the Islamic world as the capital of the Abbasid Caliphate and a hub for the production of knowledge since its foundation in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> century. In the 7<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century, the city was famously conquered by Mongol troops under the command of Hülegü and the Abbasid caliph was executed. This event is often seen as a catastrophic watershed for the Islamic world in general and has spurred different, at times contradictory, interpretations about the history of Baghdad before and after the Mongol conquest. This is particularly contentious with regard to the role of books and knowledge transmission. Some scholars argue that the Mongols destroyed the city's fabled libraries and completely disrupted cultural activity in the region. More recently, others have suggested that despite the impact that the conquest certainly had in the region, the city remained one of the prominent cultural centres of the Islamic world.

The main concern of the workshop is to explore the production, dissemination and consumption of knowledge in Baghdad from the perspective of manuscript studies. We aim to investigate what the production and circulation of manuscripts can tell us about the cultural life of Baghdad and its environs before, during and after the Mongol conquest. Papers should consider either individual manuscripts or collections of codices that shed light on different aspects of continuity and change in the intellectual life of the region. The workshop is organized jointly by the projects *NoMansLand* (Austrian Academy of Sciences) and *Bibliotheca Arabica* (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities).

**Papers are invited to discuss aspects covering, but not limited to, the following topics:**

- Agents: authors, copyists, and patrons.
- Localities: places of production, distribution, and consumption.
- Types of knowledge: religious, secular, or scientific.
- Networks: the interaction of Baghdad with other centres of knowledge.
- Characteristics of specific literary genres and their manuscripts.

### **Submission of abstracts:**

Abstracts should be no more than 300 words and sent to:

[nomansland@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:nomansland@oeaw.ac.at)

Deadline for submissions: **28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

Accepted papers will be notified by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2022.

Accommodation for three nights in Vienna will be provided for accepted participants and some financial help will be available to support travel costs for a limited number of participants. Travel support should be requested when submitting the abstract and is especially reserved for graduate students, young or unaffiliated scholars. This workshop will be a hybrid workshop.

### **Organizing committee:**

Tanvir Ahmed (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Stefanie Brinkmann (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities)

Bruno De Nicola (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Hadel Jarada (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Boris Liebrez (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities)

Nadine Löhr (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities)