

International Conference

# Baghdad – Space of Knowledge

21 – 23 August 2013

Courant Research Centre EDRIS in collaboration with the Excellence Cluster TOPOI



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Public Lecture

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Josef van Ess

Bagdad, Vergangenheit ohne Zukunft oder  
Hat eine Hauptstadt „Kultur“?

Venue

Freie Universität Berlin

Topoi Building Dahlem

Hittorfstraße 18  
D-14195 Berlin

Conference Room 010/First Floor  
Public Transportation: U3: Thielplatz

Organisation

Prof. Dr. Jens Scheiner (Georg-August Universität Göttingen)  
PD Dr. Isabel Toral-Niehoff (Freie Universität Berlin)

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## Program

### Wednesday, 21 August

9.15 – 9.30

**Welcome Address and Introduction**  
Jens Scheiner / Isabel Toral-Niehoff

#### Panel 1: Baghdad - Urban Center

9.30 – 10.15

**The Sasanian Background of Baghdadian Urban Culture**  
Parvaneh Pourshariati (Columbus)

10.15 – 11.00

**The Economic Circumstances of the Baghdad Region Down to the Mongol Invasion**  
Richard Bulliet (New York)

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.15

**Baghdad, the Centre of the World: Foundation Legends of a Marvellous City in a Marvellous Landscape**  
Isabel Toral-Niehoff (Berlin/London)

12.15 – 13.00

**Islamic Art and Architecture in Pre-Mongol Baghdad**  
Bernard O’Kane (Cairo)

Lunch break

#### Panel 2: Baghdad – Space of Knowledge

14.30 – 15.15

**Philosophical and Scientific Learning in Baghdad**  
Damien Janos (Göttingen)

15.15 – 16.00

**Baghdad: Crossroad of Literary Conversations**  
Beatrice Gruendler (New Haven)

Coffee Break

16.30 – 17.15

**The Who is Who of Baghdad**  
Jens Scheiner (Göttingen)

18.30

**Keynote Lecture**

**Bagdad, Vergangenheit ohne Zukunft oder Hat eine Hauptstadt „Kultur“?**

Josef van Ess (Tübingen)

20.00

**Reception**

### Thursday, 22 August

#### Panel 3. Baghdad – Caliphal Capital

9.30 – 10.15

**Abbasid Baghdad and the Markets**  
Hugh Kennedy (London)

10.15 – 11.00

**The Exchange with Europe: Charlemagne and Harun al-Rashid**  
Kirill Dmitriev / Klaus Oschema (St Andrews/Heidelberg)

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.15

**The Buyid Social Imaginary: Social Structure and the Formation of Intellectual Groups in Fourth-Century Baghdad**  
Nuha al-Sha’ar (Sharjah)

12.15 – 13.00

**Baghdad Under the Seljuks: New Institutions for New Powers?**  
Vanessa van Renterghem (Beirut)

Lunch break

#### Panel 4: Baghdad – Space of Religions

14.30 – 15.15

**The Formation of Sunni and Shii Traditionalism in Baghdad**  
Christopher Melchert (Oxford)

16.00 – 18.00

**Visit of the Samarra-Exhibition at the Museum of Islamic Art**

19.00

**Welcome Dinner**

### Friday, 23 August

9.30 – 10.15

**East-Syrian Christians in Seleucia-Ctesiphon in Pre-Baghdadian Times**  
Dmitrij Bumazhnov (Göttingen)

10.15 – 11.00

**Jews in Bavel and Baghdad**  
Elisabetta Abate (Göttingen)

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.15

**Manicheans and Other Religions in Baghdad**  
Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst (Berlin)

12.15 – 13.00

**Beyond Baghdad: Looking back to Babylon**  
Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum (Berlin)

13.00 – 13.30

**Concluding Remarks and Final Discussion**