

Dr. Mustafa Banister

History Department

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EDUCATION

University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Ph. D. in Islamic History, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations,
2015

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States

M. A., Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2006

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, United States

B. S., History, 2003

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Utah State University (Logan, Utah)

Assistant Professor of Middle East History (2022-present)

Ghent University (Belgium)

European Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow, 2018-2021

Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, University of Bonn (Germany)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2015-2016

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs:

1. *Adrift on an Ocean of Eloquence: Muslim Kingship in the Historical Writing of Ibn 'Arabshāh* (in preparation).

2. *The Abbasid Caliphate of Cairo, 1261-1517: Out of the Shadows*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021.

Edited Volumes:

1. *From Egypt to Jerusalem and Beyond: Historiography, Diplomats and Network Analysis during the Later Medieval Period* (with Fadi Ragheb – in preparation).

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals:

1. “Squeezing Juice from the Fruits of the Caliphs: Tastes, Contexts, and Textual Transplantation at a Late Medieval Egyptian Court,” *Interfaces: A Journal of Medieval European Literatures* (forthcoming, 2022).
2. “Princesses born to Concubines: A First Visit to the Women of the Abbasid Household in Medieval Cairo,” *Hanwa: Journal of Women of the Middle East and the Islamic World* 20.4 (2022): 396-430.
3. “Professional Mobility in Ibn ‘Arabshāh’s Fifteenth Century Panegyric Dedicated to Jaqmaq (842-857/1438-1453),” *Mamlūk Studies Review* 23 (2020): 133-63.
4. “Fifteenth-Century Arabic Historiography: Historicizing Authors, Texts, and Contexts,” *Mamlūk Studies Review* 23 (with Jo Van Steenberg et. al) (2020): 33-68.
5. “Naught Remains to the Caliph but his Title: Revisiting Abbasid Authority in Mamluk Cairo,” *Mamlūk Studies Review* 18 (2014-15): 219-45.

Book Chapters (Peer-Reviewed):

1. “Religious Authority” in *Handbook of Mediterranean History (300-2020)*, vol. 2 (with Mike Carr) (in preparation).
2. “Keeping up with the Abbasids: Toward an Economic and Spatial History of the Late Medieval Cairene Caliphate,” in Mustafa Banister and Fadi Ragheb, eds., *From Egypt to Jerusalem and Beyond: Historiography, Diplomats and Network Analysis during the Later Medieval Period* (in preparation).
3. “On Learning and the Character of Knowledge in Ibn Ṭufayl’s *Ḥayy b. Yaḡzān*,” in: Dorothee Lauer and Jana Newiger, eds., *Lehrer und Schüler: Festschrift zum 60ten Geburtstag von Sebastian Günther*. (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming).
4. “Sulṭān Awlād al-Nās” or “Amīr ibn Mamlūk”? Re-framing Khalīl ibn Shāhīn’s *Zubdat Kashf al-Mamālik wa-Bayān al-Ṭuruq wa-l-Masālik*,” in: Anna Kollatz, ed., *Mamlūk Descendants: In search for the awlād al-nās* (Göttingen: V&R Unipress, 2022),

121-39.

5. “The Trouble with Caliphs: Some Remarks on Sultan Barqūq and the Late Fourteenth-Century Caliphal Office in Late Medieval Cairo,” in: Bethany Walker and Abdelkader Al Ghouz, eds., *History and Society during the Mamluk Period (1250– 1517): Studies of the Annemarie Schimmel Institute for Advanced Study III*. (Göttingen: V&R Unipress, 2021), 89-105.
6. “The ‘*Alim*-Caliph: Reimagining the Caliph as a Man of Learning in Eighth/Fourteenth and Ninth/Fifteenth-Century Egypt,” in: Sebastian Günther, ed., *Knowledge and Education in Classical Islam: Religious Learning between Continuity and Change* (Leiden: Brill, 2020), 741-767.
7. “Casting the Caliph in a Cosmic Role: Examining al-Suyūṭī’s Historical Vision,” in: Antonella Gherseti, ed., *Al-Suyūṭī, A Polymath of the Mamlūk Period* (Leiden: Brill, 2017): 98-117.

Encyclopaedia Entries:

1. “Ibn ‘Arabshāh”, in the *Encyclopaedia of Islam, THREE*, edited by Kate Fleet, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, and Everett Rowson. (Leiden: Brill, in preparation).

Other Publications:

“A Sword in the Caliph’s Service: On the Caliphal Office in Late Fourteenth Century Mamluk Sources.” (Working Paper, Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, January 2017
ISSN: 2193-925X)

Book Reviews:

1. Fozia Bora, *Writing History in the Medieval Islamic World: The Value of Chronicles as Archives*, London, I.B. Tauris, 2019, in *Cromohs* 24 (2021): 195-8.
2. Carl F. Petry, *The Criminal Underworld in a Medieval Islamic Society. Narratives from Cairo and Damascus under the Mamluks* (Chicago: Middle East Documentation Center, 2012), 247pp. + Bibliography and Index, in: *Sehepunkte* 16 (2016), Nr. 7/8.
<http://www.sehepunkte.de/2016/07/26531.html>

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2015-2016 Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany.
2006-2011 Full Tuition Gift Aid, Annual Stipend, School of Graduate Studies,

- University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
2005-2006 Full Tuition Gift, Humanities and Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.
2004-2005 1/3 Tuition Gift Aid, Humanities and Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – ACADEMIC

- 2018-2021 **Ghent University**, Course Instructor
Courses:
Islam, Power and Politics: Text and Context
- 2015, 2017 **University of Toronto**, Course Instructor
Courses:
Islamic History to the Fall of Baghdad 1258
The Islamic World
History of Islamic Egypt
- 2006-2015 **University of Toronto**, Teaching Assistant in History and Arabic
Courses:
Islamic History to the Fall of Baghdad 1258
Islamic Culture and Civilization
Muslims and Jews: The Medieval Encounter
Classical Arabic Literature
Introductory Standard Arabic
Intermediate Standard Arabic II

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING

Woodsworth College, University of Toronto

Teaching in Higher Education 500 Certificate (January 2015)

Teaching Assistants Training Program, University of Toronto

Advanced University Teaching Preparation Certificate (November 2015)

Writing Instruction for Teaching Assistants Program, University of Toronto

Involvement in WIT program (2009-2011, 2014)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – EXTRA-CURRICULAR

2010-2015 **University of Toronto Libraries**, Urdu, Hindi, and Arabic Cataloger

ACADEMIC PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES (PAST AND UPCOMING)

2022 “Negotiating the Uncertain: Ibn ‘Arabshah’s Dialogue Construction as a Reading of Fifteenth-Century Mamluk Succession Politics” at the *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Denver, Colorado*.

2021 “Defining ‘*adl* for a Fifteenth-Century Courtly Context: ‘Seeking Justice’ in the Writings of Ibn ‘Arabshah (d. 1450/854)” *Expectations of Justice and Political Power in the Islamic World (ca. 600-1500 CA) Conference, Leiden, Netherlands, Online Conference*

2021 “A Poet In Search of a Patron: Ibn ‘Arabshah’s Wonders of Destiny in the Calamities Wrought by Tamerlane” *Occasional Literature Workshop, Stockholm, Sweden, Online Conference*.

2021 “Heroes and Villains: Meanings Linked to the Dichotomy of Ibn ‘Arabshâh's Use and Re-Use of “Obedients” (*al-ṭā‘a*) and “Evildoers” (*al-baghâ*) in Year One of Ğaqmaq’s Reign” *GIS Congress, Aix-Marseille Université, France, Online Conference*.

2020 “The House of Shāhīn: Divergent Trajectories of a Grandfather, Father, and Son” at the *Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, Bonn, Germany, Online Conference*.

2020 “Unravelling Ibn ‘Arabshah’s Sketch of the Eastern Anatolian “Frontier Zone” (1385- 1439)” at the *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Online Conference*.

2019 “Writing for the Reader: Tastes and Contexts at a Medieval Egyptian “Court”” at the *CML Symposium. Moving Forms: The Transformations and Translocations of Medieval Literature, Athens, Greece*

2019 “Historiography in the Service of the Polity: Analyzing Ibn ‘Arabshah’s Narrative Construction of the 1438 Revolts against Sultan Jaqmaq” at the *International Medieval Congress, Leeds, United Kingdom*

2017 “A Medieval Islamic Model of Statecraft: Ibn Khaldun’s Image of Leadership and Authority in Classical Islam” at the *International Congress on Medieval Studies*,

Kalamazoo, Michigan

2016 “Princesses Born to Concubines: A First Visit to the Women of the Abbasid Household in Mamluk Cairo” at the *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston, Massachusetts*.

2016 “The “Scholar-Caliph”: Reimagining the Caliph as a Man of Learning in 14th and 15th Century Egypt”, University of Göttingen (invited lecture).

2015 “Fables and Aphorisms: Two Specimens of Advice Literature from Mamluk Egypt and Syria” at the *Annual McGill Institute of Islamic Studies Symposium, Montreal, Canada*.

2014 “Casting the Caliph in a Cosmic Role: The Transmission of al-Suyūṭī’s Historical Vision” at the *First Conference of the School of Mamluk Studies, Venice, Italy*.

2013 “Bureaucratic Pragmatism and the Cairo Caliphate: al-Qalqashandī and Abbasid Significance in the Mamluk Chancery” at the *28th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago*

2013 “The intersection of Abbasid and Ottoman: The Caliphate comes to Istanbul” at the *17th Annual NMCGSA Graduate Symposium, University of Toronto*

2011 “Revisiting Abbasid Authority in Mamluk Cairo” at the *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, D.C.*

2006 “Missed Opportunities: Mamluk Preparations for Tamerlane’s Invasion” at the *21st Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago*

LANGUAGES

Arabic (Classical) (read and speak with high proficiency)

French (read with high proficiency)

German (read with high proficiency)

Persian (intermediate)

Turkish – Modern and Ottoman (intermediate)

Urdu (native speaker)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Islamicate societies and cultures, particularly with regard to the Arabic-speaking Mediterranean of the 12-16th centuries C.E.; political thought and kingship;

Caliphate; medieval Arabic historiography; Mamluk studies.

TEACHING INTERESTS

History of Islamic West Asia (600-1800); medieval Arabic historiography; Islamic manuscript studies.

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Editor, *Critical Approaches to Arabic Historiography* (Edinburgh University Press)

Anonymous Peer-Reviewer, *Mamlūk Studies Review*

Anonymous Peer-Reviewer, *Islamic Law and Society*

Middle East Studies Association

Middle East Medievalists