



berlin graduate school  
muslim cultures and societies

### **Post-archive II: Conversation**

Workshop held online via Webex (access information will be shared with the participants shortly before the workshop)

*Organiser and mentor:*

Dr. Nadja Danilenko (Universität Hamburg)

*Schedule:*

July 13, 2 - 6 pm

*Post-archive II: Conversation* aims to provide a venue for doctoral students having concluded (most of their) archive work to transition into writing, through a guided conversation on research experiences and strategies for coping with the writing process. It is being offered in light of suggestions from previous cohorts on the necessity of a mechanism in which doctoral students are able to share and thresh out the various issues they faced while doing their research, in an atmosphere that is relaxed and supportive.

During the session, each participant will be given time to share their experiences and the dilemmas they encountered during their research. The discussion will then proceed by tackling the issues that were raised in the sharing. Everybody is encouraged to give their views, advise, and opinion regarding the experiences of their colleagues.

There will not be any formal lectures nor required readings. We aim to maximize the time for the sharing of experiences, dilemmas, and issues, and giving advice. And while the conversation style will be the main format, the questions below will guide the session. To help organise the discussion, please prepare your **brief answers** to the questions in a **bullet point/list format (max. 2 pages including the table of contents):**

1. What are your(new) research questions and how have they changed in contrast to the pre-archival stage of your work? (Did you have to limit your scope/ set a new focus/ be more pragmatical in your approach etc.)
2. What does your table of contents (TOC) look like? Please present your TOC and give 1-2 sentences for each (sub-)chapter explaining the main topics/arguments in the chapter and what archival material they relate to.
3. What material did you collect/are you working with now? (Please list the type of material and volume, e.g. 20 manuscrits à 300 pages, 300 personal letters à 1 page etc.)
  - a) Did you have any trouble gaining access to your material? If so, how did you cope?
  - b) Do you need to collect more material? If so, which and where? Considering the pandemic, can you think of alternatives such as digitised material/other sources/cutting a chapter?
4. How do you/are you planning on analysing this material? Please exemplify your analysis on 2 items (screen shots or photographs are also fine!), e.g. pattern (and tools) for analysing content of a manuscript/ software analysis for keywords in digitised texts etc. Plus: How and where do you write down your results for these (and other) examples?
5. What is your writing process? Please prepare 2 step by step lists of your processes for writing any chapter or subchapter: First list your preparation process, starting with researching articles/books

- to using your notes to organize the chapter. Then list the steps for the actual writing process, starting with the initial notes/ideas to the final version of the text. Please be as specific and detailed as possible, this will help identify areas for improvement.
6. What area of your work is most challenging to you and what seems to be the specific problem? (This aims at helping you find strategies for the future, please only share what you are comfortable with discussing in a group. If you feel you would like to discuss something more privately, please let me know)
  7. Would you like to add a topic to the post-archival conversations that is not covered in questions 1-7? If so, please provide your question/issue with the topic.

*Participants:*

Doctoral fellows who conducted research in libraries and archives

*Format:*

Guided conversation with a short paper as output

*Requirements:*

Each participant will be required to submit her/his individual answers to questions 1-7 by **June 30**.

*Credit Points:*

0,5

*Application:*

The deadline for application is **June 24** (via e-mail to [office@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de](mailto:office@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de))

*Contact:*

For questions, please contact Dr. Danilenko at [danilenko@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de](mailto:danilenko@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de)