

Sources and their Materiality

Reflecting on Nature, Reflecting on Society: A Different History of Botany

Organized by: Prof. Dr. Nora Lafi, Islamic Studies



16 Oct. 2026 – 05 Feb. 2027

Princeton University Library. Islamic Manuscripts. Garrett 583H.

Friday 10:15-11:45

MUVI-RAUM (S 81, NW II)

To attend via Zoom, please send an email to:

nora.lafi@uni-bayreuth.de



16.10 Prof. Dr. Nora Lafi, Islamic Studies, Universität Bayreuth

Introduction: Reflecting on Nature, Reflecting on Society. A Different History of Botany

Prof. Dr. Seyni Moumouni, Institut de Recherche en Sciences

Humaines, Université Abdu Moumouni, Niamey

Sub-Saharan Manuscripts and their Materiality as a Source of the Science of Pharmacopoeia

23.10 PD Dr. habil. Sara Keller, Max-Weber Kolleg, Universität Erfurt

Architecture as a Source of Botanical Knowledge in Mughal Gardens: India, 16th-18thc.

30.10 Prof. Dr. Sandra Calkins, Universität Bayreuth

Botanical discipline. Hapticality and embodied archives in plant research

Dr. Robin Schmahl, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin

"The Water of the Nile spreads to all lands without allocation":

Administrative Materialities of Irrigation and Agriculture in Ottoman Egypt

06.11 Dr. Felipe Francisco, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow

Escuela de Estudios Arabes, Granada

The Heritage of Arabic Botany in the National Archives of Portugal at Torre do Tombo

13.11 Tom Zimmermann, Universität Bayreuth

Eating Botany: A vegetarian Colonialist and the Coconut.

Nihal Chahdi Ouazzani, Universität Bayreuth

Gendered Gnosis of the Divine: on the Materiality of Manuscripts, Bodies and Plant-Based Ritual Practices in the Moroccan Sufi Tradition

20.11 Dr. Assoc. Prof. Suaad Alghafal, University of Tripoli and Abduljabbar Abdulqader

Assaghir Abuzyd, Ghadames Association of Heritage and Conservation

Plant-Based Medical Heritage in Ghadames as Reflected in Manuscripts. Al-Qusuni's (d.1524)

Al-Durra al-Muntakhaba fima Sahha min al-Adwiya al-Mujarabba and its echoes in the Writings of Traveller Gustav Nachtigal (1834-1885) on Plants in the Sahara and Sudan

27.11 Dr. Stefan Knost, CNRS-IRHT Paris

Plants and the Law: Historical and Legal Aspects of Agriculture and Irrigation around 18th c. Aleppo

04.12 Nureddine N. H. Althani, Former Director of the Libyan Centre for Heritage Protection and Historical Studies in Ghadames, member of the Ghadames Heritage Project and Prof. Dr. Nora Lafi, Universität Bayreuth

The 4th Volume of al-Azraq's Medical Treatise: a Manuscript on Botany and Medicinal Plants found in the rubbles of Dâr al-Qâdî in the framework of the Ghadames Heritage Project

11.12 Dr. Assoc. Prof. Joseph Rustom, Director of the Oriental Library

Université Saint-Joseph, Beirut

Pressed, then Burned: Lebanese Wildflowers, from Paul Mousterde's Mandate Flora to Ecological Catastrophe (1930s-Today)



18.12 Sali Abbas, Universität Bamberg

The Other Side of Survival: Ecocide and Destruction of Livelihoods in South-Lebanon since 2023

Baderin Adebanjo, Universität Bayreuth

Plants as Carriers of Knowledge: Yoruba Epistemology and the Natural World

08.01 Prof. Dr. Beya Abidi-Belhadj, Director of LAAM, Manouba University, Tunis

The Bey's Gardens as Laboratories of Botanic Experiment: Tunis in the 18th and 19th c.

08.01 Camilla Marcone, Yale University

Court Records as a Source about the Inertia of Morisco Botanic Culture in Granada:

Plants and Agricultural Techniques in the Proceedings of the Juzgado de Aguas (1501-1835)

*Additional Lecture: Gabriel Alonso de Herrera's *Obra de Agricultura* (1513) as a Symbiosis of theoretical agronomic knowledge from Roman, Greek, and Islamic sources*

22.01 Prof. Dr. Clarissa Vierke, Universität Bayreuth

Usiwate Mnazi kwa Mkoma. "Don't leave the Coconut Tree for a Doum Palm".

On the Cultural Semantics of the Coconut Tree at the Swahili Coast

29.01 Dr. Britta Frede, Universität Bayreuth

When Manuscripts Move: Tracing Desert Ecologies, Botanical Knowledge, and the Material Afterlives of Private Libraries in Nouakchott

05.02 Jannis Kostelnik, Universität Göttingen

Kolanuts in West-African Arabic Manuscripts

Barbara Teodoli, Sapienza Università di Roma (SARAS)

The Botanic Garden of Palermo: Italy in the Mirror of Colonial Libya

Fatma Nur Özdemir, Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Ankara

Reading the Earth, Discerning the Soul: the shared Grammar of Mizâc and Iqlîm in Ottoman Botany and Firâset

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