



## Programme of the Seventeenth Meeting of the School of Abbasid Studies

Tuesday 14 July to Saturday 18 July, 2026, KU Leuven, Belgium

### TUESDAY, July 14

17:00 – 19:00	Welcome Reception
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### WEDNESDAY, July 15

09:00 - 09:30	Opening remarks, John Nawas and Monique Bernards
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SOCIETY AND ECONOMY	
09:30 – 09:50	Matt Keegan, <i>Banū Sāsān: Imaginary Gardens with Real Toads</i>
09:50– 10:10	David Marmer, <i>Female Agency and Property Management in Abbasid Society</i>
10:10 – 10:55	Response and discussion led by Beatrice Gründler
10:55 – 11:30	Coffee/Tea

AUTHORITY IN TEXT AND RITUAL	
11:30 - 11:50	Keren Abbou, <i>Plausible Presence, Political Purpose: The Sickbed Scene in Abbasid Historiography</i>
11:50 - 12:10	Leone Pecorini Goodall, <i>Aqām al-Ḥajj Fulān: Hajj leaders in the First Century of Abbasid rule (132 – 232/750 – 847)</i>
12:10 - 12:55	Response and discussion led by Camilla Adang
12:55 - 14:30	Lunch

ELITE NETWORKS	
14:30 – 14:50	Natalie Kontny-Wendt, <i>A Prosopographical Study of the Banū ‘Abdallāh b. Ḥasan in Early Islamic History</i>
14:50 – 15:10	Kyle Longworth, <i>The Umayyad Aristocracy after the Abbasid Revolution: Syrian Elites during the Early Abbasid Period</i>
15:10 - 15:55	Response and discussion led by Sarah Savant
15:55 - 16:30	Coffee/Tea

RIVAL CLAIMS TO POWER	
16:30 - 16:50	Vanessa Van Renterghem, <i>Fatimid Baghdad (451/1059): History and Historiography of a Failure</i>
16:50 - 17:10	Zahra Jiwan, <i>The Epistles of the Imams at Sāmarrā’: Literary Aesthetics of Recognition and Miraculous Encounters</i>
17:10 - 17:55	Response and discussion led by Ed Hayes

## THURSDAY, July 16

GRAECO-ARABIC THOUGHT AND RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY	
09:30 – 09:50	Ignacio Sánchez, The Medical Body and the Religious Self: Ibn al-Jawzī's Critique of Extreme Asceticism
09:50– 10:10	Bishara Ebeid, Between <i>Kiyān</i> and <i>Jawhar</i> : Elisa of Nisibis and the Translation of the “Self-Subsistent” in Arabic
10:10 – 10:55	Response and discussion led by David Bennett
10:55 – 11:30	Coffee/Tea

ABBASID GEOPOLITICS	
11:30 - 11:50	Marc Czarnuszewicz, An Essential Relationship? Caliphal Diplomacy and the Rise of the Early Seljuq State
11:50 - 12:10	Khodadad Rezakhani, Diplomacy on the Steppe: Samanid-Abbasid Competition in the <i>Rihla</i> of Ibn Fadlan
12:10 - 12:55	Response and discussion led by James Montgomery
12:55 - 14:30	Lunch

THE ABBASIDS AND SUNNISM	
14:30 – 14:50	Ahmed El Shamsy, Abbasid-Sunni Relations from al-Manşūr to al-Ma'mūn
14:50 – 15:35	Response and discussion led by Michael Cook
15:35 - 16:00	Coffee/Tea
16:00 – 18:30	Excursion

## FRIDAY, July 17

REBELLION, OPPOSITION, AND IMPERIAL ORDER	
09:30 – 09:50	Hannah Hagemann, Dynamics of Khārijism in the Abbasid Period
09:50– 10:10	Antonia Bosanquet, The Abbasid (re)Conquest of Ifrīqiya and its Political Consequences
10:10 – 10:55	Response and discussion led by Arezou Azad
10:55 – 11:30	Coffee/Tea

POLICING AND JUSTICE	
11:30 - 11:50	Taryn Marashi, Just Paws? A Dog's Defense of Justice and the Pursuit of Criminal Law Enforcement
11:50 - 12:10	Mohammad Allehbi, Who Watches the Watchmen: The Maẓālim Court and Legal Accountability in Abbasid Criminal Justice
12:10 - 12:55	Response and discussion led by Joe Lowry
12:55 - 14:30	Lunch

LAW AND POWER	
14:30 – 14:50	Aseel Najib, Reconstructing Regional Legal Discourses in the Early Abbasid Period
14:50 – 15:10	Yuko Tanaka, Summoning Phantom Interlocutors: Staging Disputation at al-Ma'mūn's Court
15:10 - 15:55	Response and discussion led by Nurit Tsafir
15:55 - 16:30	Coffee/Tea

POETRY, RELIGION AND DOCTRINAL IDENTITY	
16:30 - 16:50	Sona Grigoryan, Abbasid Poets and Versified Religion
16:50 - 17:10	George Warner, Sounding Ḥamdānid Shiisms in Kushājim and al-Ṣanawbarī
16:10 - 17:55	Response and discussion led by Najam Haider

## SATURDAY, July 18

CRAFTING TEXTS	
09:30 – 09:50	Pamela Klasova, Armors against Swords: Al-Ma'arrī's <i>Dir'īyyāt</i> as a Poetic Response to al-Mutanabbī
09:50– 10:10	Zina Maleh, Al-Tanūkhī's Transmission Terminology or a Literary Compiler's Life of Work
10:10 – 10:55	Response and discussion led by Antonella Gherseti
10:55 – 11:30	Coffee/Tea

RETHINKING SĀMARRĀ'	
11:30 - 11:50	Hagit Nol, Creating Historical Paradigms: The Case of Sāmarrā'
11:50 - 12:35	Response and discussion led by Alastair Northedge
13:35 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	Project Presentations Maxim Romanov, Deriving Meaning from Statistical Patterns Stefan Heidemann, State-building and Social Space Arezou Azad, The Rise and Fall of the Barmakids
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee/Tea
16:00 - 17:00	General Meeting
19:00 -	Farewell Dinner