

# XXVIII SUMMER COURSES 2015

## Complutense University of Madrid

### ARABIC CODICOLOGY: THE ISLAMIC HANDWRITTEN TRADITION AND ITS RECEPTION IN EL ESCORIAL COLLECTION 20 TO 24 JULY

**Director:** Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz. Complutense University  
**Secretary:** María Gómez Laín. Zaragoza University  
**Convenor:** Sofía Diéguez Patao



The course “Arabic codicology: The Islamic Handwritten Tradition and its Reception in El Escorial Collection” aims at providing the students with the basic codicological knowledge and the research procedures they will need when studying and analyzing Arabic manuscripts, as well as at familiarizing them with the libraries of the Arabic Islamic world in Medieval and Modern times, more especially that which belonged to the Moroccan sultan Muley Zaydân. To achieve that, the design of the course programme allows the students to apply the knowledge they acquire with the manuscripts.

The Royal Library of the El Escorial monastery houses the most important collection of Arabic manuscripts in Spain, one of the most interesting ones in Europe. Its proximity to the venue for the summer courses makes this particularly valuable as far as the aims of this course are concerned since practical training will take place there, owing to the collaboration which has been set up with the library. Actual manuscripts of the collection will be examined.

The course will be taught by specialists of Arabic manuscripts, among them two of the foremost experts in this field, François Déroche and Adam Gacek, who will meet again to deliver a course of this kind. The course provides a global overview of the field, thus proving a groundbreaking programme in the frame of Arabic codicological studies, mainly due to its practical approach and to the quality and diversity of the examples which will be examined during the course. It intends to answer to the growing interest among scholars and professionals, as well as researchers, university students and bibliophiles with the international stance required by Arabic codicological studies.

The use of original manuscripts during the hands on sessions implies that the number of students cannot exceed 16 persons. For this reason, a motivation letter stating the interest in the course and a short CV are required; they will be taken into account during the selection process. The course will be given in English in its entirety. Students have thus to be proficient in this language in order to successfully attend the course.

**E-MAIL: [mss.arabicscript@gmail.com](mailto:mss.arabicscript@gmail.com)**

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THE ISLAMIC HANDWRITTEN TRADITION AND  
ITS RECEPTION IN EL ESCORIAL  
COLLECTION**

**20 TO 24 JULY**

**Monday, 20 July**

- 10.30 h.** **Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz.** Complutense University of Madrid  
Opening: The Real Biblioteca de San Lorenzo de El Escorial and its Arabic collections.
- 11.15 h.** **Break**
- 11.30 h.** **François Déroche.** Collège de France. Paris  
Writing surfaces: parchement and paper.
- 16.00 h.** **Round-table:** The history of Arabic collections in Spain and the Maghreb.  
Discussants:  
**François Déroche.** Collège de France. Paris  
**Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz.** Complutense University of Madrid  
**José Luis del Valle Merino.** Director of the Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de El Escorial  
**María Jesús Viguera Molins.** Complutense University of Madrid

**Tuesday, 21 July**

- 09.30 h.** **François Déroche**  
The making of an Arabic manuscript: writing surfaces and quires.
- 11.30 h.** **Break**
- 12.00 h.** **François Déroche**  
Inks and lay-out.
- 16.00 h.** **Round-table:** How to observe and describe an Arabic manuscript.  
Discussants: **Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz** and **François Déroche.**

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### Wednesday, 22 July

- 09:30 h.** **Adam Gacek.** McGill University. Canada  
Scripts and Hands: Early Arabic Scripts. Later "Proportioned" and Regional Scripts.
- 12.00 h.** General Lecture open to all the participants
- 16.00 h.** **Round-table:** Copyists at work.  
Discussants: **Adam Gacek, François Déroche** and **Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz.**

### Thursday, 23 July

- 09.30 h.** **Adam Gacek**  
Ownership Statements, Seals Impressions and other inscriptions.
- 11.30 h.** **Break**
- 12.00 h.** **Adam Gacek**  
Colophons.
- 16.00 h.** **Round-table:** Towards a History of the Arabic manuscript.  
Discussants: **Adam Gacek, François Déroche** and **Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz.**

### Friday, 24 July

- 09.30 h.** **François Déroche**  
Illuminations.
- 11.30 h.** **François Déroche**  
Arabic Bindings.
- 13.30 h.** Closing session and diploma delivery.