

LOCATIONS

Conference Venue:

Paulinerkirche

Historisches Gebäude der SUB Göttingen
Papendiek 14
37073 Göttingen

Leave the train station heading towards downtown (»Innenstadt«), i.e. toward the east. Cross the train station's plaza diagonally in the direction of the bus platforms. At the pedestrian crossing with traffic lights cross the divided street and continue straight ahead on Goethe-Allee towards the city centre. At the third crossing street to the right, next to the canal of the river Leine, at the corner of Goethe-Allee/Prinzenstrasse and Papendiek, turn right onto Papendiek. After a few meters, you will see the courtyard of Paulinerkirche on the left side of the street, after the historical library building proper. Use the entrance straight ahead of you at the end of the courtyard, passing the sculpture of the famous scholar Georg Christoph Lichtenberg on your left. You will find the lecture room »Vortragsraum« on the first floor of this building.

Keynote Lecture:

Lichtenberg-Kolleg

Historische Sternwarte der Universität Göttingen
Geismar Landstraße 11
37083 Göttingen

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The city of Baghdad which Arabic poets extolled as a »paradise on earth« is situated on both banks of the river Tigris. This dynamic city was the centre of the Abbasid caliphate and the cultural metropolis of the Islamic world for centuries. Its political, economical, and scholarly impact on Islamic culture is enormous. In the vicinity of the old Aramaean settlement Bagdadu, al-Mansur, the second Abbasid caliph, built on the Western bank of the Tigris in 763 CE his palatial town which he called »City of Peace (Madinat al-Salam)«.

Moving the capital to Baghdad led to a large-scale influx of military personnel, merchants, craftsmen and scholars and to a notable increase of cultural patronage. Beside being an important place for manufacture of goods, Baghdad became the home of the Hanafi and Hanbali schools of law. It was the centre of the translation movement. Its mosques, in particular al-Mansur's Friday Mosque, were great centres of learning. Bookshops, public libraries, teaching institutions and literary salons promoted not only Islamic but also Christian and Jewish learning. This vibrant academic milieu brought forth intense inter-religious discussions and enabled scientific exchange between the various religious groups within and outside Islam.

The international conference »Contexts of Learning in Baghdad from the 8th-10th Centuries« will examine these inter-religious settings of education and will focus on circles of learning which dominated the cultural life in Baghdad. From different perspectives, it will tackle in an interdisciplinary manner issues like teaching devices of the Qur'an, the function of the »House of Wisdom (Bayt al-Hikma)«, historical learning, literary circles, studying natural sciences as well as Christian and Islamic approaches to education.

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

Prof. Dr. Jens Scheiner

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In Cooperation with:

Lichtenberg-Kolleg

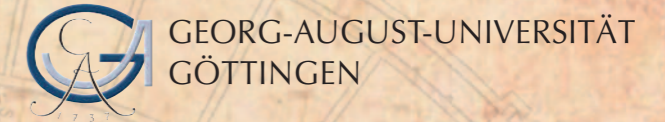
Historische Sternwarte der Universität Göttingen
Geismar Landstraße 11
37083 Göttingen
www.lichtenbergkolleg.uni-goettingen.de

REGISTRATION

Registration for participation at the conference is requested.

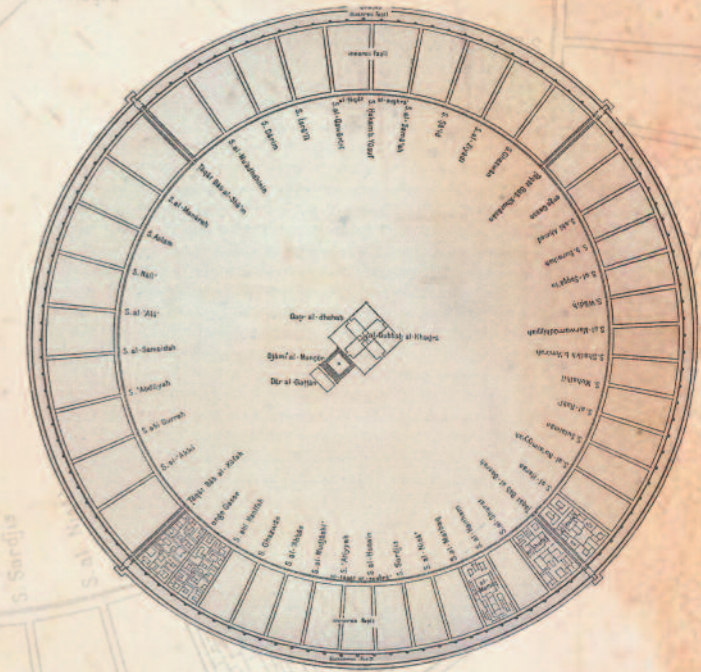
Please register via email to
vbruchn@uni-goettingen.de

The deadline for registration is
5 September 2011.



Contexts of Learning in Baghdad from the 8th-10th Centuries

International Conference 12-14 September 2011



Reconstructed Plan of al-Ma'mun's Round City (by Ernst Herzfeld)

Monday, 12 September 2011

Vortragsraum, Paulinerkirche, Papendiek 14

14.00 · Welcome Address

Chair: **Jens Scheiner** (CRC EDRIS Göttingen)

14.30 · Contexts of Qur'an, Tafsir, and Jewish Learning

Chair: **Sebastian Günther** (Göttingen)

Teaching Qur'anic Exegesis: Some Preliminary Thoughts

Luise Ossenbach (CRC EDRIS Göttingen)

Ibn Mujahid and Ibn Muqla: Or how the Qur'anic Page

Came to Look Like it Does Today

Andreas Mohr (Potsdam)

15.30-16.00 · Coffee Break

The »Language of the Arabs«

Between the Spoken and the Ideal:

The mathal in Abu Ubaydas Majaz al-Qur'an

Nora Schmidt (Berlin)

Safeguarding Lord's Word:

The Work of the Masorettes

Elvira Martín-Contreras (Madrid)

Geonic Academies of Babylonia

Elisabetta Abate (CRC EDRIS Göttingen)

18.00 · Keynote Lecture

Roter Salon, Lichtenberg-Kolleg in der
Historischen Sternwarte, Geismar Landstr. 11

Kunst und Kultur im frühabbasidischen Bagdad:
Eine Rekonstruktion nach materiellen Zeugnissen

Karin Rührdanz (Toronto)

Tuesday, 13 September 2011

Vortragsraum, Paulinerkirche, Papendiek 14

9.00 · Contexts of Translation

Chair: **Martin Tamcke** (Göttingen)

Perso-Arabic Translation Movement in Context:

Who was Translating Historical Texts from Middle Persian for
Whom and Why?

Mohsen Zakeri (Göttingen)

The Bayt al-Hikma: A Conversation Salon?

Johannes Manz (Berlin)

Al-Ma'mun and Astrology:

Re-Shuffling the Pieces of the Bayt al-Hikma Puzzle

Damien Janos (CRC EDRIS Göttingen)

10.30-11.00 · Coffee Break

11.00 · Contexts of Historiography

Chair: **Damien Janos** (CRC EDRIS Göttingen)

Court Astronomers and Historical Writing in Early
Abbasid Baghdad

Antoine Borrut (College Park/Maryland)

Narrating the Past: The Qussas as Historians

in 9th and 10th Century Baghdad

Jens Scheiner (CRC EDRIS Göttingen)

Talking about Arabic Origins: The Transmission of the ayyam

al-arab in Kufa, Basra, and Baghdad

Isabel Toral-Niehoff (Berlin)

12.30-14.30 · Lunchtime

14.30 · Contexts of Christian Learning

Chair: **Antoine Borrut** (College Park/Maryland)

Know Your Enemy: Christian Learning about Islam in the
Early Abbasid Caliphate

Krisztina Szylágyi (Cambridge)

We Shall not Teach the Qur'an to Our Children

Clare Wilde (Auckland)

15.30-16.00 · Coffee Break

Using Philosophical and Theological Competence:

The Heads of the Church of the East Mar Aba (741-751)

and Henaniso II (774/75-779/80)

Martin Tamcke (Göttingen)

Contexts of Christian Education in Baghdad:

The Letters of the East-Syrian Patriarch Timothy I (780-823)

Martin Heimgartner (Halle)



Teaching Session. From Hariri's Maqamat, Ms. ar. 5847, fol. 18v (BNF Paris). Quoted from Children and Youth in History, Nr. 243, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh/primary-sources/243> (19.8.2011).

Wednesday, 14 September 2011

Vortragsraum, Paulinerkirche, Papendiek 14

9.00 · Contexts of Literature

Chair: **Karin Rührdanz** (Toronto)

Al-Kindi on Knowledge Acquisition and Education

Sebastian Günther (Göttingen)

The Concepts of »Knowledge« and »Education« in the
Works of al-Jahiz (d. 869) and Ibn Qutayba (d. 889) in the
Context of Late Antiquity

Hans Peter Pökel (Berlin)

Celebrating Wisdom, Reflection, and Contemplation:

Abu I-Atahiya and his zuhdiyyat

Nora K. Schmid (Potsdam)

10.30-11.00 · Coffee Break

Savoir-vivre at Court:

Ibn al-Washsha on Education and Morality

Lale Behzadi (Bamberg)

Baghdad and Other Imaginary Places in a Recently
Discovered Andalusian Manuscript

Claudia Ott (Erlangen)

12.30-13.30 · Lunchtime

13.30 · Contexts of Natural Sciences

Chair: **Jens Scheiner** (CRC EDRIS Göttingen)

Vestiges of Teaching Aids and Educational Methods
in Astronomy (750-1000)

Johannes Thomann (Zürich)

Education and Teaching Activities of the
Nestorian Physicians during the Abbasid Caliphate

Silke Abele (Tübingen)

14.30 · Final Discussion

15.30 · End of the Conference