

Job description

Job title	Research Associate in Arabic and/or Syriac Manuscripts (<i>Stories of Survival: Eastern Christianity in the Early Modern World</i>) (up to two posts available)
Faculty / Department	Faculty of History
Division	Humanities
Grade and salary	Grade 7 points 1 to 3: £32,236 to £34,189 per year
Start date	January 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed term for one year
Reporting to	John-Paul Ghobrial
Method of application	Electronic (see 'How to Apply' below)
Application deadline	12 noon (UK time) on 17 December 2018
Number of referees required	Two (references must be submitted by the deadline for applications)
Vacancy reference	138094
Recruitment contacts	recruitments@history.ox.ac.uk

Overview of the role

Stories of Survival is a major five-year research project funded by a €1.5 million European Research Council Starting Grant (2015-20), directed by Dr John-Paul Ghobrial, and based at the University of Oxford. The project is investigating the history of Eastern Christianity in the early modern period, ca. 16th-18th centuries. From Lebanese immigrants in Argentina to Iraqi refugees in Sweden, Eastern Christians can be found today scattered across the entire world. Too often, however, this global migration has been seen purely as a modern development, one arising from contemporary political and confessional events in the Middle East, while in fact this phenomenon had its roots in the early modern period. From the sixteenth century onwards, Christians from the Ottoman Empire set out for distant worlds and foreign lands, travelling as far as Europe, India, Russia, and even the Americas and leaving traces of themselves in countless European and Middle Eastern archives, chanceries, and libraries. This transnational project will gather all of these disparate sources into a single analytical frame to uncover, for the first time, the global and connected histories of Eastern Christianity in the early modern world.



The *Stories of Survival* project is producing a new religious and social history of Eastern Christianity in a global context. In doing so, it seeks to recover the role of Christians at the heart of Middle Eastern history. Through the work of a team of researchers under the close supervision of Dr Ghobrial as Principal Investigator, the project is reconstituting and analysing a 'lost archive' of literary, documentary, and printed sources in three continents, ten languages, and dozens of archives. In doing so, this project will also respond directly to one of the most pressing conceptual challenges facing global history today, that is, how to link the study of the micro-scale level of everyday life to the macro-narratives emphasised by global historians. Underlying this project, therefore, is a major intervention that seeks to advance a rigorous form of global history, and one which preserves philology and source criticism at the heart of its methodology. The project team is pursuing a robust strategy for dissemination aimed at the fields of Middle Eastern, European, and global history. The outcomes of this project will include print-publications, workshops, a website, and a searchable database of all writings by Eastern Christians in Arabic and Syriac from 1500 to 1750.

The project already employs three post-doctoral Research Associates working on Arabic, Syriac, and European-language sources related to Eastern Christianity, in addition to the one-year posts advertised here. The team works in close collaboration, meeting regularly in a Project Seminar and team workshops to share findings, discuss sources, and collaborate for purposes of research dissemination. The team will present its research and represent Oxford at conferences around the world.

For further information about the background and objectives of the project, see the Project Description in **Annex A**.

Overview of the new roles

We are seeking to appoint up to two postdoctoral researchers from January 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter to work on the ERC-funded project 'Stories of Survival: Recovering the Connected Histories of Eastern Christianity in the Early Modern World'. The appointees will work as part of a larger team of post-doctoral researchers reporting to the Principal Investigator, Dr John-Paul Ghobrial. The two postholders will have primary responsibility for cataloguing and researching material in Arabic and/or Syriac manuscripts as part of the project's work on creating a database of all Christian Arabic and Syriac manuscripts from 1500 to 1750.

Each postholder will have responsibility for cataloguing and researching a specific set of Arabic and/or Syriac manuscripts. Working with manuscript catalogues (published and online), the postholders will play an essential role in contributing information to a database of Eastern Christian manuscripts produced from 1500 to 1750. Alongside the database, each postholder will be encouraged to produce a single-authored article on some major aspect(s) of Eastern Christianity in the early modern period in consultation with, and under the supervision of, Dr Ghobrial. Applicants are requested to include a one-page description of their doctoral research, in addition to a cover letter setting out how their skills and qualifications will help contribute to the work of completing the project database. In addition, postholders may be commissioned to prepare articles, blog posts, and other short publications on specific topics of relevance to the project. All members of the project team will be expected to attend and contribute to the Project Seminar, team workshops, related events, and to present and represent the project at international conferences.

The postholders will be based within a designated research space and given full access to the University's libraries and all resources needed to produce field-changing research. The appointees will also have access to training and personal development sessions, and they will be part of a community of researchers across the University. The History Faculty's recently established Programme in Eastern Mediterranean Studies will serve as an intellectual hub for the project team, which will also benefit from the nearby presence of the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr John-Paul Ghobrial (john-paul.ghobrial@history.ox.ac.uk).

Responsibilities/duties

- Conduct independent, excellent research on Eastern Christianity in the early modern world, in libraries and archives in the UK and abroad, under the direction of the Principal Investigator.
- Systematically collect onto the *Stories of Survival* database all evidence of Arabic and Syriac manuscripts produced during the period of 1500 to 1750, and do so with reference to the requisite catalogues, inventories, and manuscript descriptions (both published and online) dating back to the nineteenth century.
- Attend the Project Seminar, team meetings and other events in the UK and abroad as required.
- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the research team on methodologies or procedures; work closely with the other members of the team to identify, catalogue and research relevant manuscript collections.
- Represent the project and deliver papers at team workshops, external workshops, conferences, public events, and other meetings.
- Contribute to the public engagement work of the project, not least through regular blog posts to the project website and the wider scholarly community.

Selection criteria

Essential

- A doctorate in a relevant field (e.g. History, Oriental Studies), or evidence that a doctorate is imminently expected;
- Excellent knowledge of Arabic and/or Syriac, and spoken and written English;
- Knowledge of one or more relevant fields (e.g. Eastern Christian Studies, Islamic Studies, early modern European history, global history);

- Ability and willingness to systematically collect, and input, all the available data related to Arabic and/or Syriac manuscripts in this period;
- Ability and willingness to work as part of a team, share insights and findings, and engage in collaborative, collective and experimental forms of research and publication;
- Ability and willingness to develop a detailed knowledge of the historical context of Eastern Christianity and/or the Middle East in this period;
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and to represent Oxford and the project at meetings;
- Ability to conduct, with only light supervision, autonomous academic research and associated activities;
- Ability to write to a deadline.

Desirable

- Ability and ambition to produce a single-authored publication that reflects both the subject and methodologies of the project;
- Knowledge of relevant research languages (e.g. German, Turkish, Armenian, Italian, Latin, Spanish, French);
- Experience of working with databases;
- Experience of working on a collaborative project;
- Experience of working specifically with manuscript material;
- Experience of independently managing a discrete area of a research project;
- Experience of public engagement around historical research.

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, and in providing all of our staff with a welcoming and inclusive

workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. Income from external research contracts in 2014/15 exceeded £522.9m and ranked first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 spin-off companies created to date. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation

Faculty of History

The Faculty of History in Oxford is the largest in the United Kingdom and one of the largest in the world. It has a very strong international reputation for its scholarship and its teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, with particular strengths in the history of the British Isles, continental Europe, imperial and global history, the United States, economic and social history, intellectual history and the history of science, medicine and technology. Within the Faculty there is also a department for the History of Art, and the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine. Research in the Faculty is focused around, and facilitated by, nine formal research centres (the newest of these being the Oxford Global History Research Centre (<http://global.history.ox.ac.uk>)) and twenty informal research clusters. Research centres provide focal points for major individual and collaborative research projects, and for the organisation of conferences and workshops, and can call upon administrative support from within the Faculty. Research centres and research clusters support regular seminars and other events, which have provided the context and stimulus for the preparation and writing of many publications.

The Programme in Eastern Mediterranean Studies has recently been established in the History Faculty, and it will bring together scholars and students working on a wide range of topics linked to east-west circulation, exchange, and conflict across the range of social, cultural, intellectual, religious, and economic history.

In addition to faculty postholders, there are large numbers of other scholars involved in historical research and teaching in Oxford's colleges, museums and libraries, as well a continuous stream of distinguished academic visitors to the University.

More information about the Faculty can be found at: www.history.ox.ac.uk

Humanities Division

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together the faculties of Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Oriental Studies; Philosophy; and Theology and Religion, as well as the Ruskin School of Art. The Division has over 500 members of academic staff, approximately 4,100 undergraduates

(more than a third of the total undergraduate population of the University), 1,000 postgraduate research students and 720 students on postgraduate taught courses.

The Division offers world-class teaching and research, backed by the superb resources of the University's libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Libraries, with their 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections, and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Such historic resources are linked to cutting-edge agendas in research and teaching, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study.

The Division's faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages.

For more information please visit: www.humanities.ox.ac.uk

How to apply

Before submitting an application, you may find it helpful to read the 'Tips on applying for a job at the University of Oxford' document, at www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/supportandtechnical/.

If you consider that you meet the selection criteria, click on the **Apply Now** button on the 'Job Details' page and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a user. You will then be required to complete a number of screens with your application details, relating to your skills and experience. You will also be required to upload:

- A full *curriculum vitae*;
- A supporting statement explaining how you meet the selection criteria for the post. You should refer to your relevant experience which may have been gained in employment, education, or you may have taken time away from these activities in order to raise a family, care for a dependant, or travel for example. Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that that you meet the selection criteria outlined above and we are happy to consider evidence of transferable skills or experience which you may have gained outside the context of paid employment or education.
- A one-page description of your previous research, which may include doctoral research and/or your recent publications.

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

When prompted, please provide details of two referees. Please give your referees a copy of this job description and ask them to email their references to recruitments@history.ox.ac.uk by the deadline for applications.

It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure references are received on time

All applications must be received by **midday** on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing departments.

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments)

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk. Further help and support is available from www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/. To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic emails from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** regularly to ensure that you receive all emails.

Important information for candidates

Pre-employment screening

Please note that the appointment of the successful candidate will be subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post. This will include right-to-work, proof of identity and references. We advise all applicants to read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures, found at:

www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an employer justified retirement age for all academic and academic-related posts (grade 6 and above), for which the retirement date is the 30 September immediately preceding the 68th birthday. The justification for this is explained at:

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisejra/revaim/.

For **existing** employees any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisejra/revproc/

There is no normal or fixed age at which **support staff** in posts at **grades 1–5** have to retire. Support staff may retire once they reach the minimum pension age stipulated in the Rules of the pension scheme to which they belong.

Equality of Opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Benefits of working at the University

Training and Development

A range of training and development opportunities are available at the University. Further details can be found at www.ox.ac.uk/staff/working_at_oxford/training_development/index.html.

For research staff only: Support for Research Staff

There is a particularly wide range of support for career development for research staff. Please visit: www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers to find out more.

Pensions

The University offers generous occupational pension schemes for eligible staff members. Further details can be found at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/epp/pensions/pensionspolicy/.

Information for international staff *(or those relocating from another part of the UK)*

A wealth of information is available on the University's International Staff website for staff who are relocating to Oxford from abroad, at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/international/.

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The Newcomers' Club is aimed at helping partners of newly-arrived visiting scholars, graduate students and academic members of the University to settle in and to meet people in Oxford.

Transport schemes

The University offers a range of travel schemes and public transport travel discounts to staff. Full details are available at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/ourservices/travel/.

University Club and University Sports Facilities

The University Club provides social, sporting and hospitality facilities. It incorporates a Club bar, a cafe and sporting facilities, including a gym. See www.club.ox.ac.uk for all further details.

University staff can use the University Sports Centre at discounted rates, and have the chance to join sports clubs. Please visit www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities.

Childcare and Childcare Vouchers

The University offers quality childcare provision services at affordable prices to its employees. For full details about the services offered, please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare/. **NB: Due to the high demand for the University's nursery places there is a long waiting list.**

The University also offers nursery fee payment schemes to eligible staff as an opportunity to save tax and national insurance on childcare costs. Please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare.

Disabled staff

The University is committed to supporting members of staff with a disability or long-term health condition and has a dedicated Staff Disability Advisor. Please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff for further details.

BUPA - Eduhealth

Bupa Eduhealth Essentials private medical insurance offers special rates for University of Oxford staff and their families www.eduhealth.co.uk/mini-site/.

All other benefits

For other benefits, such as free entry to colleges, the Botanic Gardens and staff discounts offered by third party companies, please see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/.

Annex A

Stories of Survival:

Recovering the Connected Histories of Eastern Christianity in the Early Modern World

Introduction

The European Research Council is funding a major five-year project to investigate the history of Eastern Christianity in the early modern period, ca. 16th-18th centuries. The project, which runs from 2015 to 2020, is directed by Dr John-Paul Ghobrial and based in the Faculty of History at Oxford. The project will employ a total of three post-doctoral researchers, for a period of three years each (2016-19), alongside a handful of short-term researchers and a Project Coordinator. The project team will produce a freely-available searchable database of all extant Arabic and Syriac writings from 1500 to 1750. Alongside this, each post-doctoral researcher will be expected to complete either a monograph or at least three articles on central aspects of Eastern Christianity, according to his/her particular interests and skills and under the close supervision of Dr Ghobrial.

The Topic of Investigation

In spite of the existence of a vast, global archive of sources, our knowledge of Eastern Christianity in the early modern period remains surprisingly limited. In part, this is a reflection of the fact that most scholars who command the requisite philological skills have tended to focus on the early medieval period or on the contemporary situation of Christians in the Middle East. What little work has been done on the early modern period remains problematic and limited in several ways. Firstly, scholars have tended to restrict themselves to local and nationally-oriented studies of particular Eastern Christian communities such as the Copts of Egypt, the Maronites of Lebanon, or the Assyrians of Iraq. While undoubtedly an important contribution to our knowledge of the period, these studies are imperfect in as much as they ignore interactions taking place *between* specific communities as well as *between* these communities and the wider world. Indeed, much of the existing scholarship emphasises the doctrinal differences that separated particular Eastern Christian churches from each other, while ignoring the fact that many of these communities shared a common vernacular in the language of Arabic and, for some, the historical and liturgical use of Syriac. Secondly, our knowledge has been misguided by an outmoded conception of Christians as a 'second-class', minority population in the Islamic world. This idea is more a reflection of twentieth-century realities than early modern ones, and the consequence is that Eastern Christianity has been relegated to the margins of Ottoman history.

When approached at all, Eastern Christians are too often studied through the prism of 'Islamic' history, almost as if they made no history of their own.

This state-of-the-art is unjustifiable, not least considering that the study of Eastern Christianity has been the subject of scholarly interest since at least the eighteenth century. For more than three hundred years, bibliophiles and scholars alike have endeavoured to chart the vast literary production of Eastern Christianity in Arabic, Syriac, and Karshuni (Arabic in Syriac script). Even so, the resources available to scholars today are in complete disarray. We still lack critical editions of most works written in this period: histories, travelogues, saints' lives, translations of European works, and much more. Catalogues of manuscript collections date back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and they are unscientific, incomplete, and those that have been printed (many still circulate only in handwritten lists) were only printed in small runs, which makes it impossible for scholars to use them in a critical fashion. Moreover, the collections described in these catalogues have since been dispersed and, in some cases, destroyed as a consequence of the long history of war, turmoil, and political change in the Middle East. Faced with the tragic disappearance of this literary and cultural heritage, several digitization projects have recently sought to recover and preserve these collections in digital formats. As a result, we now possess a more complete picture of the sources than ever available to earlier generations of scholars.

The moment is ripe for writing a new history of Eastern Christianity in the early modern period. The project will draw on the momentum of several important developments over the past three decades. Firstly, the political challenges facing Middle Eastern Christians today have meant an increased call for a better understanding of their history. Secondly, a growing interest in European-Islamic exchanges has brought a growing awareness of the roles played by Eastern Christians as intermediaries between Europe and the Ottoman Empire. The result has been an exciting rediscovery of the importance of Eastern Christianity to wider narratives in European history such as the Protestant and Catholic Reformations, the Enlightenment, and global trade networks. Thirdly, the rise of global history as a framework for thinking about the past has led scholars to emphasise the roles of diaspora groups, *gens de passage*, and go-betweens who lived and worked between multiple societies. Taken together, these developments have contributed to the emergence of an impressionistic but very exciting view of the place of Eastern Christianity in the early modern world, one that demands further research and study in a systematic way.

The Project and its Objectives

Firstly, the project will reconstitute a 'lost archive' of Eastern Christianity, and it will analyse for the first time a vast corpus of recently discovered sources. These stories of the Christian subjects of the sultan have long been scattered in monasteries and churches in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Iraq, and they have been given new life through the efforts of a recent wave of European- and American-funded digitisation projects. Using these new digital resources in conjunction with published catalogues of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, the research team will chart the literary production of Eastern Christianity in Arabic, Syriac, and Karshuni from 1500 to 1750, and it will make this preliminary phase of the research available to scholars through an online bibliographical database.

The creation of a database, however, is not a goal in itself; rather, with the completion of this first phase of work (2016-17), the research team will use it as a tool for engaging in a truly 'connected history' of Eastern Christianity, one which seeks to explore Eastern Christianity 'from within and without' in this period. To this end, a diverse set of questions will drive forward the team's research. For example: **(1)** What impact did the Protestant and Catholic Reformations have on Eastern Christianity, and what was the significance of Eastern Christianity to the European religious changes of the early modern era?; **(2)** In what ways did Eastern Christians travel so far beyond the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire?; and

(3) How did individual Eastern Christians make sense of their own place in the world and how was this expressed in written, visual, and printed culture? Each of these questions is sufficiently focused to form the basis of an individual research project while also opening up a set of wider issues for collective analysis by the research team. We are necessarily interested in issues of translation, reception, and the consequences of the European Reformation on the East. In what ways did Protestant and Catholic reformers use Eastern Christianity in their own polemics against each other? Through which media did the ideas of the Reformation circulate to a wider audience of Eastern Christians? How did particular institutions, such as the Maronite College in Rome, missionary households in the Ottoman Empire, and trading companies contribute to the exchange of ideas, practices, and religious beliefs between Europeans and Eastern Christians? We are also interested on wider macro issues related to the mechanisms that enabled the physical movement of Eastern Christians across the early modern world. Especially productive themes for analysis include travel, pilgrimage, captivity, trade, scholarly exchange, and alms-collecting, as well as the strategies and identification documents used by travellers. Moreover, the team will also shift its attention from the macro to the micro by seeking to understand the range of individual experiences had by Eastern Christians abroad. The project will identify the motivations that encouraged Eastern Christians to leave the Ottoman Empire—for example, local infighting, economic hardship, religious conversion—as well as the various trajectories of their lives once they settled in new societies. Writing a ‘connected history’ requires bringing together in a single field of inquiry the study of Arabic, Syriac, and Karshuni literature in conjunction with a wide range of evidence from archival and printed works in European languages. Needless to say, this is the sort of work that can only be accomplished through the collaborative efforts of a multi-lingual team of researchers with direct access to a wide range of archival material.

This project will also identify the ways in which Eastern Christians themselves conceived of their own identities, histories, and memories. For example, the Church of the East in modern-day Iraq sent its own missionaries eastwards to Central Asia and China in the seventh century, and memories of this missionary tradition lived on among Iraqi Christians in oral story-telling and popular culture well into the nineteenth century. The project will use such layers of memory to explore wider questions related to notions of history, identity, and community in Eastern Christianity. As in other elements of this project, central and unique to this endeavour will be the utilisation of a range of untapped sources, such as the correspondence, ethnographies, and testimonies written by European missionaries in the Ottoman Empire from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries. Using such evidence, we will explore how Eastern Christians imagined their own past and their place in the wider world.

Towards a New History of Eastern Christianity

This project begins with the assumption that the history of Eastern Christianity must be studied in the context of wider European and global developments in the early modern period. Recent attempts to recast early modern history have shown in poignant ways how our understanding of the period is radically changed by a consideration of Eastern Christianity. Placing Eastern Christianity at the forefront of European, Islamic, and global history requires a structured programme of dissemination, and the project team will be expected to play a key role in making the team’s research intelligible and relevant to the widest audience of historians. As such, the team will target the findings of its research in articles that reach three main audiences: specialists in Eastern Christianity, scholars in Middle Eastern history and Islamic studies, and ‘mainstream’ history journals aimed at wider circles of early modern historians. In addition, the team will disseminate its findings at several international conferences and smaller workshops.

Methodologies: Connecting Micro and Macro

That Eastern Christianity should become relevant to the study of the early modern period more generally remains the central goal of this project. But underlying the project is also a set of deeper questions related to the practice and future of early modern global history, itself a subject of current and controversial debate. As a field, 'global history' is now at more risk than ever of becoming a catch-all phrase for several highly divergent types of history, ranging from micro histories of objects to so-called 'big' or 'deep' history written at the level of planetary change. The intellectual incoherence of the field has been a subject of great concern for practitioners and critics alike, and these debates revolve around significant differences in opinion over the appropriate methods, sources, and goals of global history. The project responds, therefore, directly to one of the most pressing conceptual challenges facing global history today, that is, how is it possible to link the study of the micro-scale level of everyday life to the macro-narratives of global change. At the heart of this project, therefore, is an attempt to contribute to a more rigorous form of global history, and one which preserves philology and source criticism at the heart of its methodology.

The Project Team

- The Principal Investigator, Dr John-Paul Ghobrial.
- Dr Lucy Parker, a post-doctoral Researcher working for 3 years on Syriac materials.
- Dr Feras Krimsti, a post-doctoral Researcher working for 3 years on Arabic materials.
- Dr Tobias Graf, a post-doctoral Researcher working for 2 years on European sources about Eastern Christianity in the early modern period.
- Up to three post-doctoral researchers working for 1 year on the cataloguing of Arabic/Syriac materials.
- Short-term researchers commissioned for specific segments of research.
- A Project Administrator, Briony Truscott, in the Faculty of History.

