



Illuminated Manuscript Walters Art Museum Ms. W.554, fol. 165a

**Cape Town**  
**4 - 14 September 2015**

*Venue:*

*HUMA Institute for Humanities  
in Africa*

*Neville Alexander Building*

*University of Cape Town*

*University Avn*

*Rondebosch 7700*

**Blog:**

**[academies.hypotheses.org](http://academies.hypotheses.org)**

# Zukunftsphilologie Winter Academy Program

**World Scripts: Concepts and Practices of Writing from a  
Comparative Perspective**

Organized by Forum Transregionale Studien and Max Weber Stiftung -  
Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland in cooperation with  
the Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA), University of Cape Town, and  
the Institut Français d'Afrique du Sud.

**Forum  
Transregionale  
Studien**

**Max Weber  
Stiftung**  
Deutsche  
Geisteswissenschaftliche  
Institute im Ausland



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Zukunftsphilologie Winter Academy  
World Scripts: Concepts and Practices of Writing from a Comparative Perspective  
04 Sep—14 Sep 2015  
University of Cape Town

**SCHEDULE**

TIME	FRI, Sep 4	SAT, Sep 5	SUN, Sep 6	MON, Sep 7	TUE, Sep 8	WED, Sep 9
9.30am-11am	A R R I V A L	Introduction	Project Presentations 2 3 parallel groups	Project Presentations 3 3 parallel groups	Project Presentations 5 3 parallel groups	F R E E
11am-11.30am		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
11.30am-1pm		Panel Discussion 1	Panel Discussion 2	Panel Discussion 3	Thematic Discussion	
1pm-2pm		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
2pm-3.30pm		Project Presentations 1 3 parallel groups	Thematic Discussion	Project Presentations 4 3 parallel groups	Guided Tour	
3.30pm-4pm		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break		
4pm-5.30pm		Lecture Shamil Jeppie	Thematic Discussion	Lecture Stefan Leder		
After 6pm	7pm Welcome Dinner					

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TIME	THU, Sep 10	FRI, Sep 11	SAT, Sep 12	SUN, Sep 13	MON, Sep 14
9.30am-11am	Panel Discussion 4	Project Presentations 7 3 parallel groups	Project Presentations 8 3 parallel groups	Panel Discussion 7	D E P A R T U R E
11am-11.30am	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
11.30am-1pm	Project Presentations 6 3 parallel groups	Panel Discussion 5	Panel Discussion 6	Concluding Discussion	
1pm-2pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
2pm-3.30pm	Thematic Discussion	Lecture Abdelkader Tayob	Film & Lecture Michael Allan		
3.30pm-4pm					
4pm-5.30pm					
After 6 pm				Farewell Dinner	

## Friday, September 4

7pm                      Arrival  
**Opening Dinner at Bukhara**  
33 Church Street, Cape Town 7001 (<http://bukhara.com>)  
Meeting point: Hotel Lobby, 6.45pm

## Saturday, September 5

9.30-11am            **Welcome and Introduction (Huma Seminar Room)**  
Shamil Jeppie (University of Cape Town), Georges Khalil (Forum Transregionale Studien), Islam Dayeh (Freie Universität Berlin), Adrien Delmas (Institut Français d'Afrique du Sud)

11.30am-1pm        **Panel Discussion 1 (Huma Seminar Room)**  
**Concepts of Writing and the Materiality of Language**  
Chair: Adrien Delmas (Institut Français d'Afrique du Sud)  
Michael Allan (University of Oregon), "The Shape of the Word: Reflections on Language and Matter"  
Pascale Rabault-Feuerhahn (CNRS Paris), "Comparative and Genealogical Perspectives on Script and Language in the 19th Century"  
Bodhisattva Kar (UCT), "Reading Stones, Writing Skins: The Savage Naga and the Limits of Language"  
Barbaro Martinez-Ruiz (UCT), "Kongo Graphic Writing and the Other Narratives of the Sign"

2pm-3.30pm         **Project Presentations 1**  
Group A (**Huma Seminar Room**)  
**Federico Navarrete Linares**  
Writing and Drawing in Colonial Mexico: Between Truth and Historical Memory  
  
Group B (**SDU Board Room**)  
**Olly Akkerman**  
Bohra Manuscript Culture, Archive and Secrecy  
  
Group C (**Room 5.18**)  
**Erdem Aydin**  
Modernizing the Ottoman Script in the Early 20th Century: Revisiting the "Separated Letters"

4-5.30pm            **Lecture (Huma Seminar Room)**  
**Shamil Jeppie** (UCT), "Notes on the Location of Philology in Africa"  
Chair: Umar Ryad

## **Sunday, September 6**

- 9.30-11am      **Project Presentations 2**  
Group A (**Huma Seminar Room**)  
**May Ahmar**  
Contact and Variation of Aramaic and Arabic Scripts
- Group C (**SDU Board Room**)  
**Carmen Brandt**  
The Manifold Challenges and Functions of Script in Modern South Asia
- 11.30-1pm      **Panel Discussion 2 (Huma Seminar Room)**  
**Arabic Script as World Script**  
Chair: Islam Dayeh (Freie Universität Berlin)  
Stefan Leder (German Orient Institute Beirut), "The Arabic Oral-Scriptural Continuum"  
Ronit Ricci (Australian National University), "Arabic Script in the Indonesian-Malay World"  
Meikal Mumin (University of Cologne), "The Arabic Script in Africa"
- 2-3.30 pm      **Thematic Discussion (Huma Seminar Room)**  
**The Malay Text in the Indian Ocean**  
Sumit Mandal (University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus)
- 4-5.30pm      **Thematic Discussion (Huma Seminar Room)**  
**On Typographic Colonialism**  
Tom Mullaney (Stanford University)

## **Monday, September 7**

- 9.30-11am      **Project Presentations 3**  
Group A (**Huma Seminar Room**)  
**Judith Bihr**  
The Subversive Potential of Calligraphical Structures in Contemporary Egyptian Art within a transcultural Perspective
- Group B (**Hum 5.18 Room**)  
**Naveen Kanalu Ramamurthy**  
The Script as Speaking the Word: Scribes, Inscriptions, and Sovereignty in the Early Kannada Literary Ecology (900–1200)
- Group C (**Philosophy Seminar Room**)

**Piers Kelly**

The preconditions of grammatogeny: A contextual Comparison of Script Invention in Africa and the Asia-Pacific

11.30-1pm

**Panel Discussion 3 (Huma Seminar Room)**

**Critical Approaches to Manuscripts and the Archive**

Chair: Adrien Delmas (Institut Français d'Afrique du Sud)

Nir Shafir (University of California), "Were Manuscripts Cheap and Writing Ubiquitous in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire?"

Susana Molins Lliteras (UCT), "Manuscript Research in Timbuktu: Challenges and Possibilities of African Archives"

Umar Ryad (University of Utrecht), "Arab Family Archives and Trans-cultural Colonial History from Below"

2-3.30pm

**Project Presentations 4**

Group A (**Huma Seminar Room**)

**Branka Ivisic**

Seven Languages in One (Manu)script

Group B (**SDU Board Room**)

**Ulug Kuzuoglu**

Informed Minds: Communication, Cognition, and Script in China, 1892-1955

Group C (**Huma Meeting Room**)

**Meikal Mumin**

The Arabic Script in Africa

4-5.30pm

**Lecture (Huma Seminar Room)**

**Stefan Leder** (German Orient Institute Beirut)

Arabic Philology and the Conquest of Foreign Languages: Script, Language and Cognition (11th - 12th centuries)

Chair: Islam Dayeh (Freie Universität Berlin)

**Tuesday, September 8**

9.30-11am

**Project Presentations 5**

Group A (**Huma Seminar Room**)

**Susana Molins Lliteras**

"Africa Starts in the Pyrenees": The Fondo Kati, between al-Andalus and Timbuktu"

Group B (**SDU Board Room**)

**Hassen Muhammed Kawo**

The Making of an Islamic Culture of Writing, Reading and Collecting in Ethiopia

**Group C (Hum 5.18)**

**Hanna Nieber**

Drinking the Written Qur'an: Scripture and Healing in a Zanzibar Town

- 11.30-1 pm      **Thematic Discussion (Huma Seminar Room)**  
**Scripts in Contact, Scripts in Conflict**  
May Ahmar (City U of NY/ Columbia U), "Aramaic and Arabic Scripts in Contact"  
Lena Salaymeh (University of California), "Substituting Script: Arabic, Judaeo-Arabic, and Romanization"
- 2–6 pm          **Guided Tour**

**Wednesday, September 9**

FREE

**Thursday, September 10**

- 9.30-11am      **Panel Discussion 4 (Huma Seminar Room)**  
**Manuscripts and the Printed Book in Africa**  
Chair: Shamil Jeppie  
Andrea Brigaglia (UCT), "'Market editions' in Northern Nigeria"  
Kurt Campbell (UCT), "Politics of the San Serif"  
Fabian Saptouw (UCT), "De-constructing the Book"
- 11.30-1pm      **Project Presentations 6**  
Group A (**Huma Seminar Room**)  
**Tom Mullaney**  
Hot Metal Empire: Script, Media, and Colonialism in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East
- Group B (**Philosophy Seminar Room**)  
**Abdur Rahoof Ottathingal**  
Translocal Mediations in Vernacular Islam: Arabi-Malayalam and Transformations of Muslim Textual Culture in Malabar (16th -20th century)
- 2-3.30pm      **Thematic Discussion (Huma Seminar Room)**  
**Old and New Debates about the 'Deficiency' of the Arabic Script**  
Islam Dayeh

## Friday, September 11

- 9.30-11am      **Project Presentations 7**  
Group A (**Huma Seminar Room**)  
**Nir Shafir**  
Rethinking Islamic manuscript cultures through cheap manuscripts, public writing, and calligraphy in the Ottoman Empire
- Group B (**Philosophy Seminar Room**)  
**Arun Rasiah**  
On the Shores of Learning: Scriptural Formations of Muslim Intellectual Culture in the Indian Ocean World
- Group C (**SDU Board Room**)  
**Margherita Trento**  
Writing Christianity in the Tamil Country (16-18<sup>th</sup> centuries)
- 11.30-1pm      **Panel Discussion 5 (Huma Seminar Room)**  
**History, Archive and Language Politics in Africa**  
Chair: Shamil Jeppie (UCT)  
Carolyn Hamilton (UCT) "Reading the James Stuart Archive of Recorded Oral Evidence and its Textual Offspring"  
Mathias Brenzinger (UCT) "Language Archives: Prospects and Limitations in the Documentation of Oral Languages"
- 2-3.30pm      **Lecture (Huma Seminar Room)**  
**Abdulkader Tayob** (UCT)  
Between Text and Culture in the Teaching of Religion in South Africa  
Chair: Georges Khalil (Forum Transregionale Studien)
- 7pm              **Zukunftsphilologie Collegium Meeting**

## Saturday, September 12

- 9.30-11am      **Project Presentations 8**  
Group A (**Huma Seminar Room**)  
**Umar Ryad**  
Muslim Reform at the Periphery: Al-Manar and Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Group B (**SDU Board Room**)  
**Ronit Ricci**  
Writing Javanese: Creation, Creativity and Change
- Group C (**Hum 5.18**)



**Liem Vu Duc**

Beyond the Empires: Bureaucratic Manuscripts and Political Culture in Early Nineteenth-Century Vietnam and China

11.30-1am

**Panel Discussion 6 (Huma Seminar Room)**

**The European Discovery of Writing**

Chair: Pascale Rabault-Feuerhahn (CNRS Paris)

Adrien Delmas (Institut Français d'Afrique du Sud), "Portuguese Encounters with African Written Cultures in the 16th century"

Elisabetta Benigni (University of Turin), "Engraved Marble and Lost Scripts": Discussing Arabic Epigraphs in 18th and 19th century Italy"

Federico Navarrete Linares (Universidad Autónoma de México), "There Are Many Ways to Read a Drawing': the European Interpretation of Pictographical Writing"

2-3.30pm

**Film and Lecture (Huma Seminar Room)**

**Michael Allan** (University of Oregon)

Picturing Philology: Early Cinema and Worldly Scripts

**Sunday, September 13**

9.30-11am

**Panel Discussion 7 (Huma Seminar Room)**

**Script Reform and Invention from a Global Comparative Perspective**

Chair: Shamil Jeppie (UCT)

Erdem Aydin (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul), "Script Reform in Turkey"

Thomas Mullaney (Stanford University), "Beyond "Romanization": The Case of the Chinese Transalphabet"

Piers Kelly (Australian National University), "Why Some New Scripts Fail and Others Succeed"

11.30-1pm

**Concluding Discussion (Huma Seminar Room)**

7pm

**Farewell Dinner**

**Monday, September 14**

Departure

<b>Project Presentation Groups</b>
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**Group A:**

Steering Group Members: Islam Dayeh, Pascale Rabault-Feuerhahn, Umar Ryad

Participants: May Ahmar, Judith Bihr, Branka Ivusic, Susana Molins Lliteras, Tom Mullaney, Federico Navarrete Linares, Nir Shafir

**Group B:**

Steering Group Members: Shamil Jeppie, Stefan Leder, Ronit Ricci, Lena Salaymeh

Participants: Olly Akkerman, Anastasia Grib, Naveen Kanalu Ramamurthy, Ulug Kuzuoglu, Hassen Muhammed Kawo, Abdur Rahoof Ottathingal, Arun Rasiah

**Group C:**

Steering Group Members: Michael Allan, Elisabetta Benigni, Adrien Delmas, Sumit Mandal

Participants: Erdem Aydin, Carmen Brandt, Piers Kelly, Meikal Mumin, Hanna Nieber, Pandey Anshuman, Margherita Trento, Liem Vu Duc

**Guest speakers**

Mathias Brenzinger (UCT)

Andrea Brigaglia (UCT)

Kurt Campbell (UCT)

Carolyn Hamilton (UCT)

Bodhisattva Kar (UCT)

Barbaro Martinez-Ruiz (UCT)

Fabian Saptouw (UCT)

Abdulkader Tayob (UCT)

**List of Participants and Steering Group (in alphabetical order)**

May Ahmar (City University of NY/ Columbia University)

Olly Akkerman (Freie Universität Berlin)

Michael Allan (University of Oregon) - steering group

Erdem Aydin (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul)

Elisabetta Benigni (University of Turin) - steering group

Judith Bihr (University of Cologne)

Carmen Brandt (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

Islam Dayeh (Zukunftsphilologie/ Freie Universität Berlin) –steering group

Adrien Delmas (French Institute South Africa) – steering group

Anastasia Grib (General Editor “A Guide to Islamic Calligraphy”)

Branka Ivusic (Hamburg University)

Shamil Jeppie (University of Cape Town) – steering group

Naveen Kanalu Ramamurthy (University of Strasbourg and Frankfurt)

Hassen Muhammed Kawo (University of Cape Town)

Piers Kelly (Australian National University)

Ulug Kuzuoglu (Columbia University)  
Stefan Leder (German Orient Institute Beirut) – steering group  
Sumit Mandal (University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus) – steering group  
Susana Molins Lliteras (University of Cape Town)  
Tom Mullaney (Stanford University)  
Meikal Mumin (University of Cologne)  
Federico Navarrete Linares (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)  
Hanna Nieber (Freie Universität Berlin)  
Abdur Rahoof Ottathingal (Leiden University)  
Anshuman Pandey (University of California, Berkeley)  
Pascale Rabault-Feuerhahn (CNRS Paris) – steering group  
Arun Rasiah (University of California, Berkeley)  
Ronit Ricci (Australian National University) – steering group  
Umar Ryad (University of Utrecht) – steering group  
Lena Salaymeh (University of California, Berkeley) – steering group  
Nir Shafir (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Margherita Trento (University of Chicago)  
Liem Vu Duc (Hamburg University)

Venues

Hum 5.18 – 5th Floor  
SDU Boardroom – 4th Floor  
Huma Seminar Room – 4th Floor  
Huma Meeting Room- 4th Floor  
Philosophy Seminar Room – 3rd Floor  
Classroom 3A – 3rd Floor

25.08.2015