

Dr. Marieke Brandt

Academic Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

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Institute for Social Anthropology
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Main areas of research

Social anthropology; Tribalism, tribal structures, tribal genealogy and history, state-tribe-relations; Interpretation of ethnological and historical Arabic sources; Local governance, peace and conflict studies; Regional focus: Southwest Arabia (Yemen).

Description of academic career and positions held to date

Since 2015: Principal investigator and project leader of the Nationalstiftung/ÖAW-funded New Frontiers Groups (NFG) Project *Tribalism, Religious Radicalization, Fossil Energy, and the State: Deciphering Local Power Politics in Yemen's Frontier Provinces Ṣa'dah and al-Jawf* at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA).

2013-2014: Senior researcher at the ISA under the project *Visions of Community: Comparative Approaches to Ethnicity, Region and Empire in Christianity, Islam and Buddhism (400-1600 CE)* (VISCOM) working on genealogies and territories of Yemeni tribes in Late Antiquity.

2011-2013: Principal investigator of the research project *Shifting Loyalties: The Tribes of Khawlān b. 'Amir in the Ḥūthī conflict in Northwest Yemen* funded by a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Research Fellowship (IEF) of the European Commission, installed at the ISA (ÖAW).

2010-2011: Contract of Works and Services with the ISA.

2008-2010: Maternal leave & return to Europe.

2004-2008: Governmental advisor in administration reform, good governance and combating corruption for the Frankfurt-based Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ; Society for International Cooperation) in Sana'a, Yemen.

2003-2004: Arabic language studies at the University of Science and Technology, Sana'a, Yemen.

2000-2003: Doctoral dissertation on at Humboldt University, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Berlin, Germany.

Most important academic awards and fellowships received

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| 2015-2020 | New Frontiers Groups (NFG) Programme research grant of the Nationalstiftung/ÖAW. |
| 2011-2013 | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Research Fellowship (IEF) of the European Commission. |
| 2004 | Highest distinction for Arabic Language Exam at the University of Science and Technology, Sana'a, Yemen. |
| 2003-2004 | DAAD Near and Middle Eastern Language Fellowship, Bonn, Germany. |
| 2004 | Dissertation at Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. |

2000-2002 Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) Dissertation Scholarship for the Exceptionally Gifted, Bonn, Germany.

Functions

- Editor of the *Series Eduard Glaser (Sammlung Eduard Glaser)*, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.
- Leader of the ISA Yemen Team.
- Leader of the ISA Middle East Regional Group.
- Member of the board of German-Yemeni Friendship Society, responsible for the resort “New Publications on Yemen”.

Publications (as of February 2020)

Books

2017 *Tribes and Politics in Yemen: A History of the Houthi Conflict*, London/New York: Hurst/Oxford University Press.

Best Publication Award 2018, Austrian Academy of Sciences & Vienna City Jubilee Fund (Jubiläumsfonds der Stadt Wien für die ÖAW).

Included in *Oxford Scholarship Online*, a part of the University Press Scholarship Online (UPSO) publishing platform hosted by Oxford University Press.

Reviews:

Journal of the British Yemeni Society 25, 2017: 35-38 (John E. Peterson)

Middle East Monitor, 16 February 2018 (Khalil Dewan)

Jemen Report 49, 1/2, 2018: 123 (Horst Kopp)

The Middle East Journal 72/3, 2018: 513-515 (Silvana Toska)

The Times Literary Supplement, 8 January 2019 (Barnaby Crowcroft)

Review of Middle East Studies 52/2, 2018: 392-394 (Daniel Varisco)

International Journal of Middle East Studies 51/1, 2019: 168-170 (Adam Seitz)

Bustan: The Middle East Book Review 9/2, 2018: 230-234 (Steven C. Caton)

The New York Review of Books, 21 February 2019 (Robert F. Worth)

Articles and book chapters (peer reviewed)

2019 “A Tribe and Its States: Yemen’s 1972 Bayḥān Massacre Revisited”, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 55: 3, pp. 319-338, DOI: 10.1080/00263206.2018.1540415.

- 2018 “The Huthi Enigma: Ansar Allah and the Second Republic”, in Marie-Christine Heinze (ed.), *Yemen and the Search for Stability: Power, Politics and Society after the Arab Spring*, London: I. B. Tauris, pp. 160-183.
- 2018 “Twelve Years of Shifting Sands: Conflict Mediation in Yemen 2004-2016”, *Jemen Report* 49/1-2, pp. 104-116.
- 2017 “The Global and the Local: Al-Qaeda and Yemen’s Tribes”, in Olivier Roy and Virginie Collombier (eds.), *Tribes and Global Jihadism*, London: Hurst/Oxford University Press, pp. 105-130.
- 2017 “Delocalization of Fieldwork and (Re)Construction of Place: Doing Ethnography in Wartime Yemen”, *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (IJMES) 49/3, pp. 506-510, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743817000368>.
- 2016 “Heroic History, Disruptive Genealogy: Al-Ḥasan al-Hamdānī and the Historical Formation of the Shākīr Tribe (Wā’ilah and Dahm) in al-Jawf, Yemen”, *Medieval Worlds* 3/2016, pp. 116-145.
- 2015 “Annäherungen an einen Konflikt: Chancen und Begrenzungen von Inter- und Transdisziplinarität in der Jemen-Forschung am Beispiel des Ḥūṭī-Konflikts”, *Jemen-Report* 46, 1/2, pp. 55-63.
- 2014 “Inhabiting Tribal Structures: Leadership Hierarchies in Tribal Upper Yemen (Hamdān & Khawlān b. ‘Āmir)”, in *South Arabia Across History: Essays in Memory of Walter Dostal*, pp. 91-116, Vienna: Verlag der ÖAW.
- 2014 “The Contemporary Structures and Historical Formation of the Khawlān and Jumā‘ah Tribes in Ṣa‘dah, Northwest Yemen”, *Anthropology of the Middle East* 9/1, pp. 59-82.
- 2014 “The Irregulars of the Ṣa‘dah War: ‘Colonel Shaykhs’ and ‘Tribal Militias’ in Yemen’s Ḥūṭī Conflict (2004-2010)”, in Helen Lackner (ed.), *Why Yemen Matters: A Society in Transition* (=SOAS Middle East Issues), London: Saqi, pp.105-122.
- 2013 “Sufyān’s ‘Hybrid’ War: Tribal Politics During the Ḥūṭī Conflict”, *Journal of Arabian Studies* 3/1, pp. 120-138, DOI: 10.1080/21534764.2013.802942.
- 2012 “Friedens-Shaykh und Kriegs-Shaykh: Der Übergang von Kriegsführerschaft bei den Banū Munebbih im Ḥūṭī-Konflikt im Nordwest-Jemen”, *Anthropos* 107, pp. 49-69.

Articles (not peer-reviewed)

- 2020 “Kleine Geschichte des Jemen”, *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* (APuZ) 70/1-3, supplement of the German weekly *Das Parlament*, Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, pp. 9-17.
- 2019 ‘The War in Yemen, Bottom-Up: Tribal Politics in Depth and in Motion’, *The British-Yemeni Society Journal* 27, pp. 11-18.
- 2019 ‘Eine Geschichte der Misserfolge: Konflikt-Mediation mit Jemens Huthis 2004-2016’, *INAMO* 97, Spring 2019, pp. 21-32.

- 2016 'Obituary: Abdulkarim al-Khaywani (1965-2015),' *British-Yemeni Society Journal* 24/2016, pp. 59-61.
- 2016 'In Memoriam 'Abd al-Karim al-Khaywani,' *Jemen-Report* 47, pp. 82-83.
- 2015 'The hidden realities behind Saudi Arabia's Operation Decisive Storm in Yemen,' *Focaaal*, 15 May 2015, <http://www.focaaalblog.com/2015/05/15/marieke-brandt-the-hidden-realities-behind-saudi-arabias-operation-decisive-storm-in-yemen/>.
- 2014 'Iqlīm Ṣa'da wa l-Jawf: Das problematische Erbe einer möglichen föderalen Provinz,' *Jemen-Report* 45, pp. 32-39.
- 2011 'Rückblick auf das Goldene Zeitalter des Jawf: Das Beduinenfestival Mahrajān Qarnāw als eine bemerkenswerte Friedensinitiative in einer krisengeschüttelten Provinz des Jemen,' *Jemen-Report* 42, pp. 34-39.
- 2010 'Vom Auszug der Gläubigen. Der Ḥūthī-Konflikt im Norden des Jemen,' *Informationsprojekt Naher und Mittlerer Osten* (INAMO) 62, pp. 13-17.
- 2010 'Al-jihāz al-markazī li-l-riqāba wa l-muḥāsaba wa dawruhu fī ḥimāyat al-māl al-‘āmm wa l-mumtaliqāt al-‘amma wa muḥārabat al-fasād [The Yemeni Supreme Audit Institution and its role in the Protection of the Public Funds and Combating Corruption in Yemen],' *Law and Administration* 9/2, YCSR Yemen Center for Studies and Research.
- 2008 'Murāja'at an-nafaqāt as-sirriyyah fī Jumhūriyyah Almāniyā al-ittiḥādīyah [The Audit of Secret Expenditure in the Federal Republic of Germany],' *al-Riqaba* 10/2008.
- 2007 'Yemen tightens fiscal control under German supervision,' *Yemen Observer* 94, 11 December 2007.
- 2007 'Der jemenitische Rechnungshof COCA und seine Rolle beim Schutz der öffentlichen Mittel und der Korruptionsbekämpfung im Jemen,' *Jemen-Report* 38/2007.
- 2007 'Al-taqrīr as-sanawī lī-diwān al-riqābah wa l-muḥāsabah al-almānī al-ittiḥādī wa dawruhu fī al-nizām as-siyassī lī-Almāniyā [The Annual Report of the German Federal Audit Office and its Role in the Political System of Germany],' *Al-Riqaba* 7, March 2007.
- 2006 'Hamoud Al-Hitar und die Praxis des kommunikativen Handelns,' *Jemen-Report* 37/1.
- 2005 'Chronologie der Wahrnehmungen. Kulturbegegnung mit dem Orient am Beispiel des Jemen,' *Jemen-Report* 36/2.
- 2005 'Eine Übersetzung zeitgenössischer Literatur aus dem Jemen,' *Jemen-Report* 36/2.

Reviews

- 2018 Review of Isa Blumi: *Destroying Yemen: What Chaos in Arabia Tells Us About the World*, University of California Press 2018: Oakland.
The Middle East Journal 72/4, autumn 2018, pp. 711-712.
- 2018 Review of Ginny Hill: *Yemen Endures: Civil War, Saudi Adventurism and the Future of Arabia*, London 2017: Hurst.

- Jemen Report* 49, 1/2, pp. 118-119.
- 2017 Review of Helen Lackner: *Yemen in Crisis: Autocracy, Neo-Liberalism and the Disintegration of a State*, Saqi 2017: London.
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) Middle East Centre Blog,
<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2017/12/08/book-review-helen-lackners-yemen-in-crisis-autocracy-neo-liberalism-and-the-disintegration-of-a-state/>
- 2017 Review of Sheila Carapico (ed.), *Arabia Incognita: Dispatches from Yemen and the Gulf*, Just World Books 2016.
Journal of Arabian Studies 7/1, 2017, pp. 145-147.
- 2017 Review of Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Embroidery from the Arab World*, London 2016: Bloomsbury.
Jemen-Report 48, 1/2, p. 114.
- 2017 Review of Nadav Samin, *Of Sand or Soil: Genealogy & Tribal Belonging in Saudi Arabia*, Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press 2016.
American Ethnologist 44/2, pp. 368-369.
- 2012 Review of Dinah Jung, *An Ethnography of Fragrance. The Perfumery Arts of ‘Adan/Lahj*, Leiden: Brill 2011.
Jemen-Report 43/1, pp. 108-109.

Conference Presentations

- 2019 “Lessons of the Past, Pathways to the Future? Some Observations on the Historical Roots and Current Features of Ḥūthī Governance in Tribal Highland Yemen”, paper presented at the workshop “The Roots of Yemen’s “Huthi” Movement: History, Memory, Continuity and Ruptures”, Institute of Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 5th September 2019, 2019
- 2019 ‘Tribalism in Northern Highland Yemen: Tribes, Rulers and Revolutions’, paper presented at “Tribes and Tribalism: (Re-)Assessing Society in the Middle East and How We Talk About It” conference, University of Maryland, 2-3 May 2019.
- 2019 “The History of the Huthi Conflict”, lecture given at SOAS/LMEI. London, 22 January 2019.
- 2018 ‘A Tribe and Its States: Yemen’s 1972 Bayḥān Massacre revisited’, paper presented at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), San Antonio, November 2018.
- 2018 ‘The Tribal Factor in Yemen’s Ḥūthī Crisis’, paper presented at the Open Lecture Series at Bergen Resource Center, Bergen University and Christian Michelsen Institute in Bergen, Norway, 19 September 2018.
- 2018 ‘Tribes and Politics in Yemen: A History of the Houthi Conflict’, book presentation on occasion of the Annual Meeting of the German Yemeni Society in Tübingen, 5 May 2018.

- 2018 'Some remarks on blood revenge (*tha'r*) in contemporary Yemen', paper presented at the workshop *Yemen's Living Heritage: Tribes and Tribalism into the 21st Century*, Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, 14-15 February 2018.
- 2016 'Itineraries of Expansion: The Ṣa'dah Wars Revisited', paper presented at the *50th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, Boston, 19 November 2016.
- 2016 'Yemen's Arduous Road to Peace: Twelve Years of Mediation with the Houthis', *Gulf Research Meeting*, Cambridge, 17 August 2016.
- 2015 'Houthis and Tribes: Prospects for Tribalism in Houthi-Controlled Areas', paper presented at the *49th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, Denver, 22 November 2015.
- 2015 'Tribes and Jihadism in the Borderlands between Yemen and Saudi Arabia', paper presented at *Tribes and Jihadism* conference, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies/European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole, 8 June 2015.
- 2014 'Playing the 'al-Qaeda card' in Wā'ilah (Ṣa'dah): Local power politics in Yemen's northern frontier province', paper presented at the *World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES)*, Ankara, 18 August 2014.
- 2014 'Visions of Statehood: Anṣār Allah and the Second Republic', paper presented at *The New Yemen: Social, Cultural, and Political Ramifications of the 'Revolution' 3 Years After* conference, University of Bonn, 17 June 2014.
- 2013 'Between tribe and army: 'Colonel Shaykhs' and 'Tribal Militias' in Yemen's Ḥūthī Conflict (2004-2010)', paper presented at *Yemen: Challenges for the Future* conference, British Yemeni Society (BYS) and London Middle East Institute (LMEI) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, 11 January 2013.
- 2012 'People and Positions: Observations on 'tribal leadership' among the tribes of Khawlān b. 'Āmir', paper presented at *Südarabienforschung heute/South Arabian Studies today – in Memoriam Walter Dostal* conference, Österreichische Orient-Gesellschaft Hammer-Purgstall and Institut für Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie, Vienna, 8 October 2012.
- 2012 'Blood Revenge in Yemen during the 6th Ḥūthī War', paper presented at *Dialog statt Disparität: Perspektiven der Jemen-Forschung in Zeiten des Umbruchs* workshop, Institute of Oriental Studies Otto-Friedrich University, Bamberg, 25 September 2012.
- 2011 'Shifting the Power Structures: Political Developments in Ṣa'dah after the End of the 6th Ḥūthī War', paper presented at *18th DAVO Congress*, Deutscher Arbeitskreis Vorderer Orient, Berlin, 6 October 2011.