



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



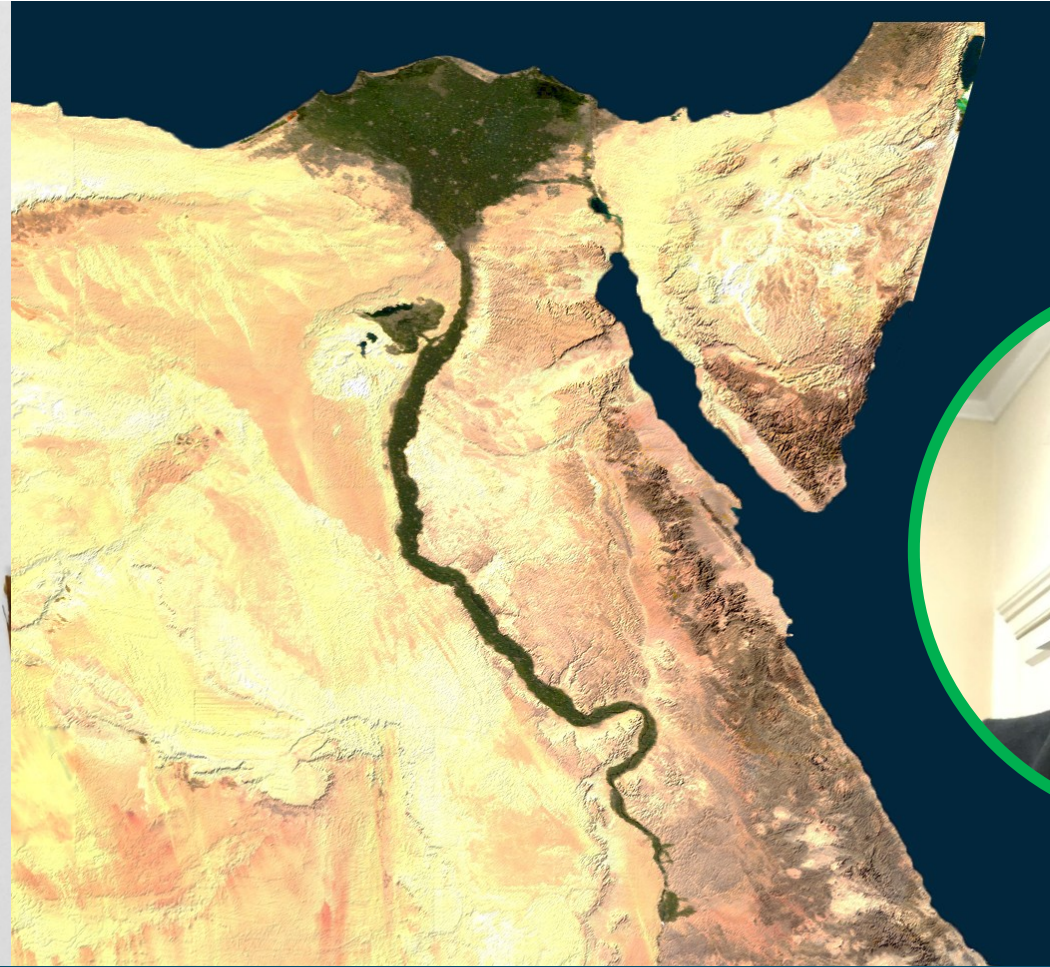
Research: Early Islamic History, Political and Economic History of the early Caliphate



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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 makes 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



Shoaib 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



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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



Elvire Corboz
Contemporary Islam

- 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)



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IMES11014

60 credits



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

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IMES11122

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MSc Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Dissertation

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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





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Cinema and Iran



Anthony Gorman
Modern Middle East History



Ines Aščerić-Todd
Ottoman History and Turkish



Shoaib Malik
Islamic and Science



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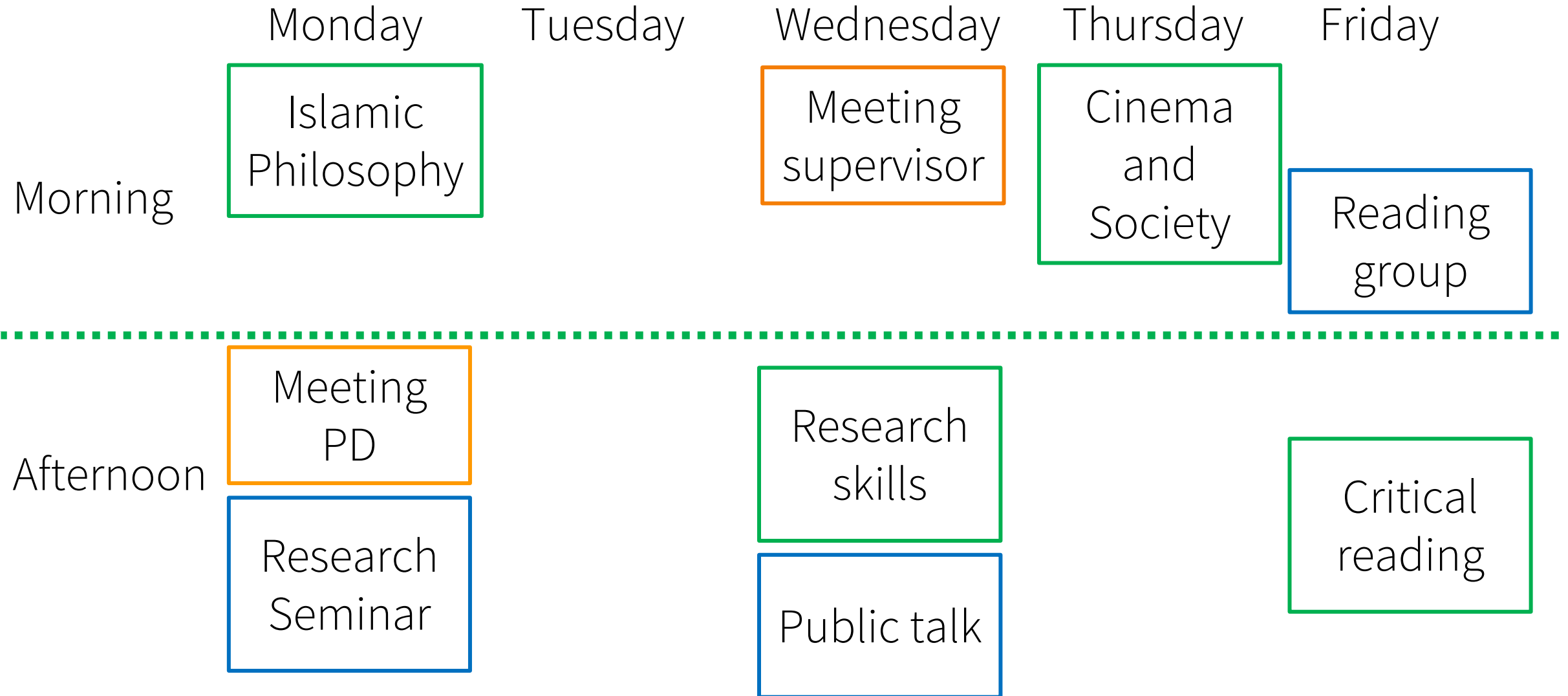
Jona Fras
Arabic and Anthropology



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What a typical week looks like...



W.M. Watt Lecture 2025

Professor Emily Selove (University of Exeter)

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

17 November, 5pm

Meadows Lecture Theatre

No registration required - just come along!





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



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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

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.’



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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



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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