



INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
NATIONAL HELLENIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION



دارية الملك عبد العزيز  
KING ABDULAZIZ FOUNDATION  
FOR RESEARCH AND ARCHIVES

## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

### Arabs and Arabia in Byzantine literary sources: People, places, mentalities

Athens, October 8-9, 2021

### PROGRAM



Maria Soteriou, Αραβικά διακοσμήσεις εις τα βυζαντινά μνημεία της Ελλάδος, ΔΧΑΕ 2 (1933), Περίοδος Γ'. *Χαριστήριον Αντωνίου Μπενάκη*, 59, pl. 3 (Saint John Chrysostom, *Homilies headpiece detail*, 11th c., BNFR gr. 660, f. 350, <https://ejournals.epublishing.ekt.gr/index.php/deltion/article/view/4894>).



To remotely attend the Workshop, please click on the zoom link below and register:  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XzQTaxgsR6OAKBugKBXodg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XzQTaxgsR6OAKBugKBXodg)

**Amphitheatre Leonidas Zervas**  
National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF)  
48, Vassileos Constantinou Ave. Athens 11635, Greece

## Organizing Committee

### Taxiarchis Kolias

Professor Emeritus of Byzantine Civilization, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

### Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Semmari

General Secretary of King Abdulaziz Foundation, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### Dimitrios Letsios

Ambassador a.h., Athens, Greece

### Maria Leontsini

Senior Researcher, Institute of Historical Research, NHRF, Athens, Greece

## Organizing Secretariat

Zampela Leontara, Kelly Theodorou, NHRF

Ahmed Atallah Khaled, Abdullah AbuHamid Raed, King Abdulaziz Foundation

## Technical Support Team

Konstantinos Tremountanis, Antonis Chatzichristos, NHRF

Mohammed Alshaikh, King Abdulaziz Foundation

Cover photo: Detail, Gospel, Constantinople 11th c., Cleveland Museum of Art  
(<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons>)

## Under the auspices of



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Culture and Sports  
Ministry of Development and Investments



Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

FRIDAY, October 8, 2021

## 10.00-11.00 OPENING

### Welcome

#### National Hellenic Research Foundation

Maria Christina Chatziioannou, Director, Institute of Historical Research, NHRF

#### Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nikos Dendias, Minister of Foreign Affairs

#### Ministry of Culture and Sports

Lina Mendoni, Minister of Culture and Sports

#### Ministry of Development and Investments

Christos Dimas, Deputy Minister of Research and Innovation

#### Embassy of Saudi Arabia

Saad Al-Ammar, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia

### Introduction

Taxiarchis Kolias, Professor Emeritus of Byzantine Civilization, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Semmari, General Secretary, King Abdulaziz Foundation

Dimitrios Letsios, Ambassador a.h.

11.00-12.40

Chair: Dimitrios Letsios

## Perceptions, mentalities

11.00-11.20

Vassilios Christides

*Survey of the Arab-Byzantine cultural relations*

11.20-11.40

Aisha Saeed Abu Al-Jadaiyl

*Byzantine perception of Islam and Muslims from the 7th century to the 12th century*

11.40-12.00

Tarek M. Muhammad

*Mecca, Medīna, and their sights in the Byzantine sources, 8th-10th centuries*

12.00-12.20

Abdullah A. Al-Abduljabbar and El-Sayed Gad

*Tayyī' and Tayyenoī in Byzantine sources*

- 12.20–12.40 Discussion  
12.40–13.00 Coffee break

**13.00–13.50**

- 13.00–13.30 **Giannis Ladas**  
*Presentation of the database Byzantine Literary Sources for the History and Civilization of Arabs and Arabia (7th-12th c.)*
- 13.30–13.50 Discussion  
13.50– 14.20 Light lunch break

**14.20–16.00**

**Chair: Taxiarchis Koliass**

**Economy, trade, society**

- 14.20–14.40 **Nike Koutrakou and Lila Cheikh Lounis**  
*Beyond Carthage: Byzantines and Arabs meeting the locals in the North African provinces. The Tebessa example*
- 14.40–15.00 **Marilia Lykaki**  
*Working in foreign land: Specialized professionals between Byzantine and Arab territories (8th–10th century)*
- 15.00–15.20 **Salvatore Cosentino**  
*Why, how, and what to trade in the eastern medieval Mediterranean between Byzantium and the Caliphate? (7th–8th century)*
- 15.20–15.40 **Koray Durak**  
*The economy of Melitene/Malatya and its role in the Byzantine-Islamic trade (7th to 11th centuries)*
- 15.40–16.00 Discussion  
16.00–16.20 Coffee break

**16.20–17.40**

**Chair: Alexios Savvides**

**Science, technology**

- 16.20–16.40 **Maria Mavroudi**  
*Byzantine and Arabic philosophy and astronomy in the early Islamic period*

- 16.40–17.00 **Christos Makrypoulias**  
*Arabic military terminology in Middle Byzantine texts*

- 17.00–17.20 **Christos Stavrakos and Konstantinos Takirtakoglou**  
*The Arabs as besiegers: The testimony of Byzantine sources about the Arab siege operations on the Byzantine-Arab border (8th–9th century)*

- 17.20–17.40 Discussion

**Saturday, October 9**

**10.00–11.40**

**Chair: Evangelos Chrysos**

**Politics, diplomacy**

- 10.00–10.20 **Noha A. Salem and Tarek M. Muhammad**  
*Once again about the reforms of ‘Abd al-Malik b. Marwān: The question of Arabization and Islamization, a new approach*
- 10.20–10.40 **Hesham M. Hassan**  
*The Byzantine encounter with Muhammad: How the Byzantine writers have interpreted the Prophet (7th-8th century)*
- 10.40–11.00 **Abdulaziz Mohamed Ramadan**  
*Assimilation of Arab minorities into Byzantine society: Reevaluation in the light of Arabic and Byzantine sources*
- 11.00–11.20 **Nicolas Drocourt**  
*Description of Byzantine diplomacy with the Arabs in Greek medieval chronicles*
- 11.20–11.40 Discussion  
11.40–12.00 Coffee break

**12.00–13.20**

**Chair: Christos Makrypoulias**

**Politics, diplomacy**

- 12.00–12.20 **Johannes Koder**  
*Theophanes the Confessor on Byzantine Arab policy in the 7th century*
- 12.20–12.40 **Omar Yahya Muhammad Yamani**  
*Theophanes’s Chronographia and Muslim sources: Remarks on the accuracy of narratives and the use of names and terms*

**12.40–13.00** **Kosuke Nakada**  
*Fighting and negotiating with the Arabs: The role of Byzantine military commanders in the 10th and 11th centuries*

**13.00–13.20** Discussion

**13.20–14.00** Light lunch break

**14.00–15.40**

**Chair: Abdullah A. Al-Abduljabbar**

### Sources

**14.00–14.20** **Dimitrios Letsios**  
*Arabs and Arabia in the Byzantine Sources: Hagiographical testimonies*

**14.20–14.40** **Panayotis Yannopoulos**  
*La Chronique de Théophane, le De admistrando imperio et l'Histoire des Arabes*

**14.40–15.00** **Awad Abdullah b. Nahee**  
*Mecca and Yathrib: Byzantine views on the two cities. The development of concepts until 10th century*

**15.00–15.20** **Maria Leontsini**  
*Narrating the Arab Muslim conquest and power: A review of the Byzantine historical sources*

**15.20–15.40** Discussion

**15.40–16.00** Coffee break

**16.00–18.00**

**Chair: Athina Kolia-Dermitzaki**

### Language, philology

**16.00–16.20** **Christian Robin**  
*Abraha and Justinian: An attempt to reinterpret manuscript sources through epigraphy*

**16.20–16.40** **Juan Pedro Monferrer Sala**  
*Greek echoes in the Arabic 'first recension' of the Martyrdom of Arethas and his companions*

**16.40–17.00** **Helen Condylis**  
*Le Fihrist et la Suda: Comparaison et miroitement entre le grec et l'arabe*

**17.00–17.20** **Johannes Pahlitzsch**  
*The Melkites in Byzantine sources*

**17.20–18.00** Discussion

**18.00–18.20** **Maria Leontsini**  
*Conclusions*

In accordance with the regulations for the protection from Covid-19, the Workshop will be organized as a hybrid event. Most presentations will take place in person with a small audience in the NHRF Amphitheatre and streamed via Zoom, while some others will be made digitally.

Given the circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we would like to inform you that the visit to the NHRF must be pre-arranged by email <[iie@eie.gr](mailto:iie@eie.gr)>. Everyone is required to wear a protective mask and to have sent to the above e-mail address a certificate of vaccination or recovery or a negative rapid test conducted within the previous 48 hours (as directed by Gov. Gazette 4181/9-9-2021).



Great Mosque of Damascus, mosaic vignette of trees on courtyard façade, Robert Hillenbrand, Reflections on the Mosaics of the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, in: *Arabia, Greece and Byzantium, Cultural Contacts in Ancient and Medieval Times*, eds. Abdulaziz Al-Helabi, Dimitrios G. Letsios, Moshalleh Al-Moraekhi, Abdullah Al-Abduljabbar, Riyadh 2012, vol. 2, 179, fig. 13.