



# Maxim Romanov

*Ph.D.* in Near Eastern Studies (2013), University of Michigan

*Current positions*

- *Universitätsassistent für Digital Humanities*, Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien
- *Senior Research Fellow*, ISMC, Aga Khan University–London

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## Employment

2018– *Senior Research Fellow* at “Knowledge, Information Technology, & the Arabic Book” (KITAB, an *ERC-Project*), led by Dr. Sarah Savant, Aga Khan University–London, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

2017– *Universitätsassistent für Digital Humanities*, Universität Wien, Institut für Geschichte

2015–2017 *Research Fellow*, Leipzig University, Computer Science Institute, The Humboldt Chair for Digital Humanities

2013–2015 *Postdoctoral Associate*, Tufts University, Department of Classics & Perseus Project

2006–2012 *Graduate Student Instructor (Teaching Assistant)*, University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern Studies

2004–2006 *Junior Researcher*, Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences; *former*: St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg, Russia ([SPbIOS/IOM of RAS](#))

## Education

2006–2013 Ph.D. (December 15, 2013) / M.A. (April 29, 2010) in Near Eastern Studies (Arabic & Islamic Studies), Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, USA. *Dissertation*: Computational Reading of Arabic Biographical Collections with Special Reference to Preaching in the Sunnī World (661–1300 CE) (available in open access through the University of Michigan Digital Library: <http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/102300>).

2001–2004 ABD (*all but dissertation*), Doctoral program in Islamic Studies (Mentor: Dr. Stanislav M. Prozorov), *Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences*; *former*: St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg, Russia ([SPbIOS/IOM of RAS](#))

1999–2001 St. Petersburg State University, the School (“Fakultet”) of Oriental Studies (Arab Countries History), St. Petersburg, Russia.

1998–2001 B.A./M.A. in Sociology, St. Petersburg State University, the School (“Fakultet”) of Sociology, *M.A. Thesis*: “The role of religious scholars (*‘ulamā’*) in the life of Islamic society”; St. Petersburg, Russia.

1995–1998 The Baltic State Technical University, the School (“Fakultet”) of Humanities (concentration in Political Sciences), St. Petersburg, Russia.

## DH Scholarship (5)

for more detailed information, see **Digital projects & collaborations** (below)

**(DH)2014c– 2014– Open Islamicate Texts Initiative Corpus (OpenITI;** during 2014–2016: *OpenArabic*). Covering the period of *c.* 750–1950, OpenITI includes about 4,300 unique book titles (95% in Arabic) by over 1,800 authors, which amounts to approximately 750 million words (1,46 billion words with all versions). Most texts have been collected from open-access online collections of high-quality digital reproductions of premodern texts. OpenITI is organized in compliance with Canonical Text Services (CTS) guidelines as implemented in the CapiTainS Suite (<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.570516>). All repositories of the project are available on GitHub at <https://github.com/OpenITI/>. Detailed description of the corpus, its organization, and contents can be found at: <https://maximromanov.github.io/OpenITI/>. Beta release of the corpus is available at: <https://github.com/OpenITI/OpenITI>. *Co-PIs (alphabetically)*: Matthew T. Miller, U Maryland–College Park; Maxim Romanov, U of Vienna; Sarah Bowen Savant, Aga Khan U–London. The project is currently used in 4 ERC-funded projects (*all consolidator grants*): Leiden University (PI Petra Sijpesteijn), Utrecht University (PI Christian Lange), Ghent University (PI Jo van Steenberg), and Aga Khan University–London (PI Sarah Savant); and in two projects funded by national academies: Frankfurt University (PI Ömer Özsoy) and Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (PIs Maribel Fierro & Mayte Penelas). For OpenITI “manifesto”, see: » DOI: [10.1017/S0020743817000964](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743817000964) » [Download PDF](#)

**(DH)2014b– 2014– OpenITI mARkdown (AR** stands for Arabic). Facilitating conversion of raw texts into machine-actionable formats, this flavor of *markdown* 1) simplifies work with multivolume texts that make up the core of the OpenITI corpus; and 2) helps to avoid problems that one faces when paired symbols (e.g., angle brackets), LTR & RTL languages, and connected scripts occur in the same document, when even a simple editing task becomes overly complicated. Additionally, mARkdown will facilitate conversion into TEI XML, the de facto standard for publishing digital editions. Detailed description can be found at: <https://maximromanov.github.io/mARkdown/>.

**(DH)2016– 2016– NgramReader+ Lite\* for the Classical Arabic Corpus** (*Natarāt al-Uṣūr min al-Mu‘aṣṣarāt al-Mantūr*, Ver. 0.1). Similar to [Google Ngram Viewer](#), this app is built in R (*shinyApp*) and allows one to combine ngrams, which can be used to (1) merge different morphological forms into one entity, and (2) explore classes of objects. The application uses an early version of the *OpenArabic* corpus. The Lite\* version includes only single tokens (1grams); the full version also includes bigrams (2grams, combinations of two

consecutive tokens), but it is not available online, since the size of the data file is too large for an online application; the full version will soon be available on [www.github.com](http://www.github.com) for offline usage. Available at: <https://maximromanov.shinyapps.io/natharat/>

**(DH)2014a–2014–al-Turayyā Project** is designed to help us better understand spatial connections within the Islamic world, to visually study geographical and travel literature, and, most importantly, to study ample data from biographical collections by tracing geographies of different social and religious groups. The project includes the gazetteer (al-Turayyā Gazetteer, or al-Thurayyā Gazetteer), and the geospatial model of the early Islamic world. Both parts of the project are still under development. **The gazetteer** currently includes over 2,000 toponyms and almost as many route sections georeferenced from Georgette Cornu’s *Atlas du monde arabo-islamique à l’époque classique: IXe-Xe siècles* (Leiden: Brill, 1983). **Geospatial model** consists of a two main modules (work in progress) which plot 1) routes and itineraries of various complexity; and 2) networks of reachable places from selected center(s). Published at <https://althurayya.github.io/>.

**(DH)2015 2015** *Classical Arabic Through the Words of the Prophet: A Frequency-Based Ḥadīṭ Reader*. This is a computationally generated selection of teaching materials designed to provide effective introduction to the language of Ḥadīṭ, a prominent genre of classical Arabic literature (Perseus Project & Departments of Classics; Tufts University, 2015) » [Download PDF](#)

## Books (/1)

2019 (under contract) Maxim Romanov. *Preaching Practices in “The History of Islam” (c. 600–1300 CE): Algorithmic analysis into Social History*. Leiden ; Boston : Brill, 2019 (under contract).

## Articles in Academic Editions (17/18)

publications can be downloaded from [univie.academia.edu/MaximRomanov](http://univie.academia.edu/MaximRomanov) or using provided links

• — **most important DH articles**; *pr* — peer-reviewed; *oa* — open access

*accepted* — 2019a (*pr*) (\*—equal contribution: Yonatan Belinkov\*, Alexander Magidow\*, Alberto Barrón-Cedeño, Avi Shmidman, and **Maxim Romanov**) “Studying the History of the Arabic Language: Language Technology and a Large-Scale Historical Corpus”, in *Language Resources and Evaluation (LREV)*, *accepted for publication*, Springer (ISSN: 1574-020X (Print) 1574-0218 (Online)). » [Download Accepted Version \(PDF\)](#)

• **2018b** • *pr* “A Digital Humanities for Premodern Islamic History,” an Essay in the Roundtable on Digital Humanities in *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 50, no. 1 (2018): 129–34 (Cambridge University Press) » DOI: [10.1017/S0020743817001015](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743817001015) » [Download PDF](#)

• **2018a** • *pr* (*Authors, alphabetically*: Miller, Matthew Thomas, **Maxim G. Romanov**, and Sarah Bowen Savant). “Digitizing the Textual Heritage of the Premodern Islamicate World: Principles and Plans,” an Essay in the Roundtable on Digital Humanities in *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 50, no. 1 (2018): 103–9 (Cambridge University Press) » DOI: [10.1017/S0020743817000964](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743817000964) » [Download PDF](#)

• **2017d** • *pr, oa* “Algorithmic Analysis of Medieval Arabic Biographical Collections,” in *Speculum* 92 (S1): S226–46. » DOI: [10.1086/693970](https://doi.org/10.1086/693970) » [Download PDF](#)

- **2017c** • *pr* “Observations of a Medieval Quantitative Historian?”, in *Der Islam*, Volume 94, Issue 2, Pages 462–495, » DOI: [10.1515/islam-2017-0028](https://doi.org/10.1515/islam-2017-0028) » [Download PDF](#)
- **2017b** • *pr, oa* (Authors, alphabetically: Kiessling, Benjamin, Matthew Thomas Miller, **Maxim Romanov**, and Sarah Bowen Savant. “Important New Developments in Arabographic Optical Character Recognition (OCR).” *Al-Uṣūr Al-Wuṣṭá (The Journal of Middle East Medievalists)* 25: 1–13. » *The article is in open access at:* <https://islamichistorycommons.org/> » [Download PDF](#)
- 2017a (*pr*) (Authors: Seydi, Masoumeh, **Maxim Romanov**, and Chiara Palladino) “Premodern Geographical Description: Data Retrieval and Identification.” In *Proceedings of the 11th Workshop on Geographic Information Retrieval*, 4:1–4:10. GIR’17, 1–10. New York, NY, USA: ACM Press. » DOI: [10.1145/3155902.3155911](https://doi.org/10.1145/3155902.3155911) » [Download PDF](#)
- 2016 (*pr*) (Authors, alphabetically: Yonatan Belinkov, Alexander Magidow, **Maxim Romanov**, Avi Shmidman, and Moshe Koppel ) “Shamela: A Large-Scale Historical Arabic Corpus”, in *Proceedings of the Workshop on Language Technology Resources and Tools for Digital Humanities (LT4DH)*, pp. 45–53, Osaka, Japan, December 11-17 2016. » Available at: <https://www.clarind.net/> » [Download PDF](#)
- **2016c** • *pr* “After the Classical World: the Social Geography of Islam (c. 600—1300 CE)”, in *ARS ISLAMICA: Festschrift in Honor of Stanislav Mikhailovich Prozorov*. Edited by Mikhail Piotrovsky and Alikber Alikberov, Russian Academy of Sciences (Institute of Oriental Studies), Moscow: “Vostochnaya Literatura”, 2016, pp. 247–277 » [Download PDF](#)
- 2016b (*pr*) “Digital Age, Digital Methods”, in *ARS ISLAMICA: Festschrift in Honor of Stanislav Mikhailovich Prozorov*. Edited by Mikhail Piotrovsky and Alikber Alikberov, Russian Academy of Sciences (Institute of Oriental Studies), Moscow: “Vostochnaya Literatura”, 2016, pp. 129–277 » [Download PDF](#)
- **2016a** • *pr* “Toward Abstract Models for Islamic History,” in *The Digital Humanities + Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies*, ed. Elias Muhanna (Berlin, De Gruyter, 2016), pp. 117–149. » ISBN: 978-3-11-037454-4 » [Download PDF](#)
- 2013 (*pr*) “Toward the Digital History of the pre-Modern Muslim World: developing text-mining techniques for the study of Arabic biographical collections,” in *Analysis of Ancient and Medieval Texts and Manuscripts: Digital Approaches*, ed. Tara L Andrews and Caroline Macé (Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, 2014), 229–44 » DOI: [10.1484/M.LECTIO-EB.5.102573](https://doi.org/10.1484/M.LECTIO-EB.5.102573) » [Download PDF](#)
- 2012 (*pr*) “Dreaming Ḥanbalites: Dream-Tales in Prosopographical Dictionaries,” in *Dreams and Visions in Islamic Societies*, ed. Alexander Knysh & Özgen Felek, (SUNY Press, 2012), 31–50 » ISBN: 978-1-4384-3993-8 » [Download PDF](#)
- 2007 (*pr*) “The Term *Ṣūfī*: Spiritualizing Simple Words,” in *Pismennyye Pamyatniki Vostoka/Written Monuments of the Orient*, issue 5 (2007), 149–159 » [Download PDF](#)
- 2005 (*pr*) [In Russian] “Electronic Databases on Islam in Arabic, Persian & English: a Review,” in *Pismennyye Pamyatniki Vostoka/Written Monuments of the Orient*, issue 2(3), 2005, 240–257; in cooperation with Dr. Stanislav M. Prozorov; *summary in English* » [Download PDF](#)

2004 (pr) [In Russian] “The Paradigm of the Science of Ḥadīṭ (*ʿilm/ʿulūm al-ḥadīṭ*)”, in *Oriens/Vostok*, issue 5, 2004, 5–11; *summary in English* » [Download PDF](#)

2003b [2009] (pr) [In Russian] “*Ḥadīṭ* Reports in Ibn al-Ġawzī’s (d. 597/1201) System of Argumentation (Based on His *Talbīs Iblīs* [“Devil’s Delusions”])”, in *Khristianskii Vostok/Christian Orient*, Volume 5 (XI), New Series, Moscow: “Indrik” Press (Published by the Russian Academy of Sciences and the State Hermitage), 2009, 310–316 » [Download PDF](#) » *NB*: Accepted for publication in 2003

2003a (pr) [in Russian] “Principles & Procedures of Extracting and Processing Data from Arabic Sources: Historic-and-Biographical Sources,” in *Oriens/Vostok*, issue 4, 2003, 117–127; in cooperation with Dr. Stanislav M. Prozorov; *summary in English* » [Download PDF](#)

## Conference/workshop papers and presentations (30/34)

### Forthcoming presentations

July, 2019: **UK** “Modelling Connectedness: Networks of Scholars in the ‘History of Islam’ (600–1300)” @ the International Medieval Congress (IMC), Leeds, UK (Session time: Wed. 03 July - 09.00-10.30)

June, 2019: **Japan** “Computational Historiography: al-Ḍahabī’s *Ta’rīḥ al-islām* and His Sources” @ Sixth Conference of the *School of Mamluk Studies*, Tokyo, Japan, June 15-17 2019

April, 2019: **USA** *Title*: TBA, @ Old|New|Borrowed: The Marriage of Premodern Literature and Computational Science, *Conference*, organized by Joseph P. Dexter (Quantitative Criticism Lab, Dartmouth College) and Primit Chaudhuri (University of Texas at Austin), Dartmouth College, USA, April 23-25 2019

February, 2019: **UK** “Modeling Society from Text: a Method in Arabic Studies” @ Decoding the Past. Digital Tools for the Analysis of Historical Data, *a Workshop*, Institute of Classical Studies, Senate House, University of London, February 21-22 2019

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December, 2018: **Spain** “al-Ḍahabī’s treatment of his Andalusī sources: toward understanding of compilation methods of medieval historians” @ *The Maghrib in the Mashriq* (i.e.: *Islamic West in Islamic East*), a congress, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, 20-21 December 2018 (organized by Maribel Fierro (ILC-CSIC) & Mayte Penelas (EEA-CSIC))

December, 2018: **the Netherlands** “Prospects of Corpus-Based Research: Computational Methods and the OpenITI Corpus” @ *Whither Islamicate Digital Humanities*, Academy Colloquium, The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam, 13-15 December 2018 (organized by Christian Lange & Melle Lyklema, Utrecht University)

May, 2018: **Italy** “Modeling Arabic Written Tradition: Enhancing Traditional Text analysis with Computational Techniques” @ *Launching RASCIO: Reader, Author, Scholar in Context of Information Overflow*, a Workshop organized by Dr. Élise Franssen, Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia, May 24, 2018

- November, 2017: USA* “Looking for the author behind the words: Stylometric Analysis of al-Dahabī’s (d. 1347) Writings” @ *A New Corpus for the Islamicate World and Methods for Its Exploration*, a Panel co-organized by Sarah Savant and Matthew Miller @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- October, 2017: Austria* “Modeling Social History of the Premodern Islamic World” @ Evolution of Social Complexity, a **Workshop organized by Complexity Science Hub Vienna**, October 2-3, 2017
- September, 2017: Spain* “Digital Humanities in the field of Islamic studies” @ Digital Humanities & the History of al-Andalus and the Maghreb: Challenges and Opportunities, a Research Seminar @ Escuela de Estudios Árabes—Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Cuesta del Chapiz, 22, Granada
- May, 2017: Italy* “Why do we need a corpus and computational methods?” @ Navigating the House of Wisdom: How to write a good book in the medieval Middle East, a Workshop at the University of Milan, May 25th-26th 2017.
- April, 2017: United Arab Emirates* “Algorithmic Analysis of Premodern Arabic Biographical Collections: Approach, Infrastructure, Open Data” @ Digital Humanities Abu Dhabi – DHAD, a Workshop @ New York University Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 10-12 April 2017
- January, 2017: Germany* “80/20: Facilitating Computational Analysis with Named-Entities Recognition”, @ Digital Infrastructure for Named Entities Data, a Workshop, Leipzig University, January 11-13, 2017
- December, 2016: Spain* “An Accidental Gazetteer: Linked Data for Historical Geography of the Classical Islamic World” @ Linked Pasts 2016, a symposium series dedicated to facilitating practical and pragmatic developments in Linked Open Data in History, Classics, Geography and Archaeology, December 15-16, 2016 (hosted at: Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid).
- November, 2016: USA* “Of A Network and A Node: ‘The History of Islam’ of al-Dahabī (d. 1348) and its place in the Premodern Arabic Textual Tradition” @ *Networked Texts: New Ways of Seeing the Arabic Textual Tradition (750-1500)*, a Panel co-organized by Sarah Savant and Maxim Romanov @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
- September, 2016: USA* Presentation on Islamic[ate] DH Projects at Leipzig University @ Activism, Advocacy, and Scholarship on Islam in the Digital Realm: Prospects, Progress, and Challenges, a workshop organized by the Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies & Civilizations, Boston University (September 16 & 17, 2016)
- October, 2015: USA* “al-Dahabī’s Monster”: Dissecting a 50-Volume Arabic Chronicle-cum-Biographical Collection From the 14th Century CE @ Distant Reading & the Islamic Archive, Conference at Brown University (October 16, 2015)
- Video recording** of this presentation is available @ Brown University’s website: [tinyurl.com/IslamicDHatBrown2015](http://tinyurl.com/IslamicDHatBrown2015) → Scene 106 (or timestamp 3:22:00; the Q&A starts right after the presentation).
- September, 2015: UK* The *Ta’rīḫ al-islām* of al-Dahabī (d. 748/1347 CE): Computational Exploration of the Life-Cycle of a 50-Volume Arabic Chronicle-cum-Biographical Collection @ Arabic Pasts: Histories and Historiographies: Research Workshop, co-hosted by the Aga Khan



- University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations and SOAS, University of London (September 25–26, 2015)
- July, 2015: USA* Cultural Production in the Islamic World (600–1900 CE): mining an Ottoman bibliographical collection from the early 20th century @ The Keystone Digital Humanities Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (July 22–24, 2015)
- May, 2015: USA* Analyzing Arabic Biographical Collections at Scale @ Digital Ottoman Platform Workshop, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ (June 8–12, 2015)
- May, 2015: USA* The Writing Culture of Nīshāpūr in the 11th Century [In collaboration with Sarah Savant, Aga Khan University, London; paper delivered by Sarah Savant] @ Iranian Cities from the Arab Conquest to the Early Modern Period, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (May 1-2).
- November, 2014: USA* Exploring Islamic Written Legacy: Computational Reading of *Hadiyyat al-ʿarifīn* @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- March, 2014: USA* Computational Processing of Toponymic Data from classical Arabic Sources @ Working with Text in a Digital Age, A Workshop @ Tufts University (the Perseus Project) (March 29, 2014).
- February, 2014: USA* Visualizing Islamic Geography at Scale @ Data Big and Small: Computer Science, the Humanities and Social Science: Conversations between representatives from Leipzig, Northeastern, Princeton & Tufts, A Workshop @ Tufts University (the Perseus Project) (February 3-4, 2014).
- October, 2013: USA* Abstract Models for Islamic History @ Digital Humanities and Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI (October 24-25, 2013).  
**Video recording** of this presentation is available @ Brown University’s website: [tinyurl.com/IslamicDHatBrown2013](http://tinyurl.com/IslamicDHatBrown2013) → Day One, Scene 166 (or timestamp 2:47:50; the Q&A at 3:51:30).
- October, 2013: USA* Islamic World Connected (661–1300 CE) @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- April, 2013: USA* **Poster:** Toward Abstract Models for Islamic History @ Word, Space, Time: Digital Perspectives on the Classical World, an interdisciplinary conference organized by the Digital Classics Association, University of Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, NY (April 5–6, 2013).
- March, 2013: USA* Exploratory Analysis of Arabic Biographical Collections: the Case of al-Dahabī’s (d. 1347 CE) *Taʾrīkh al-islām* @ 223rd Meeting of the American Oriental Society (AOS), Portland, OR; also @ the 8th Annual Pearl Kibre Medieval Study Conference: “New Media and the Middle Ages”, The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York, NY.
- February, 2013: USA* ‘Connectedness’ of the Islamic World (600–1300 CE) @ 7th Annual Near Eastern Studies Graduate Student Colloquium, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- November, 2012: USA* Social History of the Muslim World in the Digital Age: Making Sense of 29,000 Biographies from al-Dahabī’s “History of Islam” @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

- November, 2012: USA* **Poster:** Social History of the Muslim World in the Digital Age: Making Sense of 29,000 Biographies from al-Dahabī's "History of Islam" @ Cyberinfrastructure Days, U of Michigan, November 7-8, 2012. "People's Choice Award Winner".
- October, 2012: USA* Writing the Digital History of the Premodern Muslim World, 670-1300 CE: Exploratory Analysis of Primary Sources @ Interdisciplinary Workshop under the rubric "Forum on Research in Medieval Studies" (FoRMS), the Medieval Lunch Series, U of Michigan.
- August, 2012: USA* Mining pre-Modern Islamic Sources @ "Working with Text in a Digital Age," the summer institute at Tufts U, Medford, MA.
- April, 2012: Russia* Dreaming Ḥanbalites: Dream-Tales in Prosopographical Dictionaries (in Russian) @ The 34th Annual Session of St. Petersburg Arabists, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.
- April, 2012: Belgium* Digital History of the Muslim World: Computer-Aided Analysis of Biographical Dictionaries @ "Methods and means for digital analysis of ancient and medieval texts and manuscripts," the workshop at the Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven & the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium (KVAB), Brussels.

#### pre-DH presentations (7)

- November, 2010: USA* "Popular" Preaching in the Sunnī Context and the Legitimization of *Wa'z* in the Late 12th Century CE @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- November, 2009: USA* Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal's (d. 241/855) Argumentative Strategies @ Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- April, 2009: USA* Dreaming Ḥanbalites @ Dreams and Visions in Islamic Societies, U of Michigan conference.
- March, 2004: Russia* The Origins of the Term *Ṣūfī* (in Russian) @ 26th Annual Session of St. Petersburg Arabists, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.
- April, 2003: Russia* Argumentation with *Ḥadīṭ* Reports in Ibn al-Ġawzī's *Talbīs Iblīs* ("Devil's Delusions") (in Russian) @ 25th Annual Session of St. Petersburg Arabists, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.
- December, 2003: Russia* The Paradigm of the Science of Ḥadīṭ (*ʿilm al-ḥadīṭ*) (in Russian) @ Annual Academic Session, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.
- April, 2002: Russia* Ibn al-Ġawzī's Image in the Western Scholarship (in Russian) @ 24th Annual Session of St. Petersburg Arabists, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.

### Invited talks, guest lectures, keynotes (34/36)

#### Forthcoming presentations

- Keynote:** *May, 2019: Lebanon* "Digital Dust of the Arabic Past": Corpus-Based Research in Arabic & Islamic Studies, *keynote* @ Digital Humanities Institute 2019 (May 3-5) — Beirut, Lebanon
- February, 2019: Hungary* Arabic History & Historiography in the Digital Age, *invited lecture* @ Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies and OTTOCONFESSIONS, ERC-funded Project (PI Dr. Tijana Krstic), Central European University, Budapest



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- Keynote: April 17, 2018: Qatar** “*Iftah Yā Simsīm!*” Finding Digital Keys to the Treasures of the Arabic Written Tradition, *keynote @* “Research Data Management in Digital Humanities”, International Conference, University College London—Doha, Qatar, April 17-18, 2018
- February 6, 2018: Austria* “*Open Sesame!*” Digital Analysis of the Arabic Written Tradition: Part I—On Social History, at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
- May 11, 2017: the Netherlands* The Corpus, The Network, & The Book Continuum, the fifth lecture of the KITAB LUCIS lectures (others given by Sarah Savant), Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society, Leiden University
- May 10, 2017: the Netherlands* Computational Reading of Arabic Biographical Collections, *Invited Lecture @* The Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities (LUCDH), Leiden University
- 2017: Germany* Arabic Written Tradition & the Digital Humanities, *Invited Lecture @* • Universität Hamburg (April 24, 2017) • Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main (March 24, 2017)
- February 20, 2017: USA* Premodern Arabic Biographical Collections: A Digital Approach, *Invited Lecture @* University of Pennsylvania
- November 17, 2016: USA* From Text to Map: Arabic Biographical Collections and Geospatial Analysis *Invited Lecture, @* Center for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University
- 2016: USA* Writing a 50-volume book in 14th-century Damascus: Algorithmic Analysis, Text Reuse & the Arabic Written Tradition. *Different versions of this invited lecture:* • Davidson College (November 9, 2016) • University of Michigan (March 10, 2016)
- 2015–2016: USA, Germany, UK* Of Graphs, Maps, and 30,000 Muslims: Premodern Arabic Texts & the Digital Humanities. *Different versions of this invited lecture:* • Center for Digital Humanities/Department of History, University of South Carolina (November 14, 2016) • Duke University (November 11, 2016) • University of Tübingen (May 11, 2016) • University of Maryland [MITH] (March 2, 2016), for more details: <http://mith.umd.edu/dialogues/> • University of St Andrews (November 27, 2015) • University of Manchester (November 25, 2015) • School of Oriental and African Studies [SOAS], University of London (November 23, 2015)
- June 1, 2016: Germany* Future in the Past: Using Modern Computational Methods for the Analysis of Premodern Arabic Texts, *guest lecture @* “Society and Religion in the Arab World” (an introductory Arabic and Islamic Studies seminar taught by Marie Hakenberg), Leipzig University
- May 4, 2016: Germany* Annotation of geographical data (together with Chiara Palladino), Session 14 of the Sunoikisis Digital Classics 2016, for more details: <https://github.com/SunoikisisDC/SunoikisisDC-2016>. The recording of the Session: <https://tinyurl.com/Sunoikisis2016-Session14>.
- April 26, 2016: Germany/USA* Discovering Spatial and Chronological Patterns in Historical Texts, *invited lecture @* Unlocking the Digital Humanities, A Seminar organized by Leipzig University & Tufts University, Spring 2016

- December, 2015: USA, the Netherlands* Arabic and Islamic Studies and the Digital Humanities @ The Brill Workshop on the Digital Humanities (December 2-3, Leiden; May 1-2, Boston)
- February, 2015: USA* Digital Humanities & the Premodern Islamic World: *Of Graphs, Maps, and 30,000 Muslims*. *invited public lecture* @ the University of California—Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (February 25, 2015). For more details, see information on the website of [The Gustav E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA](#).
- August, 2014: USA* The Social Geography of the Islamic World (661–1300 CE): on the Method, *invited talk* @ PROSOP Workshop, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL (August 15, 2014). See, [www.prosop.org](http://www.prosop.org).
- April, 2014: USA* The Social Geography of the Islamic World (661–1300 CE), *invited talk* @ the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA (April 10, 2014)
- April, 2014: USA* Distant Reading of Arabic Biographical Collections, *guest lecture* @ “Saints and Sinners in Muslim Literature,” (Prof. Mimi Hanaoka) @ the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA (April 10, 2014)
- April, 2014: USA* Future in the Past: Using Digital Methods to Study Medieval Arabic Texts, *brown bag lecture* @ Tufts University (April 7, 2014).
- April, 2014: USA* Classical Arabic through the Words of the Prophet: Teaching Classical Arabic in the Digital Age, *brown bag lecture* @ Tufts University (April 2, 2014).
- March, 2014: USA* Studying Classical Arabic Sources in the Digital Age: Social Geography & Social History, *invited talk* @ Holy Cross Manuscripts, Inscriptions and Documents Club the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA (March 14, 2014)
- February, 2014: USA* Building a Historical Gazetteer, *Guest Lecture* @ “Computational methods in the humanities,” An honors course (Prof. David J. Birnbaum) @ the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (February, 21, 2014)
- February, 2014: USA* Connectedness of the Islamic World (661–1300 CE), *invited talk* @ the European Union Center of Excellence & European Studies Center, the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (February, 20, 2014)
- 2014: USA* Computational Reading of Classical Arabic Sources: the Case of Biographical Collections, *invited talk* @ • Department of Classics, Tufts University (March 10, 2014). • Bard College, Annadale-on-Hudson, NY (February 11, 2014) • The Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (CDRH) at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), Lincoln, NE (January 30, 2014).

## Projects and collaborations (selected)

- 2016—2020* *Local Contexts and Global Dynamics: al-Andalus and the Maghreb in the Islamic East*, a project led by Dr. Maribel Fierro (CSIC, Madrid) and Dr. Mayte Penelas (CSIC, Escuela de Estudios Árabes, Granada). The project is funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (FFI2016-78878-R). The main aim of the project is to trace the ways in which the knowledge produced in the Islamic West traveled to the rest of the Islamic world, and the contents of such knowledge. Members of the project are interested in the

cultural projection of al-Andalus (Islamic Spain) and the Maghrib (North Africa) in the rest of the Islamic world, focusing mainly on the intellectual impact.

2013—ongoing *KITAB* (an acronym that also means “book” in Arabic), a cultural history project treating the history of books and cultural memory. It undertakes a far-reaching evaluation of the classical Arabic textual tradition (750–1200) for the purpose of understanding how cultural memory was negotiated and shaped by authors when they created books. Its ingenuity derives from the application of text reuse methods, which detect the copying of texts into other texts and thus enable study of the form and content of the textual tradition. From May, 2018, KITAB is funded by ERC—titled “Exploring Cultural Memory in the Pre-Modern Islamic World (700–1500): Knowledge, Information Technology, and the Arabic Book”—with Sarah Savant as the PI, and Maxim Romanov as the Senior Research Fellow. For more details on the project, see <http://kitab-project.org/>.

2016—ongoing *Open Islamicate Texts Initiative (Open ITI)* is a multi-institutional effort to construct the first machine-actionable scholarly corpus of premodern Islamicate texts. Led by researchers at the Aga Khan University (AKU), University of Vienna (UWien), and the Roshan Institute for Persian Studies at the University of Maryland (College Park) and an interdisciplinary advisory board of leading digital humanists and Islamic, Persian, and Arabic studies scholars, OpenITI aims to provide the essential textual infrastructure in Persian and Arabic for new forms of macro textual analysis and digital scholarship. In the process, Open ITI will enable new synergies between Digital Humanities and the inter-related Islamicate fields of Islamic, Persian, and Arabic Studies. OpenITI team members work on bringing together a united Islamicate textual corpus that would contain approximately 4,300 unique Arabic texts (700 million words; 1,3 billion words with all versions of texts). **Co-PIs (alphabetically)**: Matthew Miller (UMD), Maxim Romanov (UWien), Sarah Savant (AKU). For more details: <http://iti-corpus.github.io/>.  
 ::::: **OpenITI Corpus** is a machine-readable corpus of 4,300 unique Arabic texts (700 million words; 1,3 billion words with different versions and editions of the same texts). The corpus has been build from texts available in online open-access collections of premodern Arabic texts developed in the Arab world; most texts are high-quality reproductions of printed editions which are commonly used in the field of Arabic and Islamic studies around the world. The corpus is organized in compliance with the Canonical Texts Services (CTS) guidelines as implemented in the *CapitainS Suite*, developed by Bridget Almas and Thibault Clérice at Tufts University and Leipzig University (<http://capitains.org/>), although the conversion into TEI XML has not been implemented yet. The internal organization of the corpus is flexible and allows for seamless extension and can easily accommodate multiple editions or versions of the same text as well as texts in different languages. The OpenITI corpus is openly accessible at <https://github.com/OpenITI>; the use of the GitHub platform ensures the ease of collaboration with scholars around the world. The detailed description of the corpus and its organization can be found at <https://maximromanov.github.io/OpenITI/>. For the OpenITI “Manifesto”, see: Miller, Romanov, and Savant. “Digitizing the Textual Heritage of the Premodern Islamicate World: Principles and Plans”, *IJMES* 50, no. 1 (2018), available online at <https://www.cambridge.org/>.

2014—ongoing *OpenITI mARkdown*. Inspired by markdown (see, <http://commonmark.org/>), OpenITI mARkdown is a lightweight tagging scheme developed to facilitate the conversion of raw texts into machine-actionable formats as well as to facilitate data collection and ex-

traction. Two main issues prompted the development of such a scheme as an alternative to a much heavier TEI XML. First, it was necessary to avoid problems that one faces when paired symbols (such as angle brackets), left-to-right and right-to-left languages, and connected scripts occur in the same document, making even a simple editing task overly complicated and time consuming. Second, a lightweight and easy-to-use tagging scheme is of utmost necessity when one has to work with multi-volume texts that make up the core of the Arabic written tradition. Currently, OpenITI mARkdown includes easy-to-use patterns (3-6 symbols per tag) for tagging structural, morphological and semantic elements in texts. Although the scheme was initially developed for the study of historical and biographical literature with the method of algorithmic analysis, it has been recently expanded—as a part of collaborative work—to facilitate analysis of geographical descriptions, route networks, letters, legal writings and collections of transmission statements (*riwāyāt*). The detailed description of the scheme is available at <https://maximromanov.github.io/mARkdown/>.

2016—ongoing *Kraken ibn Ocropus* (developed by Benjamin Kiessling, Leipzig University) is an Arabographic Optical Character Recognition pipeline for converting scanned images of printed books into fully editable electronic text. Unlike more traditional OCR approaches, *Kraken* relies on a neural network—which mimics the way we learn—to recognize letters in the images of entire lines of text without trying first to segment lines into words and then words into letters. This segmentation step—a mainstream OCR approach that persistently fails on connected scripts—is thus completely removed from the process, making *Kraken* uniquely powerful for dealing with a diverse variety of ligatures in connected Arabic script. We have achieved accuracy rates for classical Arabic texts in the high nineties, and currently testing *Kraken* on Persian and Syriac printed texts. **Team (alphabetically)**: Elijah Cooke (UMD), Benjamin Kiessling (LU), Matthew Miller (UMD), Maxim Romanov (UWien), Sarah Savant (AKU).  
 ::::: Despite a rather extensive coverage of the current version of the OpenITI corpus, a significant number of texts remain missing—especially those that belong to fields excluded for ideological reasons by the developers of digital libraries in the modern Arab world (for example, medical, philosophical as well as “heretical” texts are almost completely excluded from these collections). The OpenITI team (mentioned above, plus Benjamin Kiessling, a PhD student in computer science at Leipzig University) developed and tested an easily-trainable and open-source OCR solution for Arabic script which relies on neural networks and achieves accuracy rates in the high nineties (see, Kiessling et al. “Important New Developments in Arabographic Optical Character Recognition (OCR)”, *Al-Uṣūr Al-Wuṣṭá (The Journal of Middle East Medievalists)* 25: 1–13. *The article is in open access at:* <http://islamichistorycommons.org/mem/al-usur-al-wusta/>). In collaboration with Harvard’s SHARIASource project, we are currently developing **CorpusBuilder**, an online OCR framework with a user-friendly interface that will be open to scholars around the world. This OCR pipeline will ensure that the OpenITI corpus continues growing. The first test version of the working pipeline is planned to be available by the middle of 2019. The OpenITI team is also planning to work on an OCR solution for Arabographic manuscripts.

2014—ongoing *al-Turayyā project* is designed to help us better understand spatial connections within the Islamic world, to visually study geographical and travel literature, and, most importantly, to study ample data from biographical collections by tracing geographies of

different social and religious groups. The project includes the gazetteer (al-Ṭurayyā Gazetteer, or al-Thurayyā Gazetteer), and the geospatial model of the early Islamic world. Both parts of the project are still under development. **The gazetteer** currently includes over 2,000 toponyms and almost as many route sections georeferenced from Georgette Cornu's *Atlas du monde arabo-islamique à l'époque classique: IXe-Xe siècles* (Leiden: Brill, 1983). **Geospatial model** consists of a two main modules (work in progress) which plot 1) routes and itineraries of various complexity; and 2) networks of reachable places from selected centers. **Credits and Acknowledgments:** Current team: Masoumeh Seydi (U Leipzig) and Maxim Romanov (U Vienna). *Former contributors:* 2013–2014: Cameron Jackson (class of 2014, double-major in Arabic and Computer Science, Tufts)—technical and conceptual development; 2013: Adam Tavares, programmer @ Perseus Project, Tufts—technical development. *Special thanks to:* 2013–2014: Vickie Sullivan (Chair, Classics Department, Tufts U), 2013–2017: Gregory Crane and the Perseus DL and the U Leipzig teams for support and inspiration.

2012—ongoing *al-Raqmiyyāt: Digital Islamic History* ([alraqmiyyat.github.io](http://alraqmiyyat.github.io) & [maximromanov.github.io](http://maximromanov.github.io))  
 Personal research blog that highlights my digital studies of Islamic historical sources in Arabic, with the focus on documenting major steps of my digital experiments with the large corpus of Arabic texts, highlighting general exploration of both the entire corpus and specific sources. The main goal is to log research progress, share discoveries and provide some guidance to young and senior scholars of Islam and Islamic history interested in employing digital methods in their research.

#### *Finished & retired projects*

2015—2017 *OpenArabic Project*. The goal of the project is to build a machine-actionable corpus of pre-modern texts in Arabic to encourage computational analysis of the Arabic written tradition. The project is now merged into the *Open ITI* and represents about 95% of its texts.

2013–2015 *Studying Classical Arabic Legacy @ Tufts University* together with Gregory Crane @ Department of Classics & Perseus Project. *Main goals:* 1) to develop a catalog of digitally available sources in classical Arabic (as an Arabic supplement to **The Perseus Catalog**), to facilitate access to these sources and better understand what Arabic sources are available and what sources have been overlooked. Pilot Arabic catalog: <http://catalog.perseus.org/> (In “Work Original Language” select *Arabic*); 2) to develop courses and course materials for teaching classical Arabic with the use of computational tools in order to enhance and speed up learning process; **Specific outcome:** *Introduction into Classical Arabic Through the Words of the Prophet: A Frequency-Based Ḥadīṭ Reader* (see above, DH Scholarship); 3) to develop courses for studying specific classical sources in Arabic and in English translation in order to generate new knowledge about the Islamic world (research courses / digital projects).

## Teaching: Classes

*History Of Arabs, Persians and Turks: Patterns of Dynastic Rule in the Islamic World (c. 600-1600 CE)*, [MA-Proseminar], University of Vienna, Spring/Summer 2018

*DH Tools and Techniques for Digital Humanities*, [KU Methodenkurs], University of Vienna, Spring/Summer 2018



*History* *The Near East at the time of the First Crusade, 1045 -1144*, [BA-Proseminar], co-taught with Tara Andrews, University of Vienna, Fall/Winter 2017-2018

*History* *The medieval Near East and Europe according to Muslims, Christians, and Jews: comparative perspectives*, [Seminar], co-taught with Tara Andrews, University of Vienna, Fall/Winter 2017-2018

*Historical Methods, DH* *DH Methods: Historical Inquiries with R*, [SE Seminar (PM 3)], University of Vienna, Fall/Winter 2017-2018

*Islamicate Texts, DH* *Islamicate World 2.0: Studying Islamic Cultures through Computational Textual Analysis*. In this new project-based course, students from two universities will come together to learn the basics of computational textual analysis while participating as student researchers in the nascent project of exploring the vast and largely unexplored tomes of textual data about the Islamicate world. It will also introduce students to theoretical and methodological debates in the field of global digital humanities. Like the digital humanities field that inspires its approach, it will be a highly interdisciplinary course that studies texts from multiple genres (lyric poetry to historical chronicles, legal treatises to the Qurʾān) and languages (Arabic, Persian) with the aid of computational textual analysis tools. There are no language prerequisites, but it is preferable if students at least have elementary knowledge of either Arabic, Persian, Turkish, or Urdu. (<http://islamicate-dh.github.io/>) @ the *U of Maryland (College Park)* and the *Leipzig U*, Fall/Winter 2016-7; co-taught with Matthew Miller (UMD).

*GIS, DH* *From Text to Map*, A two-week intensive introduction (32 contact hours) to a variety of ways of thinking about and working with humanities data in digital mapping environments; co-taught with David J. Wisley, American University of Beirut @ “Culture & Technology”—The European Summer University in Digital Humanities, *Leipzig University*, Summer 2016 ([www.culingtec.uni-leipzig.de](http://www.culingtec.uni-leipzig.de))

*Classical Language, Religion, DH* *Classical Arabic Through the Words of the Prophet* (Introduction to Classical Arabic through the Corpus of Ḥadīth), *Tufts University*, Spring 2015

*Digital Humanities, Methods* *Introduction to Text Mining for the Students of Humanities*, *Tufts University*, Spring 2015; (also as an *independent study* with two students: *Tufts University*, Fall 2014)

*History, Digital Humanities* *Mapping the Classical Islamic World*, *Tufts University*, Winter 2014; *Digital Project: Mapping Data from al-Muqaddasī’s geographical treatise* (10th century CE)

*History, DH* *The First Millennium of the Islamic Near East 600–1600 CE*, *U of Michigan*, Fall 2012 (as a teaching assistant); *Digital Project: Timemaps*

*Religion, History* *Introduction to Islam*, *U of Michigan*: Spring 2011, Winter 2011 (as a teaching assistant), Spring 2010

*Language* *Elementary Modern Standard Arabic*, *U of Michigan*: Fall 2010, Fall/Winter 2009–2010, Fall/Winter 2008–2009, Fall/Winter 2007–2008

*Classical Language* *Elementary Classical Arabic*, *U of Michigan*, Fall/Winter 2006–2007



## Teaching: Workshops

- July 2018* A 3-day intensive course in Digital Islamic Humanities @ Ghent University, July 2-4, 2018 (in collaboration with the Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities). For the detailed plan and materials, see: <https://dih-sms2018-ughent.github.io/>
- November 2017* Workshop on Digital Humanities in Islamic and Arabic Studies @ SENSIS ERC Project, PI Dr. Christian Lange, Utrecht University, November 30-December 1, 2017. For details, see: <https://sensis.sites.uu.nl/>
- December 2016* Georeferencing Printed Maps @ *Analyzing Text Reuse @ Scale / Working with Big Humanities Data* @ Leipzig University, organized by Thomas Köntges & Maxim Romanov (within the framework of Leipzig Workshop Week, 14–18 December 2015).
- February 2015* *Digital Humanities & Islamic Studies* @ the University of California, Los Angeles. Organized by Asma Sayeed & The Gustav E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA.
- October 2014* *Textual Corpora and the Digital Islamic Humanities* @ Brown University as a session leader together with Elli Mylonas; organized by Elias Muhanna. For details: <http://islamichumanities.org/workshop-2014/>
- May 2009* *Electronic Libraries/Databases of Arabic and Islamic sources* a part of the Project “The Reviews of / Manuals for Electronic Databases of Arabic and Islamic Sources,” in cooperation with Michael Bonner @ University of Michigan.
- 2008–2009* detailed reviews and manuals for over 10 different databases / electronic libraries were prepared to be used as instructional materials for the Workshop

## Organizing: Workshops, Panels, Roundtables

- July 2018* *ORBIS-esque Hackathon*, Department of History, University of Vienna (co-organized with Tara Andrews and Mária Varga); planning document: <https://tinyurl.com/orbis-esque>.
- November 2017* *A New Corpus for the Islamicate World and Methods for Its Exploration, a Panel* co-organized with Dr. Sarah Savant (Aga Khan University–London) and Dr. Matthew Thomas Miller (University of Maryland–College Park) at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Washington, DC (November 18-21 2017)
- November 2016* *Networked Texts: New Ways of Seeing the Arabic Textual Tradition (750-1500)*, a Panel co-organized with Dr. Sarah Savant (Aga Khan University—London) at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Boston 2016
- November 2016* *Non-traditional methods for Teaching Traditional Languages, a Roundtable* at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Boston 2016
- December 2015* *Analyzing Text Reuse at Scale / Working with Big Humanities Data* @ Leipzig University, organized by Thomas Köntges & Maxim Romanov (within the framework of Leipzig Workshop Week, 14–18 December 2015).

*December 2015* *Digital Arabic and Digital Persian Research Workshop @ Leipzig University*, organized by Maxim Romanov (within the framework of Leipzig Workshop Week, 14–18 December 2015).

*November, 2013* *Digital Humanities in Middle East Studies* (organized together with Børre Ludvigsen and Will Hanley), a series of two panels and a roundtable: “Traditional Sources, Nontraditional Methods,” “Digital Communication,” and Roundtable at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), New Orleans 2013

*November, 2010* *Islamic Preaching, a Panel* at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), San Diego, 2010

## Fellowships, grants, awards & honors received

*F2015–W2016* (declined) Research Fellowship (Visiting Fellow) at Islamic Legal Studies Program, Harvard Law School, Harvard University.

*F2012–S2013* Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

*Summer 2013* Hajja Razia Sharif Sheikh Scholarship Award in Islamic Studies, U of Michigan.

*Fall 2013* **People’s Choice Award** for the poster “Social History of the Muslim World in the Digital Age: Making Sense of 29,000 Biographies from al-Dahabī’s ‘History of Islam’ ” @ Cyberinfrastructure Days, U of Michigan, November 7-8, 2012.

*W2012–S2012* Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, U of Michigan.

*F2011–W2012* Supplementary Grant for the 2011–2012 academic year, Global Supplementary Grant Program, Open Society Institute.

*Winter 2011* Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, U of Michigan.

*Winter 2011* Radcliffe/Ramsdell Fellowship, U of Michigan.

*Spring 2008* George and Celeste Hourani Award in Arabic, Armenian, Persian, Turkish, and Islamic Studies, the Department of Near Eastern Studies, U of Michigan.

*Winter 2005 & 2004* Honorary awards for Website development, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS:  
[www.orientalstudies.ru](http://www.orientalstudies.ru)

*Winter 2004* Honorary award for the best articles and papers by young scholars (for the article “The Paradigm of the Science of the Ḥadīth”), SPbIOS/IOM of RAS.

## Additional training & experience

*Summer, 2012* “Working with Text in a Digital Age”, a 3-week summer institute @ Tufts University (Perseus Project)

*Winter, 2012* THATCamp @ the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago

*Winter, 2011* Introduction to ArcGIS, a series of workshops @ U of Michigan

2009–2010 Cataloguing Arabic manuscripts @ U of Michigan, Special Collections

May, 2009 Introduction to Manuscript Studies (Dr. Adam Gacek) @ U of Michigan

2005–2006 Digitalization of Manuscripts from the Dunhuang Collection, SPbIOS/IOM of RAS

## Other academic publications in Arabic and Islamic studies

### Reference Materials

2006 Girgas, Vladimir. Arabic-Russian Dictionary for the Qurʾān and Ḥadīth (*Slovarʾ k arab-skoj khrestomatii i Koranu*). Kazanʾ, 1881; Preparation of the improved reprint edition; in cooperation with Dr. Stanislav M. Prozorov. Cover title: *Arabsko-Russkiy Slovarʾ k Koranu I Hadisam*, St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers, 2006, ISBN 978-5-88503-555-2.

### Translations from Russian into English

not published Krachkovskii, Ignatii Yulianovich. *Arabic Geographical Literature*, translation into English. In cooperation with Michael Bonner @ U of Michigan.

### Translations from English into Russian

2010 Chittick, William. *Sufism: a Beginner's Guide*. Oxford, England: Oneworld Publications, 2008 (Moscow: "Vostochnaya Literatura": ISBN 978-5-02-036498-1)

2006 Cook, Michael. *Forbidding Wrong in Islam*. Cambridge University Press, 2003; in print (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers: ISBN 978-5-88503-684-9); translation into Russian, editing.

2006 Watt, W. Montgomery. *Muḥammad in Mecca*. Oxford, 1956 (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers, 2006: ISBN 5-88503-507-5); editing, indices, proof-reading.

2006 Burton, John. *Introduction to the Ḥadīth*. Edinburgh University Press, 1994, (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers, 2006, ISBN 5-88503-461-3); translation into Russian (with a co-translator), editing, indices, proof-reading.

2005, not published Leaman, Oliver. *Islamic Aesthetic: An Introduction*. Edinburgh University Press, 2004, (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers); translation into Russian (with a co-translator), editing.

2005 Watt, Montgomery & Richard Bell. *Introduction to the Qurʾān*. Edinburgh University Press, 1970 (first published), (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers, 2005, ISBN 5-88503-385-4); translation into Russian (with a co-translators), pre-editing, indices, proof-reading.

2004 Knysh, Alexander. *Islamic Mysticism: a short history*. Leiden; Boston; Köln: Brill, 2000; translation into Russian, indices, proof-reading and cover design (St. Petersburg: Dilya Publishers, 2004, ISBN 5-88503-232-7).

## Natural languages

Arabic modern standard & classical

English fluent spoken & written

*Russian* native

*other* reading knowledge of German, French, Indonesian; elementary Persian & Turkish

## Formal languages and computer skills

*Actively using* Python, R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, QGIS, Cluster Computing

*Learning* Javascript, D3

## Professional membership

2016–*present* Middle East Medievalists (MEM)

2012–*present* American Oriental Society (AOS)

2008–*present* Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

## Service to the field

2013–*present* I am regularly consulting my colleagues on the design of digital projects—both formally and informally—in the area of historical studies of the Islamic world. Over the past four years I have been in touch with over two dozen junior and senior colleagues in the US, Canada, the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Israel, Austria and Germany. I have been invited to and attended over a dozen project meetings in the listed countries, including 6 ERC-funded projects and 2 academy projects (CSIC & ÖAW).

*Participating in workshops as an invited expert (selected list):*

- November 30–December 1 2017* [**Utrecht University**] Workshop on Digital Humanities in Islamic and Arabic Studies @ SENSIS ERC Project, PI Dr. Christian Lange, Utrecht University, November 30–December 1, 2017. For details, see: <https://sensis.sites.uu.nl/>
- November 11, 2016* [**Duke University**] Jara'id 2.0: Indexing the Early Arabic Public Sphere, A Workshop in Arabic Digital Humanities (organizer: Adam Mestyan)
- November 16, 2016* [**Harvard Law School**] Digital Islamic Law and History: Resources and Methods @ Harvard Law School, SHARIASource (invited by Intisar Rabb, Founding Editor-In-Chief, SHARIASource, Professor at Harvard Law School)
- November 17, 2016* [**Harvard Law School**] Resource Sharing Workshop: Comparing and Sharing Digital Archival Projects and Resources @ Harvard Law School, SHARIASource (together with Intisar Rabb, Founding Editor-In-Chief, SHARIASource, Professor at Harvard Law School)
- June 20–24, 2016* [**Institute for Advanced Study**] Digital Ottoman Platform II, organized by Sabine Schmidtke (IAS) and Amy Singer (Tel Aviv University).
- June 8–12, 2015* [**Institute for Advanced Study**] Digital Ottoman Platform I, organized by Sabine Schmidtke (IAS) and Amy Singer (Tel Aviv University).

## Supervising

*Leipzig U, 2016–* Masoumeh Seydi, M.Sc., PhD candidate in Digital Humanities.  
Ph.D. Thesis: “Modeling and Visualizing Geographical Information from Premodern Textual Sources”

*Leipzig U, 2016* Benjamin Kiessling, B.Sc. in Computer Science.  
M.Sc. Thesis: “Median Strings for OCR Postcorrection” (*defended*)

*Tufts U, 2014–2015* Cameron Jackson, BA Honors Thesis (Class 2016): “An Interactive Model of the Classical Islamic World”, <http://cjacks0413.github.io/imiw/>. (*defended with highest honors*).

## Dissertation (U Michigan, 2013)

*Title* **Computational Reading of Arabic Biographical Collections with Special Reference to Preaching in the Sunnī World (661–1300 CE)**

*Abstract* A project in the digital humanities, the dissertation explores methods of computational text analysis. Relying on text-mining techniques to extract meaningful data from unstructured text, the study offers an effective and flexible method for the analysis of Arabic biographical collections, the most valuable source for the social history of the pre-modern Islamic world. It uses the largest collection, “The History of Islam” of al-Dahabī (d. 1348), as a case-study of applying the new method and shows how almost 30,000 biographies can be studied as a whole.

A step toward finding a viable solution for studying the entire digital corpus of classical Islamic texts (400 mln. words), Chapter I offers a detailed explanation of “computational reading” that was built upon existing digital approaches from a variety of disciplines. Chapter II models big data extracted from the main source to further our understanding of the social geography of the Islamic world and its major social transformations, simultaneously providing an important background for the next chapter. Chapter III applies the devised method to the study of Islamic preaching from chronological, geographical and social perspectives that have been overlooked in the academic treatment of this subject. Largely an exploratory overview, it traces long-term changes in preaching practices as well as statuses of preachers within the Islamic élites. This chapter demonstrates how exactly computational reading can contribute to the studies of specific phenomena and practices. The final section overviews broad prospects of the further application of “computational reading” to a variety of genres of pre-modern Arabic literature.

The dissertation heavily relies on the visual display of information in the form of graphs, charts, maps, and tables that are used in the main body and supplied in Appendices.

*More details...*

*Committee* **Alexander Knysh**, Chair, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Michigan; **Michael Bonner**, Professor of Medieval Islamic History, University of Michigan; **Richard Bulliet**, Professor of History, Columbia University; **Sherman Jackson**, Professor of Religion and American Studies, University of South California; **Andrew Shryock**, Professor of Cultural Anthropology, University of Michigan

## References

» » *available upon request*

*prepared in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X*