

## **Zukunftsphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Practice**

**Lecture cum Seminar**

**Thursday, June 30, 2011, 16.00 – 19.00**

Freie Universität Berlin, Raum JK 24/122d, Habelschwerdter Allee 45

**Dwight Reynolds**

(University of California, Santa Barbara)

### **Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Formation of Medieval Andalusian Music**

**Chair: Islam Dayeh** (Freie Universität Berlin)

Medieval Iberia was a meeting place for Muslim, Jewish and Christian cultures. This presentation explores musical life in medieval Muslim Spain (al-Andalus) when the musical traditions of these communities and others came into contact, influenced each other, and hybridized to produce musical traditions that have endured for a thousand years and are still performed in Arab and Sephardic Jewish communities today. The texts that will be examined are all related to the questions of cultural contact and transculturation and include: 1) the brief biographical notice of an early 9<sup>th</sup>-century Muslim musician who apparently converted to Christianity and later returned to Islam; 2) the famous Latin letter of Alvarus of Córdoba who complained that Christians spoke only Arabic and no longer knew Latin and attempted to describe the rules of Arabic poetry to his northern co-religionists; and, 3) a selection of financial records in late medieval Catalan from the 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> centuries documenting the hiring of Moorish and Jewish musicians and dancers to perform in the royal court of Aragon-Catalonia.

**Dwight F. Reynolds** is professor of Arabic Language & Literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has conducted research on Andalusian musical traditions in Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and contemporary Paris. He is the author of "Jews, Muslims, Christians and the Formation of Andalusian Music", in *Al-Andalus and its Jewish Diasporas: Musical Exodus*. Ruth Davis, ed., Scarecrow Press (forthcoming); "Arab Musical Influence on Medieval Europe: A Reassessment," in *A Sea of Languages: Literature and Culture in the Pre-modern Mediterranean*, Eds. Suzanne Akbari and Karla Mallette, University of Toronto Press (forthcoming); "New Directions in the Study of Medieval Andalusian Music", *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies*, Vol. 1, no. 1 (2009): 37-51; "The Re-creation of Medieval Arabo-Andalusian Music in Modern Performance", *Al-Masāq: Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean* Vol. 21, No. 2 (August 2009): 175-189; "Music in Medieval Iberia: Contact, Influence, and Hybridization," *Medieval Encounters* 15 (2009): 236-255, and other essays on musical traditions of the Arab Middle East.

His other areas of research include folklore of the Arab world – see *Arab Folklore* (Garland 2007) and *Heroic Poets, Poetic Heroes: The Ethnography of Performance in an Egyptian Oral Epic Tradition* (Cornell UP 1995) – and the history of Arabic literature, particularly pre-modern Arabic autobiography – see *Interpreting the Self: Autobiography in the Arabic Literary Tradition* (University of California Press, 2001).

### **Lecture-cum-Seminar**

The Lecture-cum-Seminar series is a central element of the scholarly program of the Zukunftsphilologie project. It is conceived as a working seminar of 3 to 5 hours. The lecture (ca. 45-60 minutes) is meant to introduce the audience to the research problem and provide the general analytical and theoretical framework for the topic. This is followed by a practical seminar, wherein the speaker demonstrates his or her case by reference to texts in the original language and in English translation. It is hoped that this Lecture-cum-Seminar series, a combination of theory and a direct engagement with texts, will enable scholars to examine the comparative aspect of the problematic without neglect of the local and singular nature of the texts examined.

### **Zukunftsphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship**

The project Zukunftsphilologie endeavours to promote and emphasize primary textual scholarship beyond the classical humanistic canon. In an age of advanced communication, intellectual specialization, and unprecedented migration of knowledge and people, the discipline of philology assumes new relevance. Zukunftsphilologie aspires to support research in neglected varieties of philology with the explicit aim to integrate texts and scholarly traditions from Asia, Africa, the Middle East as well as from Europe itself.

Zukunftsphilologie refers to the polemic between the classicist Ulrich von Wilamowitz and Friedrich Nietzsche around the method and meaning of classical studies. As a project it sees itself as part of a growing trend towards a more global intellectual history. It is inspired in particular by the work of Edward Said and Sheldon Pollock.

In order to promote historically-conscious philology, Zukunftsphilologie will foster research in the following areas: genealogies and transformations of philological practice, philology's place in the system of knowledge (e.g. its relation to science, theology and jurisprudence), and philology and the university. Furthermore, Zukunftsphilologie aims to support critical reviews of historical and philological practice. In revisiting important „philological wars“, the goal is not to merely evaluate the argumentative worth of these debates, but to reflect on the wider cultural and political context in which these „philological wars“ emerged and how they have shaped our knowledge of the past.

The project Zukunftsphilologie is co-directed by Angelika Neuwirth, Manan Ahmed and Islam Dayeh (all Freie Universität Berlin) and is associated with and located at the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School for Literary Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. Zukunftsphilologie is a project at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

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For more information please see:

[www.forum-transregionale-studien.de](http://www.forum-transregionale-studien.de)

[http://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-](http://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/friedrichschlegel/promotionsprogramm/kooperationen/Zukunftsphilologie/index.html)

[berlin.de/friedrichschlegel/promotionsprogramm/kooperationen/Zukunftsphilologie/index.html](http://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/friedrichschlegel/promotionsprogramm/kooperationen/Zukunftsphilologie/index.html)