



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Postgraduate Virtual **Open Days**

MSc Islamic and Middle
Eastern Studies

School of Literatures, Languages
and Cultures (LLC)



Marie Legendre
Programme Director for 2025/2026

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Meet the Programme Team

Dr Marie Legendre

Senior Lecturer in Islamic History

Programme Director of the MSc Islamic and
Middle Eastern Studies



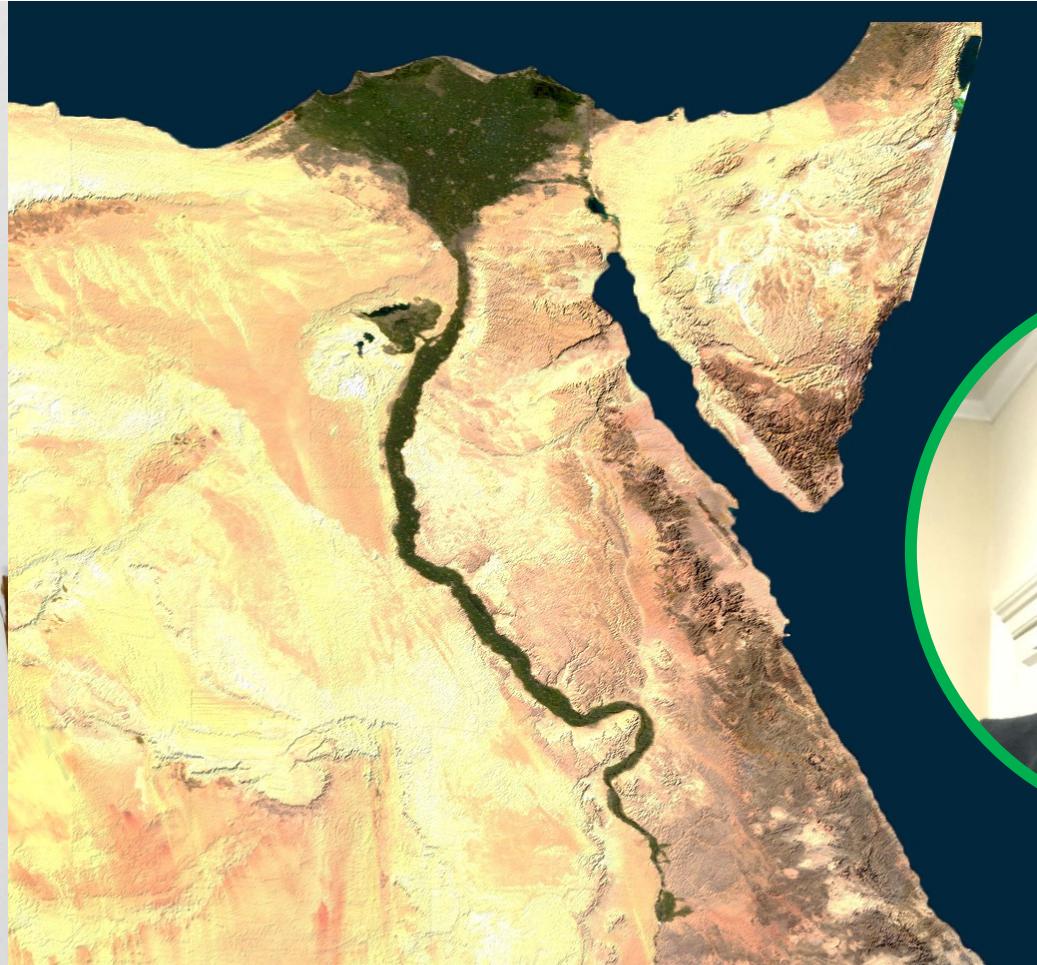
Research: Early Islamic History, Political and
Economic History of the early Caliphate



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Research: Political and Economic History of the early Caliphate: Study of Arabic Papyrus Documents from Egypt



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What makes our Programme Distinctive

MSc Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

- Covers **all disciplines** that make the Islamic Middle Eastern World
- Possibility of a strong **language component** (Arabic, Persian and Turkish; beginner intermediate and advanced)
- Specialization in **real-world challenges**
- Leading to a large variety of **careers**
- A **research and teaching environment** of the highest academic standards



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A research and teaching environment of the highest academic standards

- Teaching and study facilities of the highest standards
- Historic city of Edinburgh is ideal for student and scholarly life
- Staff readily accessible on campus



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Nacim Pak Shiraz
Cinema and Iran



Anthony Gorman
Modern Middle East History



Ines Aščerić-Todd
Ottoman History and Turkish



Shoaiib Malik
Islamic and Science



Farah Aboubakr
Arabic and Literature



Andrew Newman
Islamic Studies and Persian



Elvire Corboz
Contemporary Islam



Andreas Görke
Islamic Studies



Glaire Anderson
Islamic Art



Jona Fras
Arabic and Anthropology



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MSc Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

- 10 to 20 students on the course each year
- From UK, Europe, East and South East Asia, the Middle East and America
- Background: large variety of undergraduate degrees, ex. Politics, History, Computer Sciences, journalism, literature, business.
- Two semesters:
 - Semester 1: mid September to early December
 - S2: mid January to early April
 - Dissertation submitted early August



Programme Structure: 3 compulsory courses

Compulsory courses

You must take these courses

[Critical Readings in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies](#)

Must be taken during Semester 1

IMES11044

20 credits

[Research Skills and Dissertation Training in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies](#)

Must be taken during Full Year

IMES11122

20 credits

[MSc Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Dissertation](#)

Must be passed at 50% and taken during Block 5 (Sem 2) and beyond

IMES11014

60 credits

Critical readings (Semester 1): Case studies in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies taught by specialists from the department.



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Compulsory courses: Critical readings

- Week 1: Introduction to the course and critical reading (Dr Elvire Corboz)
- Week 2 : The Question of "Orientalism" (Dr Elvire Corboz)
- Week 3: Theories on the Origin of the Qur'anic Text (Dr Andreas Görke)
- Week 4: Safavid 'Decline' and Foreign Travellers' Accounts (Prof. Andrew Newman)
- Week 5: Explaining the Iranian Revolution (Dr Elvire Corboz)
- Week 6: *No seminar; IMES Reading week*
- Week 7: Settler Colonialism: the Case of Israel (Dr Anthony Gorman)
- Week 8: Framing Palestinian Memory and Identity in Folktales (Dr Farah Aboubakr)
- Week 9: Studying Contemporary (Arabic) Language: Challenges and Opportunities (Dr Jona Fras)
- Week 10: Gendering the Arab Spring (Dr Dalia Mostafa)
- Week 11: The Dynamics of Sunni-Shi'a "Sectarianism" in Iraq (topic selected by students) (Dr Elvire Corboz)



Elvire Corboz
Contemporary Islam



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IMES11014

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Andreas Görke
Islamic Studies

Research skills and Dissertation training (whole year): step by step planning of the Dissertation (pass/fail course)

- Writing annotated bibliography (semester 1) and research proposal (semester 2)



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[Research Skills and Dissertation Training in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies](#)

Must be taken during Full Year

IMES11122

20 credits

[MSc Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Dissertation](#)

Must be passed at 50% and taken during Block 5 (Sem 2) and beyond

IMES11014

60 credits

Dissertation: Your own independent research project
15,000 words in length (excluding the bibliography)



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Programme Structure: 4 Optional Courses

Large choice of language and discursive courses

A word cloud visualization of optional course titles and subtitles. The largest and most prominent word is 'Islam And Science'. Other large words include 'Middle Eastern Politics', 'Gulf Politics', 'Islamic Africa', 'Islamic Philosophy', and 'The Middle East In International Relations'. Smaller words represent subtitles and specific course names, such as 'Arab-israeli Conflict', 'Economy And Society In The Global Middle Ages', 'The Ottoman World: The Society, Culture And Legacy Of Islam's Last Empire', 'Science, Sorcery, And Wonder', 'Pioneers Of Political Islam', 'Christian-muslim Relations', 'Afghanistan', 'Sufism', 'The Politics Of History In The Arabic-speaking World', 'Early Islam', 'Muslims In Europe', 'Iran', 'Cinema And Society', 'Law And Power In The Muslim World', 'The State In Social And Political Theory', 'The Medieval Indian Ocean', 'Art And Cultural Exchange In Mughal India', 'Gulf Politics', 'Digital Islamic Art', 'Classical Persian Literature', 'History And Culture Of Iran', 'The Quran', 'Arabic.', 'Muslim Societies In Southeast Asia', 'Turkish', and 'Gendering The Middle East'.

Middle Eastern Politics

Arab-israeli Conflict Economy And Society In The Global Middle Ages

The Middle East In International Relations

The Ottoman World: The Society, Culture And Legacy Of Islam's Last Empire

Science, Sorcery, And Wonder

Persian Egypt

Pioneers Of Political Islam

Christian-muslim Relations

Afghanistan The Ottoman World

Sufism The Politics Of History In The Arabic-speaking World

Early Islam Muslims In Europe

Iran

Cinema And Society Law And Power In The Muslim World

The State In Social And Political Theory

The Medieval Indian Ocean Art And Cultural Exchange In Mughal India

Gulf Politics

Digital Islamic Art

Classical Persian Literature

History And Culture Of Iran The Quran

Arabic.

Muslim Societies In Southeast Asia Turkish

Gendering The Middle East

Islamic Africa

Islamic Philosophy

International, Transitional And Globalized Dynamics Of The Muslim World



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What a typical week looks like...

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Islamic Philosophy		Meeting supervisor	Cinema and Society	Reading group
Afternoon	Meeting PD		Research skills		Critical reading
			Public talk		

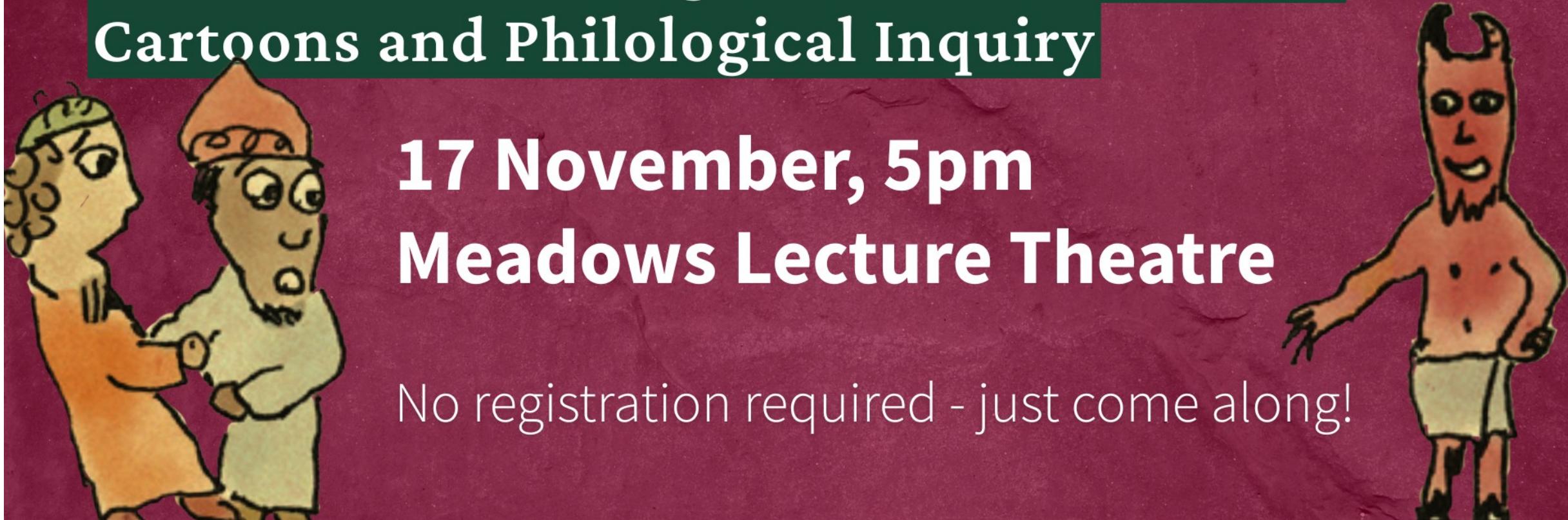
W.M. Watt Lecture 2025

Professor Emily Selope (University of Exeter)

**Medieval Arabic Magic between Historical
Cartoons and Philological Inquiry**

**17 November, 5pm
Meadows Lecture Theatre**

No registration required - just come along!





Reels of Agency: Women, Faith, and Power on Instagram in Saudi Arabia

 THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Alwaleed Centre

GENDER.ED

 Seminar

Reels of Agency: Women, Faith, and Power on Instagram in Saudi Arabia

Join Dr Hanaa Almoaibed as she explores how Saudi women use Instagram to navigate faith, gender, and modernity in a rapidly changing society. The presentation will be followed by a response from Adam Ferron (University of Edinburgh) and chaired by Dr Mira Al Hussein (University of Edinburgh).

 Dr Hanaa Almoaibed
Research Fellow,
LSE Middle East Centre

 Adam Ferron
PhD candidate in Islamic
and Middle Eastern Studies,
The University of Edinburgh

 Dr Mira Al Hussein
Associate Fellow at the
Alwaleed Centre,
The University of Edinburgh

28 November 3pm to 4:30pm Seminar Room 4, Chrystal Macmillan Building, 15a George Square, EH8 9LD, Edinburgh

Dr Hanaa Almoaibed will present her paper, which explores how Saudi women use Instagram to navigate faith, gender, and modernity in a rapidly changing society. Within the context of Vision 2030 reforms, social media has become a vital space for self-expression, spiritual reflection, and community building. Through modest

NOV
28
2025

15.00 - 16.30

Reels of Agency: Women, Faith, and
Power on Instagram in Saudi Arabia

Join Dr Hanaa Almoaibed as she explores how Saudi women use Instagram to navigate faith, gender, and modernity in a rapidly changing society. Within the context of Vision 2030 reforms, social media has become a vital space for self-expression, spiritual reflection, and community building.

 Seminar Room 4, Chrystal Macmillan Building,
15a George Square,
EH8 9LD,
Edinburgh.

Student voice

- Recent student feedback (semester 1 25/26)
- What aspects of the programme have you found most valuable or engaging?
- ‘The range of topics offered in the Critical readings module. The general organisation of the department. I am very impressed by the level of communication and how prepared teaching staff is for their courses.’



Careers

- The MSc Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies is the perfect preparation for careers in:
- education,
- journalism,
- public relations,
- diplomacy,
- research and for a range of international jobs.
- Our alumni are now active across the world in a large diversity of careers. Some of them have continued with us for a PhD.



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Did you get the info you were looking for?

- Programme-specific info: [MSc Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies](#)
- Chat to our Students: <https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>
- Any other questions (including, Fees & Admissions) email:
futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
- Read our students' blogs at blogs.ed.ac.uk/studentstories



Contact details for follow-up questions

- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
- For anything specific to the MSc Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, do not hesitate to contact me:

Dr Marie Legendre, Programme Director

marie.legendre@ed.ac.uk



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Thank you

Marie Legendre

marie.legendre@ed.ac.uk