

THIRD ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES OF THE  
BERLIN GRADUATE SCHOOL  
MUSLIM CULTURES AND SOCIETIES

The Long Ninth Century in  
**Arabic-Islamic**  
**Knowledge and Culture**

Organized and moderated by **BEATRICE GRÜNDLER**  
Professor of Arabic Language and Literature, Freie Universität Berlin

**26 APRIL 2016, 6 P.M.**

DIMITRI GUTAS

**31 MAY 2016, 6 P.M.**

JULIA BRAY

**28 JUNE 2016, 6 P.M.**

GEERT JAN VAN GELDER

**Das lange neunte Jahrhundert in der  
arabisch-islamischen Wissenschaft und Kultur**

# The Long Ninth Century <sup>AD</sup>

was a period of intense cultural activity in the Arabic-Islamic Near East. Under the rule of the Abbasid dynasty, a society emerged that saw itself as cosmopolitan and intellectual, and which was meritocratic to some degree. A cultural successor to Byzantium and Persia, this society imported and developed their heritage, notably Greek philosophy and natural sciences and Persian statecraft, and simultaneously created new scholarly disciplines to investigate its own linguistic, literary, and religious heritage and the contemporary world around it. This unrivaled cultural efflorescence, manifest in a multitude of manuscript books (made of the newly introduced paper) also gives insight about the psychology and self-concepts of individual writers.

**LOCATION: FREIE UNIVERSITÄT, BERLIN  
FABECKSTR. 23-25, ROOM 2.2058, 2. OG**

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The Long Ninth Century in  
**Arabic-Islamic  
Knowledge and Culture**

BEATRICE GRÜNDLER

**Beatrice Gruendler** has been Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the Freie Universität Berlin since 2014, and previously taught at Yale University (1996–2014) and Dartmouth College (1995–96). She has published on classical Arabic poetry and its social context, the integration of modern literary theory into the study of Near Eastern literatures, early Islamic book-culture (ninth century AD), and Arabic paleography. Her major publications include *The Development of the Arabic Scripts: From the Nabatean Era to the First Islamic Century* (1993); *Medieval Arabic Praise Poetry: Ibn al-Rūmī and the Patron's Redemption* (2003); as editor and translator, *The Life and Times of Abū Tammām by al-Ṣūlī* (2015), and, as contributing editor, *Classical Arabic Humanities in Their Own Terms* (2007).

**26 APRIL 2016, 6 P.M.**

**DIMITRI GUTAS**

## **“The Reception of Aristotle in the Long Ninth Century in Early Abbasid Iraq”**

**Dimitri Gutas** is professor of Arabic and Graeco-Arabic studies at Yale University. He has published on the medieval Graeco-Arabic translation movement and its lexicography, the transmission of Greek philosophical texts into Arabic, and the development, phases, and personalities of Arabic philosophy, notably on Avicenna. Most recently he has published, with Leonardo Tarán (Columbia) the editio maior of the Greek text of Aristotle's *Poetics*, and the second and revised edition of his classic *Avicenna and the Aristotelian Tradition*.

*Lecture supported by the  
Dahlem Humanities Center*

**31 MAY 2016, 6 P.M.**

**JULIA BRAY**

## **“The New Psychology of Ninth Century Baghdad: Self- Concepts vs. Social Codes”**

**Julia Bray** has been the Laudian Professor of Arabic at the University of Oxford since 2012, and previously taught at the University of Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis and several universities in the UK. She has published on medieval Arabic poetry, story-telling and life-writing, and on gender and the family, the social reception of medicine, and the education of the emotions. With Wen-chin Ouyang (SOAS, London) she edits the series *Edinburgh Studies in Classical Arabic Literature*.

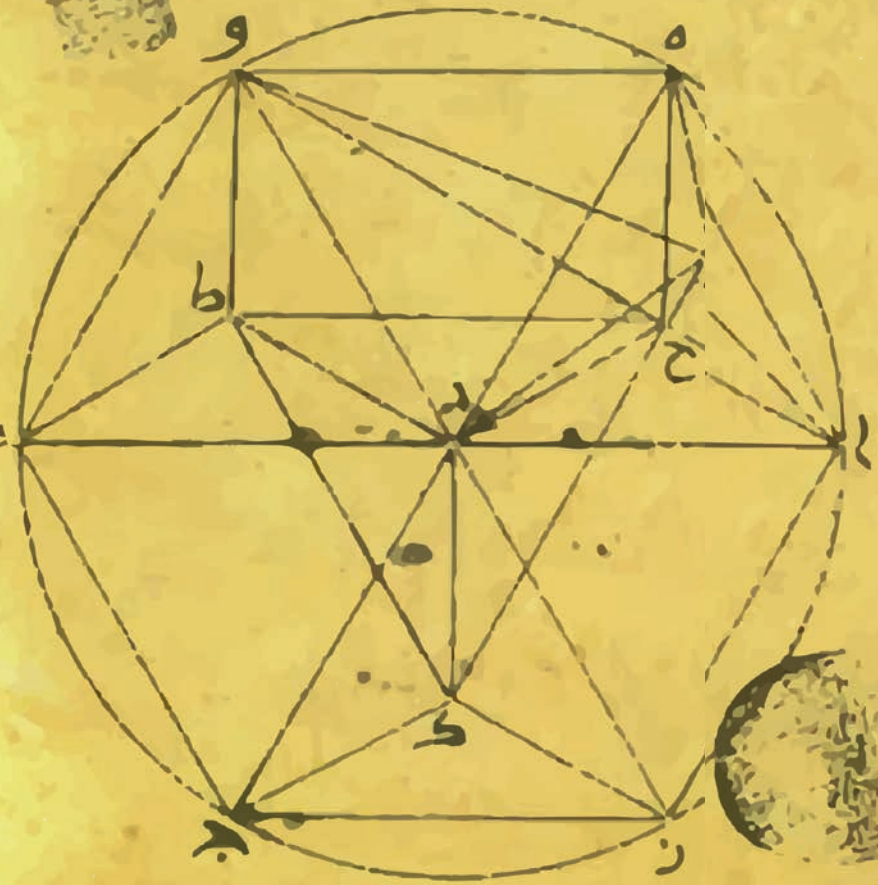
28 JUNE 2016, 6 P.M.

GEERT JAN VAN GELDER

**“From Seriousness to Jest and vice versa in the Geography of Ibn al-Faqīh al-Hamadhānī (fl. 289/902)”**

**Geert Jan van Gelder** studied Semitic Languages at the Universities of Amsterdam and Leiden. He was employed as Lecturer in Arabic at the University of Groningen until 1998, when he was elected Laudian Professor of Arabic at the University of Oxford. He retired in 2012, returning to the Netherlands in 2015, but is still employed by the University as Wellcome Research Fellow. He has published widely on Classical Arabic Literature. Recent publications include *Sound and Sense in Classical Arabic Poetry* (2012) and, with Gregor Schoeler, an edition and translation of Abū l-‘Alā’ al-Ma‘arrī’s *Epistle of Forgiveness* (2013).

اذن قطر المحسم  
 دو انا هذا الشكل  
 المحسم الذي عملنا  
 وصلح هذا الشكل  
 في الاربع عشره  
 فاعده الذي ذكرنا  
 ماله قطر الاله  
 ٥٥



الحمد لله رب العلمين  
 وكه ابراهيم بن هلال بن ابراهيم بن زهره

الصافي الخراساني الكاشغري في الجيودسنه سدر وبنامه  
 لسي بن درستور جبرما الى الحسين

Abū Ishāq al-Šābir, al-Majmū' al-nāfiṣ fī 'ilm al-nujūm [Astronomisches Kompendium], Autograph, MS Istanbul Köprülü 948, dated 370H/981AD after Ibn al-Nadīm, Fihrist, ed. A. F. Sayyid, London 2009, vol. 1, pt. 1, p. 175.