

This is the newsletter of the Orient-Institut Beirut. To find out more about what we do, visit our website at www.orient-institut.org.

OIB News



 Friend on Facebook

 Follow on Twitter

 Forward to a Friend

Recent events

Upcoming events

News

People

Newsletter 5/2019

Recent events

“Relations in the Ideospace. Middle Eastern Students in the Eastern Bloc (1950s-1991)”

Inauguration Conference Workshop

Sunday, 19 May - Monday, 20 May 2019, Orient-Institut Beirut



The first conference workshop of OIB’s new research group “Relations in the Ideospace. Middle Eastern Students in the Eastern Bloc (1950s-1991), together with the German Historical Institutes Moscow and Warsaw, took place at the Orient-Institut from Sunday, 19 May to Monday, 20 May. The research group is part of a larger research project of the Max Weber Foundation and funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in Germany. The project is concerned with knowledge relations between the Middle East and the Eastern Bloc in the context of the Cold War. Numerous students from the region studied at universities in the USSR and countries of Eastern Europe, a space

created by a common ideology, an ideoscape (Appadurai). The complex relationships which were forged through the mobility/migration of students from the Middle East and North Africa to the Eastern Bloc have often been highly persistent, far beyond the end of the Cold War. With the opening of the archives in Russia and other countries of the Eastern Bloc, research on the high number of Arab, Iranian and Turkish students is now possible. The two-day conference workshop brought together 14 researchers who all participate in the project. The first day was dedicated to discussions on research methods with a particular focus on Oral History. On the second day, the participants presented their individual research projects, which were discussed in the context of the overarching themes of the project. Prof. Dr. Birgit Schäßler, the director of the OIB who developed the research project, Dr. Sandra Dahlke, the director of the German Historical Institute Moscow, and Prof. Dr. Milos Reznik, director of the German Historical Institut Warsaw, together with Dr. Ala al-Hamarneh, the coordinator of the project, advised the researchers on possible sources and archives, research designs and methods, and provided them with useful contacts. The next conference workshop will take place at the German Historical Institute in Moscow in spring 2020.

Meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Max Weber Foundation for the first time at the OIB

Wednesday, 15 May - Saturday, 18 May 2019, Orient-Institut Beirut



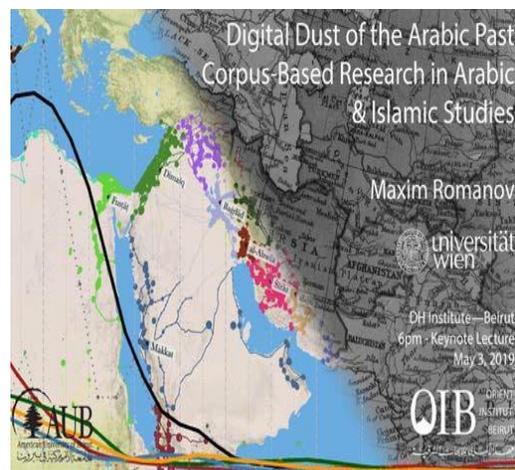
For the first time since it was founded in 2002, the Max Weber Foundation - German Humanities Institutes Abroad, held the annual meeting of its board of trustees at the Orient-Institut Beirut. Apart from the board of trustees, the directors of all ten member institutes, the president, Prof. Dr. Hans van Ess, and other functionaries

of the foundation as well as the chairpersons of each of the advisory boards came to Beirut to take part in the meetings. The OIB, which is one of the member institutes of the Max Weber Foundation, hosted the event and organized an accompanying cultural and academic program. One of the highlights was the panel discussion “The OIB in the academic landscape of Lebanon and the region” in the salon of the OIB. The German Ambassador, His Excellency Dr. Georg Birgelen, gave a welcome address.

“Digital Dust of the Arabic Past”: Corpus-Based Research in Arabic & Islamic

Keynote Lecture Digital Humanities Conference by Maxim Romanov (Vienna)

Friday, 03 May 2019, 6-7.30 pm Orient-Institut Beirut



For the past two decades a great number of printed Arabic books have been digitized in the Middle East. Now scholars anywhere in the world—not only at universities privileged with rich Middle East collections—have thousands of fully searchable volumes of classical Arabic texts at their fingertips. Due to this development, research tasks that used to take years of hard work now can be completed within mere hours. However, the field of Arabic

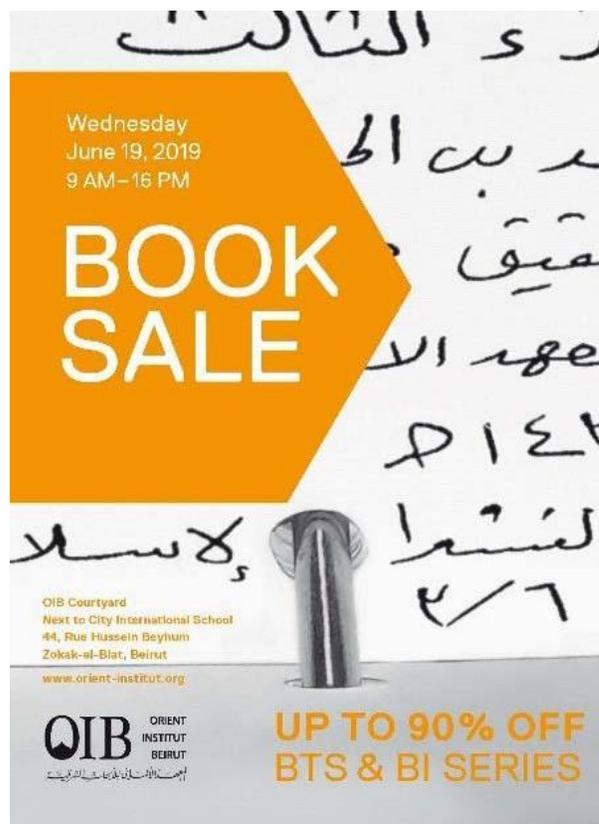
& Islamic studies is yet to realize the profoundness of this change. Almost a century and a half ago, with the appearance of printed editions scholars began to find increasingly more texts they could work with. At the same time, the shift in the form from idiosyncratic manuscripts to normalized prints introduced "distance"—a condition of knowledge, as Franco Moretti puts it—that allowed scholars to focus their attention on the deep analysis of multiple texts (close reading). The change in the field went hand in hand with the change in technology. Now we are living through yet another technological shift. Unlike libraries, machine-readable corpora fuse texts into qualitatively new entities and through that promise a new form of "distance" where we will be able to focus our attention on the deep analysis of all available texts (close and distant reading). The digital age also brings us new computational methods that allow us to engage with these machine-readable corpora in the most efficient ways. Text reuse identification methods offer us a novel view on how any text in a corpus is connected to all other texts and through that we can get a penetrating perspective on the complex of interwoven texture of the Arabic written tradition itself. Making possible the extraction of meaningful data from unstructured texts, text mining methods offer ways of modeling large-scale and long-term historical processes from myriads of bits of information scattered across a corpus. The lecture highlighted major developments and current results in the said areas and concluded with the discussion of the issue of resources and infrastructure required for making such new research possible.

Maxim Romanov is a Universitätsassistent für Digital Humanities at the Department of History, University of Vienna.

Upcoming events

OIB Book Fair

Wednesday, 19 June 2019, 9am-4pm, Orient-Institut Beirut, Courtyard



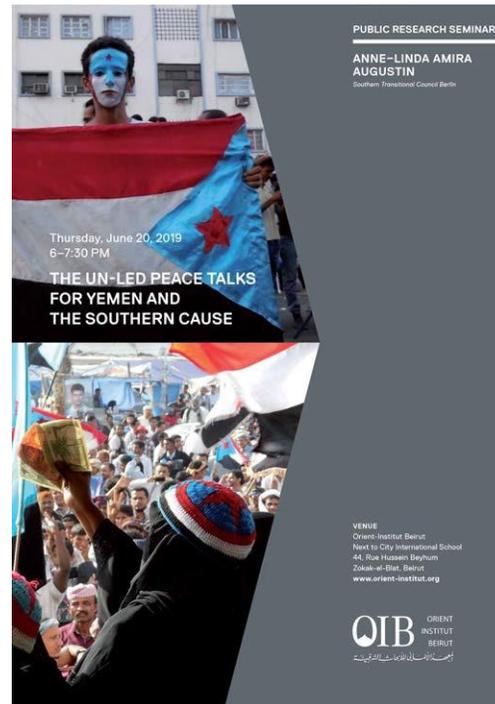
This first ever OIB Book Fair will feature volumes from both our Book Series at the OIB. We offer huge discounts for older titles and significant discounts for our most recent publications. Our two series are:

1. **The Bibliotheca Islamica (BI)** is the Orient-Institut Beirut's platform for the critical edition of mainly Arabic texts. These include reference texts on history, prosopography, literature and theology, including Sufism. The series was founded by Hellmut Ritter in 1929, at that time in collaboration with the German Oriental Society (*Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft*). Since then, more than sixty titles have been published in this series, some of them multi-volume monumental works like the biographical lexicon "al-Wāfī bi-l-Wafayyāt" by Ṣalāhaddīn Ḥalīl al-Ṣafadī (d. 1362).
2. **Beiruter Texte und Studien (BTS)** is the OIB's peer-reviewed book series, which publishes research on the arts, history, society and culture of the Middle East. It serves as a platform for innovative research from across the world. Since its inception in 1964, more than 130 books have been published in this series. Two new volumes were

added in 2018. A full list of the series' titles can be found on the OIB website.

The UN-led Peace Talks for Yemen and the Southern Cause

*Public Research Seminar by Anne-Linda Amira Augustin
Thursday, 20 June 2019, 6-7.30pm Orient-Institut Beirut*



The war in Yemen is often portrayed and analyzed as a conflict between the Hadi government and the Houthis or as a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The so-called Southern Cause, i.e. the grievances in South Yemen, which originate from the marginalization of South Yemenis since Yemeni unification in 1990 and the subsequent war in 1994, is usually given little attention among diplomats, policy makers, researchers and the media, and is, therefore, overlooked. However, the outcome of the Southern Cause with its claims of reestablishing an independent state on the territory of the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen will have a decisive impact on the future of the Republic of Yemen. The talk will address the question why it is important to include South Yemeni stakeholders who are partisan to an independent South Yemeni state in the UN-led peace process that intends to end the war in Yemen.

Anne-Linda Amira Augustin works as a political advisor in the Foreign Representation of the Southern Transitional

Council in the European Union.

News

Vacancy

We are looking for a research associate (Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter/Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin) with a focus on Islamic Studies. The full-time position (100%) is limited to three years and can be renewed for two additional years. Place of employment is Beirut. Applicants need to hold a PhD in Islamic Studies and have good knowledge of Arabic and other relevant languages. A focus on Digital Humanities is very welcome.

Further details on [our website](#).

Deadline for applications: 30 June 2019

People



Dr. Felicia Meynersen

is research coordinator at the Orient Institute Beirut since May 2019.

She studied Archaeology, Byzantine Studies and Prehistory at the Universities of Mainz and Berlin. Felicia coordinated the multinational EU-

project “Preservation of Cultural Heritage Training Program” (2003-2005), was assistant professor at the University Saarbrücken (2006-2012), worked as a research fellow (2013-2015) in the project „Syrian Heritage Archive Project (SHAP) at the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and Museum für Islamische Kunst; and she coordinated the joint project of the Archaeological Heritage Network “Stunde Null – Eine Zukunft für die Zeit nach der Krise” (2016-2018). Her research focuses are Critical Cultural Heritage Studies, history of emotions as well as phenomena of contacts and change in the MENA-region. Her actual research project is “Museums in dialogue with the future” in Lebanon.



Abdulghani AlHawri (Hans-Rober Roemer fellow) is Assistant Professor of Education at Sana'a University, Yemen. He received his PhD in Education from Cairo University in 2013 and his master's degree from Sana'a University in 2007. He published a monograph entitled "Islamic Civilization in the Context of Human Civilization" and more than 14 research papers in local and international scientific journals. He won several awards, scholarships and fellowships, most recently the King Abdul-Aziz Prize for Childhood and Development. He is currently working on his second book entitled "Family Relations in the Context of Addiction to Social Media".

If you have missed previous editions of our newsletter, you can find them [here](#).

[friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2013 Orient-Institut Beirut, All rights reserved.

newsletter@orient-institut.org

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Orient-Institut Beirut · Zokak el-Blat, Rue Hussein Beyhum · Beirut 11-2988 · Lebanon

