

List of Contributors

Dmitry Bondarev is a researcher and head of West Africa projects at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, University of Hamburg. His research interests cover African linguistics, literacy studies, the history of writing in Ajami, and the palaeography and codicology of West African manuscripts.

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Nikolay Dobronravov is a professor at the Department of World Politics in the School of International Relations, St Petersburg State University, Russia. He graduated from the same university in 1983 (in African Studies) and earned his doctorate (Dr. habil.) on West African literary traditions in Arabic script in 2000 (a short version of it was published in Russian in 1999). Besides writing articles in Russian, English and Portuguese, he has published Hausa historical songs (2004, in Russian, based on the study of Ajami manuscripts) and authored a chapter on literacy among Muslims in nineteenth-century Trinidad and Brazil in *Slavery, Islam and Diaspora* (2009). His current research in this field focuses on the history of Ajami in Sudanic Africa and in the diaspora.

Alessandro Gori is Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. His main field of specialisation is the Islamic manuscript tradition in the Horn of Africa, a subject on which he has published extensively.

Branka Ivušić is a comparative linguist who has been working on language contact and the use of Arabic script in the early modern Balkans and adjacent areas for some time. In her PhD project at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, she is exploring an early modern multilingual manuscript in Arabic script. She works as a lecturer in German linguistics and language history at the University of Leipzig and at the University of Halle.

Paola Orsatti is Associate Professor of Persian Language and Literature at La Sapienza University, Rome, where she formerly also taught the history of the Persian language. Her research focuses chiefly on the history of Persian, Persian classical literature, the history of Persian studies in Italy and Europe, the history of Oriental manuscript collections, and the palaeography and codicology of Islamic manuscripts. Besides authoring a number of scholarly articles, she has published *Il fondo Borgia della Biblioteca Vaticana e gli studi orientali a Roma tra Sette e Ottocento* (Citta del Vaticano, 1996), *Appunti per una storia della lingua neopersiana. Parte I: parte generale – fonologia – la più antica documentazione* (Rome, 2007), *Corso di lingua persiana* (with Daniela Meneghini, Milan, 2012) and edited *The Persian Language in History* together with Mauro Maggi (Wiesbaden, 2011).

Paolo La Spisa is Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Florence, Italy. After conducting field research in Syria and Lebanon a number of times, he was appointed a Marie Curie Fellow at the Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium), where he worked from 2008 to 2010. His main research interests are Christian Arabic literature and Muslim–Christian relations in pre-modern times, which involves the analysis and description of the Middle/Mixed Arabic linguistic features found in Arabic manuscripts. His main publication is a critical edition of the theological treatises by Sulaymān Ibn Ḥasan al-Ġāl-n, the Palestinian Bishop of Gaza (10th–11th cent.).

Jan Schmidt was a lecturer in Turkish studies at Leiden University, the Netherlands, until his retirement in December 2016. He has published a host of articles and books on Ottoman-Turkish history and literature. He also compiled a catalogue of the Turkish manuscripts kept in Dutch public institutions, particularly the Leiden University Library, which appeared in four volumes between 2000 and 2012.

Florian Sobieroj catalogues Arabic manuscripts on the KOHD project (cataloguing and digitising Middle Eastern manuscripts), which is run under the auspices of the Gottingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities. He began work on the project in 1995 and has published three catalogues in the Union Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts in German Collections (VOHD) series, including descriptions of Arabic manuscripts as well as some Persian and Turkish manuscripts kept at the Bavarian State Library in Munich and some major collections in Thuringia. Besides cataloguing Islamic manuscripts, he takes an interest in Sufism, focusing on its manifestations in Arabic and Persian literature. He has written a number of articles and books on manuscript studies and Sufism, including an editio princeps of one of the works by al-Qushayrī.

Lameen Souag is a researcher at LACITO (CNRS) near Paris and focuses on the linguistic history of northern Africa with particular emphasis on language contact. He has undertaken descriptive fieldwork on several minority languages of the Sahara, notably Korandje in south-western Algeria and Siwi Berber in western Egypt. His first book, *Berber and Arabic in Siwa (Egypt): A Study in Linguistic Contact*, was published in 2013.

Jan van der Putten is Professor for Austronesian Languages in the Department of South-east Asian Studies (Asien-Afrika-Institut) at the University of Hamburg and is affiliated with the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures. In his research, he explores Malay texts and their cultural contexts in different periods and a variety of media.

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