



European
Research
Council



“Science and Craft: the relations between the theoretical and practical sides of the occult and esoteric sciences in the Islamic World”

A Conference convened by Godefroid de Callataÿ and Liana Saif as part of the Advanced ERC project

The origin and early development of philosophy in tenth-century al-Andalus: the impact of ill-defined materials and channels of transmission

The Warburg Institute, 10-13 January 2023

Conference venue: Woburn Suite at Senate House

University of London

Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

(near Russell Square)

Program

Day 1: Tuesday, 10 January 2023

10: 00 Coffee & Registration

10: 30 Welcome: Godefroid de Callataÿ, Charles Burnett, Liana Saif

11: 00 Components of Practice (Chair: Beatrice Bottomley):

- Charles Burnett, “Practical magic: *nayranjāt* and magical recipes?”
- Lucia Raggetti, “There is Something about Stones... Occult Properties and Wondrous Usages of Stones and Minerals”
- Farouk Yahya, “The Motif of the Seven Seals of Solomon in Southeast Asia”

12: 30 Lunch

14: 00 Alchemy (Chair: Marion Daspens):

- Gabriele Ferrario, “‘Do everything that I taught you and do not transgress my prescriptions’: the alchemical programme of the *On Alums and Salts* and its later readers”
- Sébastien Moureau – Godefroid de Callataÿ, “From Theory to Practice: The Alchemical Curriculum of the *Rutbat al-ḥakīm*”
- Lawrence Principe, “Theory and Practice in John of Rupescissa’s Alchemy”

15: 30 Concluding Remarks

Day 2: Wednesday, 11 January 2023

10: 00 Coffee

10: 30 Astrology (Chair: Godefroid de Callataÿ):

- Fien de Block, “*Kitāb al-Uṣūl fī-l-Nujūm* in Cairo – A 15th century appropriation of ‘Umar ibn al-Farrukhān al-Ṭabarī’s astrological treatise”
- A. Tunç Şen, “The Horoscopes for Mosque Construction and Forgotten Experts of the Early Modern Ottoman Empire”
- Petra G. Schmidl, “Paper instruments: An example from 13th century Yemen”

12: 00 Keynote: Karl Schaefer, “Block printed talismans and the matter of valid magic”.

13: 00 Lunch

14: 30 Sufism and the Occult (Chair: Maryam Shehata):

- Beatrice Bottomley, “How to Be Things with Words: Ibn ‘Arabī’s Theory and Practice of Language”
- Justin Stearns, “Transmitting Occult Knowledge in Rural Morocco”
- Ariela Marcus-Sells, “The Science of Supplication in the Eighteenth Century Sahara”

16:00 Concluding Remarks

Day 3: Thursday, 12 January 2023 (Closed)

10: 30 Coffee

11: 00 Crafting, Art, and Technique (Chair: Jean-Charles Coulon):

- Liana Saif, “The Professionalisation of Talismanry in the Jābirian *K. al-Nukhab* (‘The Compendium’)”.
- Samantha Pellegrino, “Art and Artifice in the Jābirian Corpus”.
- Marion Daspens, “*Qiyāsan li-ṣan’ati-nā*: Craft Techniques and Sciences in the Arabic Alchemical Dialogues”.

12: 30 Lunch

14: 00 Music, Medicine, and Metal (Chair: Sébastien Moureau):

- Laura Tribuzio, “Reading the Brethren of Purity in Farsi. A mysterious history of *Mujmal al-Ḥikmah* and its fourth *Epistle on Music*”.
- Jean-Charles Coulon, “‘Abd al-Raḥmān al-Biṣṭāmī’s *Waṣf al-dawā’ fī kaṣf āfāt al-wabā’* and its sources”.
- Emily Selove, “*Sirāj al-Dīn al-Sakkākī*: Metalsmith, Wordsmith”.

15: 30 Concluding Remarks

18: 30 Conference Dinner

Day 4: Friday, 13 January 2023 (Closed)

10: 20 Coffee

11: 00 Talismans and/as the Materiality of Wonder (Chair: Francesca Leoni):

- Hannah Hyden, “Strange Crafts in Qazvīnī’s Persian *‘Ajā’ib al-makhlūqāt*”.
- Ladan Akbarnia, “Crafting Knowledge through Wonder”.
- Nur Sobers-Khan, “Printing Talismans: Instructions in Crafting Magic from 19th-century Lithographs to the present day”

12:30 Lunch

13: 30 “Talismanic Inks” workshop with Artist Joumana Medlej

16: 00 Closing Remarks & Wine Reception