

ARABIC CODICOLOGY: THE ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPT HERITAGE IN THE EL ESCORIAL COLLECTION

FROM 2 TO 6 JULY 2018

Director: Nuria Martínez de Castilla (EPHE, PSL, Paris)

Secretary: Carlos Leo Roca (London)

Sponsor: SICLe ("Saadian Intellectual and Cultural Life", ERC 670628)



Fundación General
Universidad Complutense de Madrid



European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

SICLe
ERC 670628

Due to the use of original manuscripts during the hands-on sessions, the number of students cannot exceed 16. Thus, alongside the application form, a motivation letter (1,000 - 1,5000 words) and a one-page CV are required and will be considered during the selection process. Applicants have to send these documents to mss.arabicscript@gmail.com. Please note that the course will be taught in English. Application deadline is April 15th, 2018.

The course *Arabic Codicology: the Islamic manuscript heritage in the El Escorial Collection* will provide the students with the basic codicological knowledge and the research procedures needed to study and analyze Arabic manuscripts. Moreover, it will familiarize them with the libraries of the Arabic-Islamic world in Medieval and Modern times, particularly with the library that belonged to the Moroccan sultan Muley Zaydān.

The course is designed on an eminently practical dynamic. In the evenings, the students will be able to apply the theoretical knowledge previously acquired in the mornings to the actual manuscripts hosted at the Royal Library of the Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial (RBME). This is the most important Arabic Manuscript Collection of Spain and one of the most relevant in Europe.

The venues of the summer courses are a privileged location due to the proximity to the Library. The course will be taught entirely in English by leading experts in Arabic Codicology Prof. François Déroche (CdF) and Prof. Nuria Martínez de Castilla (EPHE). It is sponsored by the European project SICLe ("Saadian Intellectual and Cultural Life", ERC 670628) and is designed for historians, art historians, philologists, documentalists, antiquarians, curators, bibliophiles, conservation specialists, etc., preferably with a Master's degree.

Monday 2 July

10.30h. Nuria Martínez de Castilla (EPHE, Paris) and José Luis del Valle (Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de El Escorial). "The Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de El Escorial and its manuscript collections"

11.45h. Nuria Martínez de Castilla. "About the importance of the Codicological studies"

12.15h. François Déroche (Collège de France, Paris). "Writing surfaces: parchment and paper"

16.00h. Nuria Martínez de Castilla and François Déroche. "Writing surfaces II: Western paper"

Tuesday 3 July

09.30h. Nuria Martínez de Castilla. "The basis of Codex Composition"

12.00h. François Déroche. "Inks and lay-out"

16.00h. Round-table: "How to observe and describe an Arabic manuscript?"
Discussants: Nuria Martínez de Castilla and François Déroche

Wednesday 4 July

09.30h. François Déroche. "Arabic Paleography"

12.00h. François Déroche. "Decoration of Manuscripts"

16.00h. Round-table: "Towards a History of the Arabic manuscript"
Discussants: François Déroche and Nuria Martínez de Castilla

Thursday 5 July

09.30h. Nuria Martínez de Castilla and François Déroche. "Arabic Bindings"

12.00h. François Déroche. "Notes and Colophons"

16.00h. Round-table: "Bookbinders at work" Discussants: Nuria Martínez de Castilla and François Déroche

Friday 6 July

09.30h. François Déroche. "History of Manuscripts"

12.30h. Closing session and diploma delivery