

Mag. Dr. phil. Lorenz Nigst • *Curriculum Vitae* [short]

Current Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral researcher, Stand Alone Project P 28736 'Death & Life: Local Conceptions of Reincarnation among the Druzes in the Middle East' (financed by the Austrian Science Fund | FWF); www.fwf.ac.at
 Phonogrammarchiv
 Liebiggasse 5
 A-1010 Vienna
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Lecturer for Arabic Language, Austrian Oriental Society (ÖOG), Dominikanerbastei 6/8, 1010 Vienna, Austria; <http://www.orient-gesellschaft.at/>

Areas of Expertise

Islamic sainthood; cult of the saints; concepts of closeness to God; asceticism, Islamic theology; prayer literature; *adab*-literature.
 Druze; transmigration of the souls (*taqammuṣ*).
 Contemporary Muslim discourses of authenticity.

Education

03/2011	PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies; theme of the PhD thesis: 'Legitime Nähe: Ibn Taymiyyas theoretisches Konstrukt von den <i>awliyā</i> ' <i>Allāh</i> ' Supervisors: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stephan Procházka & Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Lohlker
08/2003	MA in Arabic and Islamic Studies; theme of the M.A. thesis: 'Asketisches Gedankengut in Abū l- ^c Alā' al-Ma ^c arris <i>Luzūmīyāt</i> ' Supervisors: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stephan Procházka & Univ.-Prof. Dr. Arne Ambros (†)
10/1997–08/2003	Enrolled in the program for Arabic at the Institute for Oriental Studies at the University of Vienna; additional courses in social anthropology, linguistics, philosophy, and African Studies; courses in Hebrew and Kanuri
10/2001–06/2003	Enrolled in the program for 'Teaching German as a Foreign Language' (DaF) at the Institute for German Studies at the University of Vienna (Austria)
02/2000–09/2000	Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University (Egypt)
02/1997–09/1997	Granada, Spain (language course)

Academic Appointments | Teaching

04/2016–	Postdoctoral researcher, Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), Vienna (Austria); FWF Stand Alone Project P 28736 ‘Death & Life: Local Conceptions of Reincarnation among the Druzes in the Middle East’
09/2016–	Affiliate scholar at the Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), Beirut (Lebanon)
10/2004–09/2016	Lecturer for Arabic philology, Institute for Oriental Studies at the University of Vienna (Austria)
03/2013– 07/2013	Lecturer for Arabic at the Austrian Foreign Ministry
10/2012–05/2013	Lecturer for Arabic for the OPEC Fund
05/2010–01/2011	Predocctoral researcher; University of Vienna; HERA project ‘Sharing Ancient Wisdoms’ (SAWS); joint project of the University of Vienna, King’s College London, and the University of Stockholm
01/2008 –06/2008	Lecturer for Arabic at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna (Austria)
03/2006–9/2007	Predocctoral researcher, University of Vienna; FWF Stand Alone Project P 17101 ‘Dialect, culture, and popular religion in a changing Bedouin society: the Marāzīg tribe of Southern Tunisia’
03/2004–01/2006	Lecturer for German as a Foreign Language at the Austrian Oriental Society (ÖOG)
09/2003–02/2004	Lecturer for German at Al-Azhar University & 6 th of October University in Cairo (Egypt)

Courses Taught | University of Vienna (selection)

2016 (summer)	Arabic National Grammar: Historical Overview & Close-reading of Key Texts
2014 (winter)	Philological seminar: ‘Al-Būṣīrī & Poems in Praise of Muḥammad’
2013 (winter)	Philological seminar: ‘The Language of Power, and the Power of Language: At-Tawḥīdī’s <i>Aḥlāq al-wazīrayn</i> , and the Concept of <i>ḡāh</i> ’
2011 (summer)	Philological seminar: ‘Liminality and the Reversal of Normality in Medieval Islamic Texts: Al-Ġazālī’s <i>K. Asrār al-ḥaḡḡ</i> & Ibn Qayyim al-Ġawzīya’s <i>K. Ḥādī al-arwāḥ</i> ’
2011–2016	Media Arabic
2004–2016	Modern Standard Arabic Grammar

Invited Presentations (selection)

03/2015	‘Baraka im Rahmen des lokalen Pilgerwesens im Großraum Syrien;’ invited lecture for the workshop <i>Towards an Anthropology of Blessing</i> , a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne, Universität zu Köln (Germany)
07/2012	‘Ibn Taymīya on Religious Virtuosity;’ invited lecture for the conference <i>Spiritualitäten im Dialog: Gott mehr gehorchen als den Menschen?</i> , Stift Kremsmünster, Kremsmünster (Austria)
11/2011	‘Holy Places and the Transmission of Baraka – B: Dissociation and the Transgression of Social Norms;’ invited lecture for the international conference <i>Performing Religion: Actors, Contexts, and Texts</i> , Orient-Institute Beirut (OIB), Beirut (Lebanon)
09/2011	‘Become What You Are: Some Observations About the Recourse to <i>Fītra</i> in Contemporary Discourses;’ invited presentation for the symposium ‘Love,

Seduction, and Gender, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Berlin (Germany)

04/2011 'The Boyāt Phenomenon;' invited presentation for the *Youth at the Crossroads Conference*, Sharjah Higher Colleges of Technology, Sharjah (United Arab Emirates)

Paper Presentations (selection)

- 11/2017 'The Ambivalent Presence of "Speaking" in the Druze Communities,' presentation at the workshop *Reincarnation and personal identity in the Middle East*, 30.11.2017 – 01. 12. 2017, Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS), Vienna (Austria)
- 09/2015 'Baraka and Ethnic-Religious Boundaries;' presentation for the *GAA conference 2015*, Marburg (Germany) (with Gebhard Fartacek)
- 09/2011 'Dissociation and Conformity to Norms: Modes of *Baraka* in the Context of Local Pilgrimage in Contemporary Syria;' presentation in the frame of the 6th *International Conference on Middle Eastern and North African Popular Culture*, Vienna (Austria) (with Gebhard Fartacek)
- 06/2011 'Die Pilgerfahrt nach Mekka: Liminalität in al-Ġazālīs *Iḥyā' ʿulūm ad-dīn*;' presentation at the conference *Spiritualitäten im Dialog: 'Pilgerschaft'*, Stift Kremsmünster, Kremsmünster (Austria)
- 07/2010 'Boyāt in the Gulf;' presentation at the *World Congress of Middle East Studies (WOCMES)*, Barcelona (Spain) (with José Sánchez García)
- 10/2008 'The concept of *al-ghayb* in Southern Tunisia;' presentation for the 5th *International Conference on Middle Eastern and North African Popular Culture*, Oran (Algeria)
- 04/2008 'Heilige als mächtige Individuen;' presentation at the *4. Tage der Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie 2008*; Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna, Vienna (Austria)

Research Projects

'Death & Life: Local Conceptions of Reincarnation among the Druzes in the Middle East;' FWF Stand Alone Project P 28736; AAS Phonogrammarchiv; postdoctoral researcher (04/2016–03/2019)

'Sharing Ancient Wisdoms;' HERA project with the participation of the University of Vienna, King's College London, and the University of Stockholm); University of Vienna, predoctoral researcher (05/2010–01/2011)

'Dialect, culture, and popular religion in a changing Bedouin society: the Marāzīg tribe of Southern Tunisia.' FWF Stand Alone Project P 17101; University of Vienna; predoctoral researcher (03/2006–9/2007)