Freie Universität Berlin

INTELLECTUAL ENCOUNTERS OF THE ISLAMICATE WORLD

Digitization meets Internationalization:

eTeaching and eLearning scenarios in the MA Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World at Freie Universität Berlin

DAAD
Finanziert aus Mitteln des Bundesministeriums für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

The MA program in short

Subject

- Intellectual History of the Arab-spoken world in the Middle Ages
- Knowledge-transfer as well as the manifold and deep interconnections between Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- Strongly interdisciplinary and research-oriented approach

Polyglot (Ethopian, Syriac, Coptic, Arabic, Armenian), Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana

The MA program in short

Structure

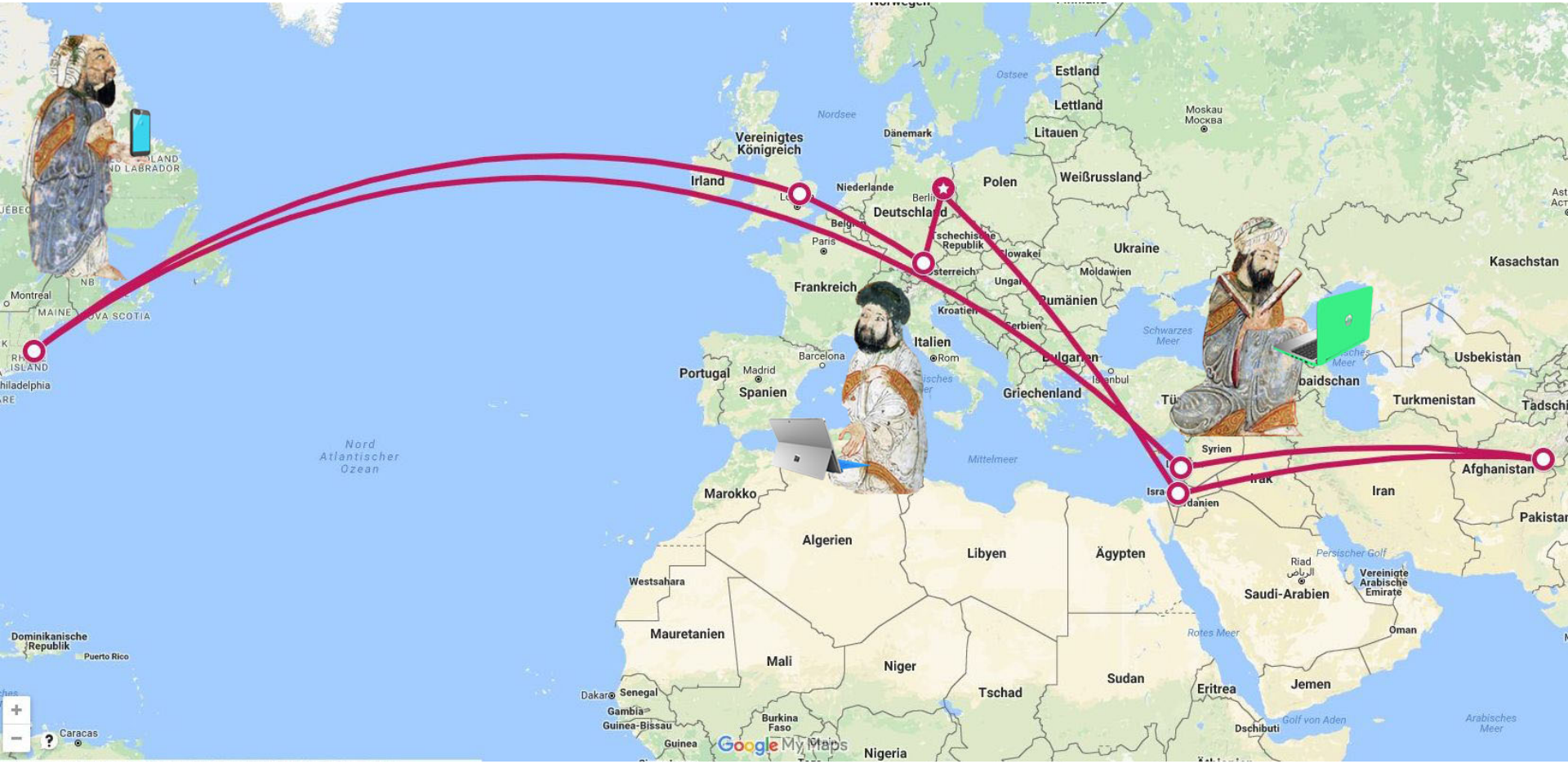
- English-spoken, one year
- Blended learning:
  - Synchronic online lectures (80%)
  - Three in-class meetings (20%)
- Max. 20 students mainly from Israel and Palestine and other countries
- International guest lecturers
- Tutors and student mentors

Intellectual encounters back then …

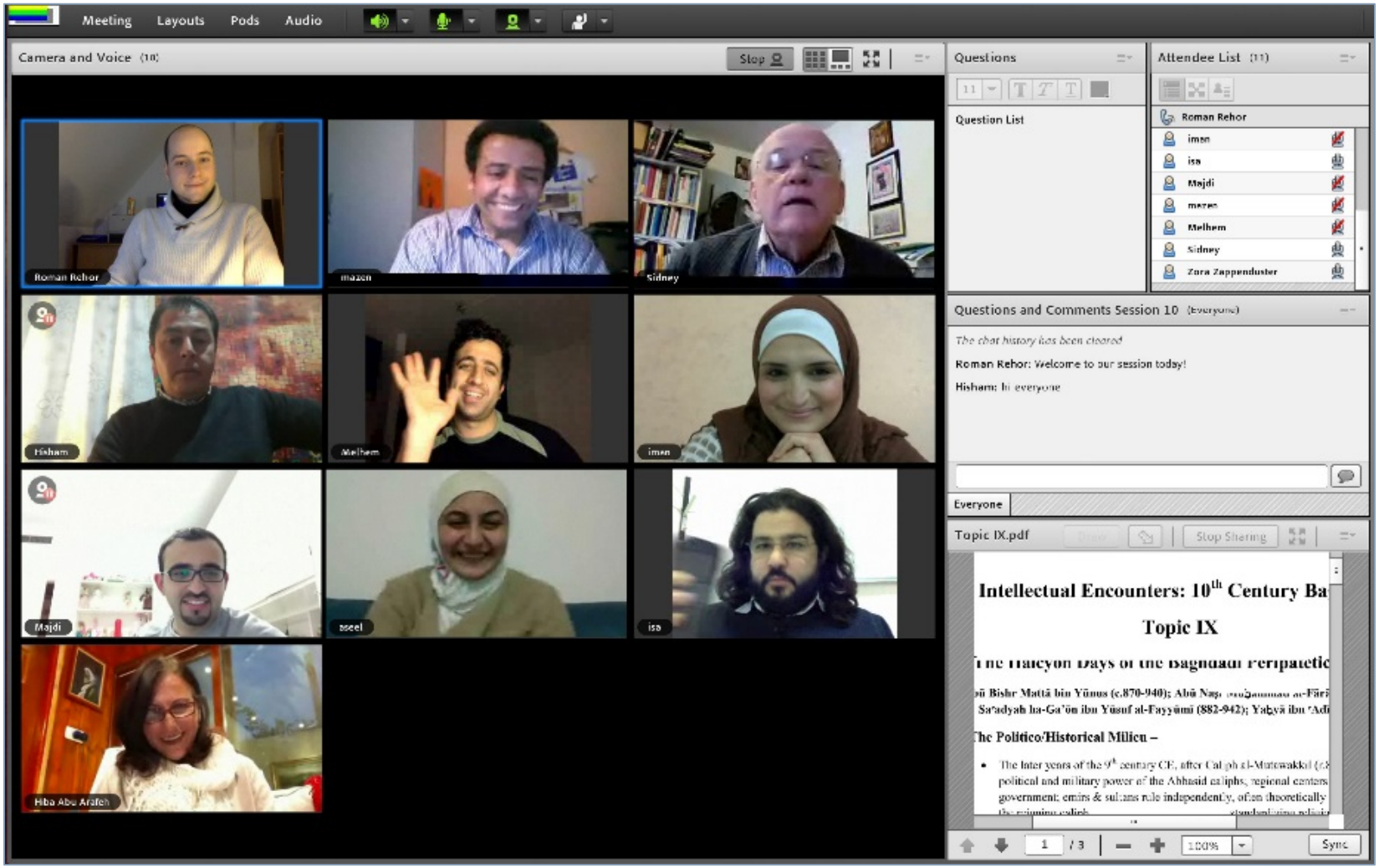
Scholars at an Abbasid library, from the Maqamat of al-Hariri by Yahya ibn Mahmud al-Wasiti, Baghdad, 1237 AD

… today …

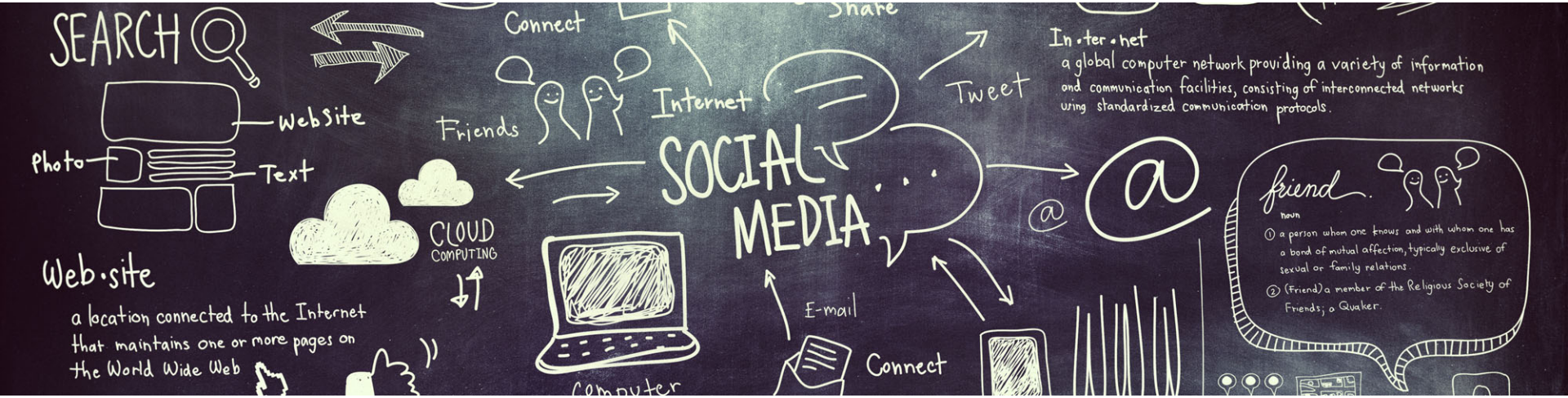
… across space …



… but in real time



What defines us



We are international and intercultural by nature

Because we are international, we have to go digital

Conditio sine qua non

Many methods to meet the challenges

Adapting eTeaching to an international audience

Three Examples

Make people **see** each other.

Collaboration is crucial to successfull learning outcomes for students
Visual Feedback is essential for a successfull teaching experience

Make things **easy** for people.

Improving accessability in online tools tears down barriers in teaching

Learning culture individual – **better teaching is universal.**

It‘s no secret that good didactic methods are seldomly used.
Deficient didactic methods have greater impact in online teaching.
We do a Didactic Methods training for teachers.

Expectation management

- Challenge: group of international participants that have been socialized in very different social contexts, each one with unquestioned, but highly self-evident cultural backgrounds

- A (successful) eLearning scenario is strongly connected to a (successful) expectation management

- Normative and cognitive expectations

„Global“ communication network

Alumni event

Intercultural Training

Scholarship reports

Application communication (presentations, emails, website, brochure, mailings, facebook, info leaflets)

Introduction to the structure of the MA: what, when, how

Evaluation

Reliability

Academic Calendar

Deadline management for written assignments

Immediate response to requests

Regular feedback-loops between teachers, tutors, staff (online and in person)

Regular meetings with students during in-class sessions

Some catch rules of expectation management

1. Don‘t assume that people know (what they have to do).

2. Keep them in the loop: regular, pro-active and timely flow of information.

3. Be consistent, transparent and approachable.

4. Encourage your participants to communicate directly and immediately.

5. Make use of the word „no“.

Positive effects

We are fast and responsive

We are embracing diversity

We are family friendly

We can adapt to a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds

We are flexible for cultural differences

Diversity is our business

We are strongly individualized in our service structure

Nanotechnologically Advanced

Real people in a real world

Cat content