

Prof. Dr. Birgit Schäbler

Chair of History of West Asia

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CV

Studies of History, Islamic Science, Political Science at Universities of Würzburg, University of California, Berkeley, CA and University of Erlangen-Nürnberg

Research Associate Department of Political Science, Modern Middle East, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg (1989-1995), Dissertation (1994)

Visiting Professor, Duke University, North Carolina, USA (1996/1997)

Visiting Fellow, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, USA, (1997-1999)

Professor for Middle East History, Georgia College, Georgia's Liberal Arts University, USA (1999-2002)

Professor of History of West Asia, University of Erfurt (since 2002, on leave 2017-2022 to be director of Orient Institute Beirut)

Director of Orient Institute Beirut, Lebanon (2017-2022)

September 2022-May 2023 guest researcher at American University of Beirut, AUB

Research Interest

History and anthropology/sociology of the Middle East, 18th to 21st centuries | Relations between Area History and Global History/Historiography | Relations between the Middle East/Islam and Europe/Germany | History of Orientalism and Oriental/Islamic Studies | Alterities in Middle Eastern/Muslim societies | Middle East and Global South

Research Projects

- History of Lebanon, Book project, Beck Publishing House
- Relations in the Ideospace: Middle Eastern Students in the Eastern Bloc. Research group financed by BMBF, completed, publication in progress.
- The Lebanese Intifada of 2019. Lebanese research group, completed, publication almost completed.

Fellowships

DAAD one-year-student fellowship, UC Berkeley, CA, USA,

DFG-Graduiertenkolleg "Gegenwartsbezogene Orientforschung" (1992-1994),

DFG-Research cluster "Transformations of European Expansion/Transformationen der außereuropäischen Expansion" (1995-1997),

Visiting Fellowship Harvard University, USA, Center for Middle East Studies (1997-1999),

Liberty Fund fellowship (1 month) (2000),

Fellowship Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem (2005/2006),

Fellowship Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt (2007-2008),

Visiting professor at IREMAM, Aix-en-Provence, summer 2015

Service to the Field and the University

- President of Syrian Studies Association within MESA, USA (1999-2001)
- Chairperson of scientific board of Orient Institute Beirut, Lebanon, Istanbul der Stiftung German Humanities Institutes Abroad/ (2005-2011, member of the board since 2003)
- Member of steering committee of Max Weber Stiftung – Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland (2010-2011)
- Chairperson of “Working Group Non-Western History” within the Association of Historians in Germany, VHHD (2002-2004)
- Member of Jury for the Prize for the best history book of the year, H-Soz-Kult (2004-2009)
- Member of Board of DAVO/German Association of Middle Eastern Studies/Mitglied des Vorstands der Deutschen Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient (DAVO) (2007-2012)
- Member of Academic Board of Center for Oriental Studies, Martin Luther University Halle (2005-2012)

- Founder of research platform „World Regions and Interactions: Area Studies, Transregionally“/Gründungssprecherin der Forschungs-Plattform „Weltregionen und Interaktionen: Area Studies Transregional“ (2008-2009), EPPP
- Elected member of Academic Senate of University of Erfurt (2006-2011)
- Founder and head of double-degree MA-program “Middle East Sociology and History in Global Perspective” MESH, funded by the DAAD, with universities in Lebanon (2010-2024, ca. 900 000 Euro)
- Organizer of summer school together with Haifa University on “Multiculturalism and Co-existence”, curating an exhibit “Unknown Jewish Metal Handicrafts from Damascus, Syria”, Erfurt, 2015
- Head of the Refugee Educational Program, organizing joint discussions and workshops with Syrian refugees, supported by the government of Thuringia (2015-2017), Erfurt University
- Member of the International Advisory Council of WOCMES (World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies) (since 2017)

Evaluations

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst DAAD

German-Israeli-Foundation GIF

Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung AvH

Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung ZIF, Bielefeld

Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF

Danish Council for Independent Research

Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften

Thyssen Stiftung

Acquin e.V., (evaluation of research centers)

EVALAG (evaluation/accreditation of universities abroad)

Research and study visits in the Middle East

- Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem
- Ammann, Jordan
- Yemen Arab Republic (Collaboration in a GTZ research project)

- Tripoli, Libya
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Druze Mountains (field research), Al-Suwaida, Syria
- Morocco
- Northern Iraq
- Dubai, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Conferences and Panels

- International Conference on **Labors of Love, Trials of Friendship**, Orient Institut Beirut, American University of Beirut (AUB), Max Weber Kolleg MWK, 28.9.-1.10.2022(convenor)
- International workshop “**Relations in the Ideospace: Middle Eastern Students in the Eastern Bloc**”, of Research Group BMBF/OIB and History Department at CEU (co-convenor Prof. Balasz Trencsenyi), Central European University CEU, Budapest, 23.-26.2.2022
- International conference on “**Neighborliness in Global Perspective**”, Kairo 2019 and Erfurt 2020 (convenor)
- International conference on “**Reconstructing Neighborhoods of War**”, Orient Institut, Beirut, Dezember 2018 (convenor)
- Lecture Series on “**Refugees in the 20th and 21st Centuries**”, (with Prof. Christiane Kuller), Erfurt, 2015/2016
- Workshop on „**Area Histories, Transregionally**”, with Joseph Prestel, Robert Fischer, Kevin Anding, Dani Kranz, Shelley Harten, Diana Hitzke, Yahya Kouroshi, Nils Riecken, Gunther Mai, 28.2. - 1.3.2014 at Erfurt University (convenor)
- Workshop on “**Area Histories between Area Studies and Historiography**”- „**Area Histories im Spannungsfeld zwischen Area Studies und Geschichtswissenschaft**“, Plattform Weltregionen und Interaktionen, Erfurt und Netzwerk Area Histories, 14.10.2011, FU Berlin
- International Young Scholars Conference on Middle East and Islamic Studies, together with Center for Middle East Studies, Lund University, 25. - 26. 3. 2011 (Leif Stenberg, Eric Hoodlund, Jonas Otterbeck) at Erfurt University
- Panel “**Contextualizing Bedouin History in the 21st Century: Anthropological and Historical Perspectives**“ at Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, 18.21.11.2010, UC San Diego, USA (Chair)
- Panel “**Late Ottoman/Post Ottoman Heterodoxies**”, World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, 19.-24. 7. 2010, Barcelona (Co-Organisation)
- Workshop **Everyday Life in Transnational Perspective: Alltagsgeschichte Revisited**, in honor of Alf Luedtke (with S. Jobs, C. Kraft, R. Prass and J. Martschukat), October 2008, Erfurt
- **Visions of a World Region**, 15th Congress of Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient (DAVO), 2.- 4.10.2008, Erfurt (organizer) Europäischer Kongress für Welt- und Globalgeschichte, 23. -25.9.2005, Leipzig (panel organisation, conference volume published)

- „**Europe and the Orient**“ - "Europa und der Orient", 29. Deutscher Orientalistentag, 20.-24.9.2004, Halle (Co-Organisation of panel)
- Workshop „**Der palästinensisch-israelische Konflikt als Erbe kolonialer Grenzziehungen? Experience of Borders and Boundaries: Grenzerfahrungen und Grenzüberschreitungen in Palestine and Israel**“, 22.- 23.1.2004, Erfurt (with Prof. Gadi Algazi, Tel Aviv University, and Prof. Issam Nassar, al-Quds University, Jerusalem)
- Panel “**Muslim Heterodoxies**” at First World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), 8. - 13.9.2002 (organisation, publication in academic journal)
- Conference **Muslims and Islam(s) in the Age of Postmodernity and Globalization**, 7. - 9.4.1999, Harvard University, USA (co-organisation, conference volume published),
- Second International Conference on “**The Syrian Land: Infrastructures and Communication. Processes of Integration and Separation in Bilad al-Sham from the 18th Century to the Mandate Period**”, July 1995, Erlangen (co-organisation with Thomas Philipp, conference volume published)

International Presentations

Ca. 60 international (and national) presentation invitations, i.a. OIB Beirut (1996), University of Haifa (1996), Tufts University, Massachusetts (1997) Oxford University (1996), New York University, NY (1997), Princeton University, NJ (1997), University of North Carolina, Chapelhill, NC (1997), Duke University (1998), Columbia University, NY (1998), Harvard University, MA (1999), University of California, Los Angeles, CA (1999), Pasadena, CA (2000), San Francisco, CA (2001), University of Zurich (2004), DHI London (2006), Lund University, Schweden (2007), Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria (2009), Aarhus University, Denmark (2010), University of Graz (2010), IFPO Aleppo/Syrien 2011, Duhok and Erbil Universities, Kurdistan/Irak 2011, University of Vienna (2015), (OIB, Beirut, Lebanon 2013, 2016, 2017) CISH Byblos, Lebanon 2021, La Sapienza, Rome, (2023)

Media

Interviews and commentaries

- for Bayern3-TV (1993), MDR-TV (2003), Deutsche Welle (2004), Deutschland Radio Kultur (2005), Sachsenspiegel-TV (2009), Deutschlandfunk (2015, 2020), WDR (2015, 2020), NDR (2020), SWR (2020), STERN online (2020), RBB radioeins (2024)
- in newspapers and journals (Die ZEIT, FAZ, SZ, TA, TLZ, Gewerkschaftliche Monatshefte, Nürnberger Stadtmagazin u.a.).

Digital Publications on Wortmelder and website