

Noémie Lucas-Zhani

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Nationality: French

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Academic Background

- 2014-2020
PhD in Islamic Studies at Pantheon-Sorbonne University (École doctorale 113, laboratoire Islam médiéval, Orient et Méditerranée, UMR 8167)
Supervisor: Pr. Anne-Marie Eddé
Thesis Topic: « Le pouvoir de la terre : essai d’histoire de la société bas-iraquienne au II^e/VIII^e siècle »/ “The power of the land: An Attempt at a Social History of Lower-Iraq during the 8th century”
- 2014-2017
Bachelor in Arabic (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales/INALCO)
Graduated with Honours (« Bien »)
- 2013-2014
Fifth year university study in preparation for teaching in French high schools (Agrégation d’histoire) Admission (July 2014)
- 2012-2013
Research Master Degree/ Postgraduate Degree: Department of History, History of the Islamic world (Pantheon-Sorbonne University)
Supervisor: Professeur Françoise Micheau (Pantheon-Sorbonne University)
Dissertation topic: « Les élites de Basra et Kufa au II^e/VIII^e siècle »/ “The Elites of Basra and Kufa during the 2nd/8th century”
Graduated with First Class Honours (« Très Bien »)
- 2011-2012
Master’s degree, Department of History, Medieval History (Pantheon-Sorbonne University)
Supervisor: Professeur Françoise Micheau (Pantheon-Sorbonne University)
Dissertation topic: « Deux générations de mu’tazilites : destin et identité d’un groupe de penseurs (813-870) »/ “Fate and Identity of a group of thinkers : study of two generations of mu’tazili (813-870)”
Graduated with First Class Honours (« Très Bien »)
- 2010-2011
Bachelor in History (Pantheon-Sorbonne University)

Graduated with Honours (« Bien »)

- 2007-2010
Preparatory classes: three-year undergraduate intensive course in Humanities.
- 2007
French baccalaureate diploma. Main subjects: Economics, Social Sciences, History, Geography, Mathematics and Foreign Languages
Graduated with First Class Honours and English *section européenne*

Scholarships

Dissertation Research Fellowship (Assistance for International Mobility), French Institute of the Near East (Ifpo), Beirut, Lebanon
(September 2017-August 2019)

Visiting Phd Student at the Scholar's House of the Dominican Institute for Oriental Studies, Cairo, Egypt
(April 2018)

Three-year doctoral contrat funded by heSam University and Pantheon-Sorbonne University
(September 2014-August 2017)

Doctoral Mobility Research Fellowship (Pantheon-Sorbonne University), French Institute of Near East (Ifpo), Amman, Jordan, Intensive Arabic Program
(July 2015)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Research and Teaching Experience

University of Edinburgh, Research Fellow in Abbasid Fiscal History and Historiography, Postdoc ERC Project CALIPHAL FINANCES - *The Finance of the Caliphate: Abbasid Fiscal practice in Islamic Late Antiquity (2021-)*

In September 2021, I joined the University of Edinburgh and the ERC project [Caliphal finances](#), led by Dr. Marie Legendre. This five-year's project, European Research Council-funded will provide for the first time a view 'from below' on Abbasid fiscal history through a study of papyrus documents in Greek, Coptic and Arabic written in Egypt. In charge of **Work Package 4** "Making the link: fiscal practice and the literary corpus", my research focuses on the literary corpus in an attempt to assess what narratives sources can tell us about fiscal practices. In that context, I am following two specific lines of research: the vexing question of the transfer of the surplus of the tax revenues outside of Egypt and the revolts in relation to taxes or with a tax component occurring in Egypt, especially in the Delta, during the ninth century.

National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Post-doctoral fellowship in digital philology of texts in Arabic scripts, Paris, France, GIS Middle-East and Muslim Worlds (September 2020 -August 2021)

As a post-doctoral fellow for the CNRS, I was in residence at the BULAC. I was in charge of writing a [report](#) on recent advances in automatic optical character recognition (OCR) of texts in the Arabic alphabet, based on a survey of current projects and the obstacles that remain to be overcome. I created and I was the animator of an academic blog devoted to Digital philology where I disseminated research and resources on these subjects: [philaranum](#). At the same time, the aim of my research was to explore the concrete possibilities for analysing and searching texts opened up by OCR. That's why I elaborated, with colleagues of BULAC and with Chahan Vidal-Gorène (CALFA), a hackathon project about the optical recognition of Arabic manuscripts in Maghribi scripts (January-Mary 2021). Based on a dataset chosen among the collection of Maghrebian Arabic manuscripts at the Library of Languages and Civilisations (BULAC), we trained a HTR model for Maghribi scripts. Outcomes have been presented June, 8th and presented in September 2021 during ICDAR Conference in Lausanne and then published.

I was also in charge of organizing training events related to Digital philology (see below Workshops, Training program and Conference organized)

Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris, France, Teaching coordination, International Relations Department, RAQMYAT project (January-August 2021)

I am in charge of designing an online course with Professor Kmar Bendana (Manouba University, Tunis): *«Faire de la recherche en sciences humaines et sociales sur la Tunisie à l'heure du numérique»*. This course is dedicated to PhD students in Humanities. The purpose of this introductory course on digital technology in the humanities is twofold: to provide a general presentation of what digital technology can mean for a doctoral student/researcher involved in work in the humanities; and to give an account of the methods that can be used in the framework of their research in the humanities.

National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Research Assistant (Ingénieur d'études), Paris, France, GIS Middle-East and Muslim Worlds (October 2019-March 2020)

I was in charge of research and writing of a White Paper coordinated by CNRS research professor Mercedes Volait entitled *Vers la science ouverte ? La transition numérique et la recherche française sur le Moyen-Orient et les mondes musulmans. État des lieux et perspectives*. The aim was to take stock of the digital transition situation in the field of French research on the Maghreb, Middle East, and the Muslim Worlds in the age of Open Science. This report has been presented in February 2020.

Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris, France, Teaching Assistant, Department of History (January-June 2020)

Within the History department of Pantheon-Sorbonne University, I was in charge of teaching to undergraduate students. During a semester, I was in charge of teaching how to write history in the Digital Age. The objective of the course was to introduce students to guide them on the Internet and to help them having a critical approach of online resources. Based on practical works, the students learn what are the issues at stake and how use online resources to do research in History.

Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris, France, Teaching Assistantship, Department of History (2014-2017)

Within the History department of Pantheon-Sorbonne University, I was in charge of teaching to undergraduate students. During two years, I was in charge of teaching the history of Medieval World between 7th and 10th centuries. The objective of the course was to introduce students to Medieval History by approaching Byzantine history, European history as well as Early Islamic history and to apprehend methodological aspects of the discipline. In 2016-2017, I was in charge of teaching the history of cities in the Islamic Near East between 7th and mid-13th centuries. The aim of this course was to apprehend history of the Islamic Near East focusing on urban history and considering governmentality, society and economics.

Invited Presentations

- “The caliphate’s wealth: The *riḥla* of Egypt revenues in the early Abbasid period according to the *Kitāb al-Wulāt* of al-Kindī”, Fifteenth School of Abbasid Studies, Oxford, St Jones’ College, July 16, 2022 (in English)
- « Un espace qui résiste: la fiscalité du Sawād aux deux premiers siècles de l’Hégire », Séminaire commun de l’équipe Islam médiéval (UMR 8167), *La construction sociale de l’espace dans l’islam médiéval. Volet 3 : Les espaces ruraux*, IRBIMMA, Paris, March 23, 2022. (in French)
- (with Chahan Vidal-Gorène and Clément Salah), “RASAM - A Dataset for the Recognition and Analysis of Scripts in Arabic Maghrebi”, 6th IDHN Conference, Online, Novembre 17, 2021 (in English)
- (with Chahan Vidal-Gorène, Clément Salah, Aliénor Decours-Perez and Boris Dupin), "RASAM - A Dataset for the Recognition and Analysis of Scripts in Arabic Maghrebi", Workshop *Arabic and Derived Script Analysis and Recognition*, ICDAR, Septembre 6, 2021 (in English)
- “A letter to an old friend: Ethics and Governmentality under the last Marwanids based on the study of a state letter from Hishām b. ‘Abd al-Malik to Khālid b. ‘Abd Allāh al-Qasrī”, Conference held by the ERC “Embedding Conquest: Naturalising Muslim Rule in the Early Islamic Empire (600-1000)”, *The Ties that Bind: Mechanisms and Structures of Social Dependency in the Early Islamic Empire*, Leiden, December 3, 2019. (in English)
- « À la recherche des paysans bas-iraquiens au VIII^e siècle », Meeting of the Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique « Moyen-Orient et Mondes musulmans », Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris, workshop « Appeler les paysans par leur nom », July 3, 2019. (in French)
- « Le devenir des propriétés chrétiennes dans le Bas-Iraq : contribution à l’histoire du christianisme syro-oriental aux premiers siècles de l’Islam », International Round Table

- « Christianity in the turn of Islam » organised by IFPO, Salahadin University, Erbil, May 5, 2019 (in French)
- « Comment écrire le gouverneur omeyyade : Étude de la figure de Ḥālīd b. ‘Abd Allāh al-Qasrī », with Samir Zhani, Conference *Lectures croisées du Livre des chansons*, Paris, INALCO, October 11-12, 2018. (in French)
 - “From Political to Historiographical Use of poetry”, Conference, Dominican Institute for Oriental Studies, Cairo, April 30, 2018. (in English)
 - « De l’usage politique à l’usage historiographique du vers : Éléments pour l’étude de la figure du gouverneur Ḥālīd ibn ‘Abd Allāh al-Qasrī dans *Ansāb al-Ašrāf* d’al-Balāḍurī. », Séminaire commun de l’équipe Islam médiéval (UMR 8167), séminaire thématique 3 : *Pratiques et représentations du pouvoir en Islam (VII^e-XV^e siècle) : Les cours savantes*, IRBIMMA, Paris, March 28, 2018. (in French)
 - « Lectures et mutations du paysage des marais bas-iraqien (al-Baṭā’ih) aux premiers siècles de l’Islam », Journée de l’École Doctorale de Paris 1, Séminaire coordonné par Grégoire Binois sur « Retrouver le paysage ? », Paris, March 24, 2018. (in French)
 - “Landholding, Investment and Irrigation in Lower-Iraq during the first two centuries of Islam: what role did the Islamic State play?”, The Leverhulme Network conference *The Early Islamic Economy: Economic integration and social change in the Islamic world system (800-1000)*, SOAS, London, November 9-11, 2017. (in English)
 - « Au fil des *aḥbār* : compétition et conflits pour le contrôle de la terre dans les Bas-Iraq au VIII^e siècle », Meeting of the Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique « Moyen-Orient et Mondes musulmans », Inalco, Paris, workshop « La propriété de la terre dans les mondes musulmans », July 7, 2017. (in French)
 - « Propriété de la terre et non-musulmans : quel impact des conquêtes dans le Bas-Iraq aux trois premiers siècles de l’Islam ? », Séminaire commun de l’équipe Islam médiéval (UMR 8167), séminaire thématique 3 : *Pratiques et représentations du pouvoir en Islam (VII^e-XV^e siècle) : Les non-musulmans et le pouvoir*, IRBIMMA, Paris, March 22, 2017. (in French)
 - « L’Euphrate dans l’Iraq médiéval : quel espace de frontière ? », Workshop « Savoirs de frontières » with Labex Hastec *Savoirs de frontière, Administrer les espaces de frontière en Égypte et au Proche-Orient (Antiquité- Moyen-âge)*, EPHE, Paris, Novembre 25, 2016. (in French).
 - “Landowners in Lower-Iraq, Types and Interplay”, Conference held by the ERC “The Islamic Empire at Work”, *Regional and Transregional Elites, Connecting the Early Islamic Empire*, Hamburg, October 8, 2016. (in English)
 - « Les dahâqîn dans le Bas-Iraq omeyyade », XIX^e Rencontres annuelles Dîwân, Casa de Velasquez, Madrid, May 17, 2016. (in French)
 - « Les gouverneurs du Bas-Iraq au II^e/VIII^e siècle : figures de l’ordre, hommes du désordre ? », 4eme Symposium scientifique de l’Université de la Manouba, Dialogues

interdisciplinaires autour du thème « Ordre et désordre », Tunis, April 14, 2016, Tunis. (in French)

- “Modernity in the First Islamic Legal Works about Lower-Iraq”, Istanbul Spring School organised by the Netherlands Interuniversity School for Islamic Studies (NISIS) and the Institut d’études de l’Islam et des Sociétés du Monde Musulmans (IISMM): *Reviving Previous Times and Expanding Horizons: Islam and Modernity in global historical perspective*, Istanbul, March 14-18, 2016. (in English)
- « La confiscation des terres dans le Bas-Iraq au VIII^e siècle : un outil répressif du pouvoir califal ? » Séminaire commun de l’équipe Islam médiéval (UMR 8167), séminaire thématique 3 : *Pratiques et représentations du pouvoir en Islam (VII^e-XI^e siècle) : résistances, révoltes et répression*, IRBIMMA, Paris, January 13, 2016. (in French)
- « Pouvoir et richesse dans le Bas-Iraq au II^e/VIII^e siècle », XVIII^e Rencontres annuelles Dîwân, ISH, Lyon, June 2015. (in French)

Workshops, conferences, training program organized

- Co-organizer with Marianne Brisville, Olivier Fertin and Ludwig Ruault: *XIX^e National Meeting of Islamic Studies PhD Students* (Doctoral Islamic Studies Association), Casa de Velasquez, Madrid, May 17-19, 2016. An annual meeting of Phd Students working in Islamic Studies’ fields which convened 36 PhD Students to present their doctoral research. The aim of this annual meeting is to enable meeting between PhD Students from every part of France and different universities and to foster further collaboration. I co-organized this meeting in the capacity of treasurer for the Doctoral Islamic Studies Association.
- Co-organizer with Elise Voguet (CNRS, IRHT): *La propriété de la terre dans les mondes musulmans*, Inalco, Paris, July 7, 2017. A workshop organized at the Meeting of the Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique “Middle East and Muslim Worlds” which convened 6 invited scholars including myself and my co-organize – Marie Legendre (University of Edinburgh), Wissam Halawi (University of Lausanne), Vanessa Guéno (IREMAM), Nicolas Michel (Aix-Marseille University). The purpose was to discuss land ownership in the Muslim worlds with a diachronic approach focusing on types of sources in trying to go beyond the normative aspect of most of these to highlight social practices.
- Co-organizer with Mathilde Boudier, Audrey Caire and Eva Collet: “*L’histoire en profondeur*” *Autour des travaux d’Anne-Marie Eddé sur la Syrie médiévale*, Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris, June 20, 2018. This one Day Conference convened 16 invited scholars. This one day Conference was held in honour of Anne-Marie Eddé’s research career and tackled aspects of her research (Arabic manuscripts and archives; Medieval Syria, Biography, Government in Islam Empire).
- Co-organizer with Didier Ionolowcki (CERMOM-IFAO): *Appeler les paysans par leur nom*, Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris, July 3, 2019. A workshop organized at the

Meeting of the Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique “Middle East and Muslim Worlds” which will convene 4 scholars including the organizers – Mathieu Eychenne (Paris 7 University), Ismail Warsheid (CNRS). With a diachronic approach, the speakers will use social etymology as a tool for contributing to the history of peasants in Muslim Worlds.

- Organizer. *La transition numérique et la recherche sur le Moyen-Orient et les mondes musulmans : état des lieux et perspectives*, BULAC, Paris, February 26, 2020. This one Day symposium was organized by BULAC and the Research Consortium Middle East and Muslim Worlds and aimed to publicly present a scientific report. Four roundtables were organized. They gathered around fifteen colleagues.
- Organizer. *Étudier et publier les textes arabes avec les numériques*. Online training program organized in the framework of my post-doctoral fellowship at the CNRS (December 7-9, 2020). These three days training program convened 16 scholars from Europe and the United States of America. The aim was to introduce possibilities offered by digital methods for the study and publication of texts and to discuss issues specific to Arabic texts About 100 people have taken this training. Program available here: <https://philaranum.hypotheses.org/114>
- Organizer (with BULAC's team) in the framework of my post-doctoral fellowship at the CNRS. *Les rendez-vous de la philologie numérique*, April-June, 2021. Twice a month, I interviewed scholars specialized in areal studies (Asia, Africa and Middle East Studies) about their current project in digital philology (non-Latin scripts texts). These events were broadcasted live on YouTube and are available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neGE0THcC-Q&list=PLP22TnAQWy9F6kAtZh1ihBrhzN0PioeCK>

Publications

Book Chapters:

“Landowners in Lower-Iraq, Types and Interplay”, in *Transregional and Regional Elites: Connecting the Early Islamic Empire*, H. Hagemann and S. Heidemann (eds.), Studies in the History and Culture of the Middle East, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2020, p. 69-98: <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110669800-004>.

Vidal-Gorène C., Lucas N., Salah C., Decours-Perez A., Dupin B., “RASAM – A Dataset for the Recognition and Analysis of Scripts in Arabic Maghrebi”, in Barney Smith E.H., Pal U. (eds) *Document Analysis and Recognition – ICDAR 2021 Workshops. ICDAR 2021. Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, vol 12916, 2021, Springer, Cham, pp. 265–281. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-86198-8_19

“Landholding, Investment and Irrigation in Lower Iraq during the first two centuries of Islam: Assessing the role of the Islamic State”, in *The Early Islamic Economy: Economic integration and social change in the Islamic world system (800-1000)*, F. Bessard and H. Kennedy (eds.), *forthcoming*.

“A state letter from a Marwanid caliph to his governor of Iraq. Historiographical investigation into Khālīd b. ‘Abd Allāh al-Qasrī’s downfall”, in *The Ties that Bind*, edited by E.P. Hayes and P. M. Sijpesteijn (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

Articles:

« Lectures et mutations du paysage des marais bas-iraquiens aux premiers siècles de l’Islam », *Hypothèses, Hypotheses, Publications de la Sorbonne*, 2021, 22 (1), pp.209-219. ([10.3917/hyp.181.0209](https://doi.org/10.3917/hyp.181.0209)).

« Réflexions sur la place de la poésie dans les sources narratives arabes médiévales relatives aux débuts de l’Islam », *Les Carnets de l’Ifpo. La recherche en train de se faire à l’IFPO (Hypothèses.org)*, [Online].

Edited Volumes :

(with M. Boudier, A. Caire and E. Collet), *Autour de la Syrie médiévale. Études offertes à Anne-Marie Eddé*, *Orient & Méditerranée* 39, Peeters, forthcoming in 2021

Scientific reports:

(with M. Volait), *Vers la science ouverte ? La transition numérique et la recherche sur le Moyen-Orient et les mondes musulmans en France : État des lieux et perspectives*, *GIS Moyen-Orient et mondes musulmans*, 2020, 979-10-97315-17-7. <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-02937983>

OCR/HTR et graphie arabe, Les manuscrits arabes à l’heure de la reconnaissance automatique des écritures, *Cahier du GIS n 3*, 2021, 978-2-493818-01-0. <http://majlis-remomm.fr/72481>

Book Reviews:

« Richard M. Frank, *Philosophy, Theology and Mysticism in Medieval Islam – Texts and Studies on the Development and History of Kalām*, vol. I, éd. D. Gutas, Aldershot, Ashgate Variorum, 2005, X + 392 p. ; *Early Islamic Theology: The Mu‘tazilites and al-Ash‘arī – Texts and Studies on the Development and History of Kalām*, vol. II, éd. D. Gutas, Aldershot, Ashgate Variorum, 2007, XII + 384 p. ; *Classical Islamic Theology: The Ash‘arites – Texts and Studies on the Development and History of Kalām*, vol. III, éd. D. Gutas, Aldershot, Ashgate Variorum, 2008, X + 428 p. », *Bulletin critique des Annales islamologiques*, 29, 2013, p. 55-58. [Online]

« *De Bagdad à Damas, Études en mémoire de Dominique Sourdel*, Textes rassemblés par Jean-Michel Mouton et Clément Onimus, *Hautes Études Orientales* 55, Librairie Droz, Genève, 2018, 366 p. », *Revue des mondes musulmans et de la Méditerranée [En ligne]*, 147 (1-2020) | juin 2020, mis en ligne le 19 mars 2019, consulté le 21 mars 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/remmm/12329>

« Parvaneh Pourshariati, *Decline and Fall of the Sasanian Empire: the Sasanian-Parthian confederacy and the Arab Conquest of Iran*, Londres, New-York, I.B. Tauris, 2017, 537 p.», *Bulletin critique des Annales islamologiques*, 35, p. 60-61. URL: <https://www.ifao.egnet.net/bcai/35/19/>

Others

- January 2020- August 2020
Digital Humanities Project Officer for the Erasmus + RAQMYAT project "Digital Strategies for Doctoral Training in Humanities and Social Sciences in Tunisia (Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris, part-time, International Relations Department). Within the framework of this project, my mission was devoted to organize and coordinate the various partners and to support the implementation of various work packages on a scientific and practical level.
- January 2013-August 2013
Editorial secretary at the Chaire de Dialogue des Cultures. I worked on the edition and publication of the catalog for the "Lumières de la Sagesse" exhibition. This exhibition took place at the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, 09/25/2013 – 01/05/2014. I was the proofreader and I undertook the achievement of glossary, index and bibliography.
- 2012-2013
Tutorship in History for Undergraduates (Pantheon-Sorbonne University)

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Languages

- French (Native speaker)
- Anglais (Fluent (C1, Test IELTS))
- Arabic
 - 2014-2017: Bachelor of Arabic (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales/INALCO) – Graduated with Honours.
 - 2011-2013: Arabic courses at the École normale supérieure, teaching of Houda Ayoub and Zyad Bou Akl.
 - July 2012: Intensive Arabic Summer Program at the DEAC (Département d'Enseignement de l'Arabe Contemporain) in Cairo (Egypt)
 - July 2015: Intensive Arabic Summer Program at the Ifpo in Amman (Jordan)

- German (Moderate)
- Biblical Hebrew
 - Beginner level
 - 2015-2016: Biblical Hebrew course at the Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle University, teaching of José Costa.
- Syriac
 - Beginner level
 - 2016-2017: Syriac course at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Teaching of Emilie Villey