

## **Maxim Yosefi, PhD**

**Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Seminar für Arabistik / Islamwissenschaft**

**E-mail: [maxim.yosefi@phil.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:maxim.yosefi@phil.uni-goettingen.de), [ms.yosefi@gmail.com](mailto:ms.yosefi@gmail.com)**

### **Education and academic positions**

- Jan. 2017-present Guest scholar / Associated researcher, Seminar für Arabistik/Islamwissenschaft I, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.
- 2011-2016 PhD, Department of Middle East Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. Thesis title: *Anthropology of Traditional Arabic Poetry: Social and Ritual Functioning*. Supervisor: Prof. Aref Abu-Rabia.
- 2009-2010 Pre-Doctoral studies, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel; 8 textual and dialectology courses.
- 2004-2007 Researcher, Candidate of Science. Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Saint Petersburg), Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia.
- 1999-2004 BA & MA (cum laude), Department of Ethnography and Anthropology, the Faculty of History, Saint Petersburg State University, Russia.

### **Grants and awards**

- May. 2018-Apr. 2020 Fritz Thyssen research fellowship (Germany). Project: “The culture of inspiration in the Arab-Islamic tradition”.
- Jan.-Dec. 2017 Minerva research fellowship of the Max Planck Society (Germany). Project: “Ethics and religious ideology in early Arabic poetry”.
- 2015 Award from the journal *Jamā‘a*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, for the article “The Relation of Early Islamic Authorities towards Poets and Poetry in the First Centuries of Islam: Textual Discussion”.
- 2013 Award from the Chaim Herzog Center for Middle East Studies and Diplomacy for a PhD project under implementation.
- 2011- 2014 Ben-Gurion University Excellence Scholarship for PhD studies.
- 2006- 2009 Research scholarship of the Russian Foundation for Humanities. Project: “Tribal Arabic Poetry in the 20th Century and the Beginning of the 21st Century.”

### **Editorial work**

*Chronique du Manuscrit au Yémen* (ISSN 2116–0813), No. 25 – 28 (Jan. 2018 – July 2019) – reviews of publications in Arabic press on the topic of Arabic manuscripts.

### **Invited lectures**

- Nov. 2019 “Arabic panegyric from Jāhiliyya to Islam,” Uppsala University, Sweden.
- Dec. 2017 “Pre-Islamic and Islamic Notions of Poetic Inspiration and their Influence on the Discussion on the Poet’s Ethics,” Tel-Aviv University, Israel.
- June 2016 “Early Arab Poets and the Supernatural,” University of Heidelberg, Germany.
- June 2016 “The Problem of Lie in Early Arabic Poetry: Historical-Cultural Mechanism,” Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- June 2016 “The Problems of Lie and Slander in Early Arabic Poetry: Historical-Cultural Mechanism” (in Arabic), University of Bamberg, Germany.
- June 2016 “The Discussion on Muhammad’s Avoidance of Metered Utterances,” Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany.
- Jan. 2016 “Ethics and Religious Ideology in Early Arabic Poetry”, University of Göttingen, Germany.
- Jan. 2016 “The Prophet’s Attitude towards Poets and Poetry as Described by the Islamic Tradition: A Conflict Hidden Behind the Discourse,” University of Helsinki, Finland.
- Nov. 2015 “The Prophet’s Attitude towards Poets and Poetry as Described by the Islamic Tradition: A Conflict Hidden Behind the Discourse,” University of Vienna, Austria.
- Oct. 2015 “Arab Poets and Religious Ideology in the First Centuries of Islam: The Problems of Lie and Slander,” Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society (LUCIS), the Netherlands.
- Sept. 2015 “Collective Ritual in Tribal Arabic Poetry,” University of St. Andrews, the Great Britain.

### **Major papers presented at international colloquiums**

- Aug. 2019 “The attitudes towards poetic inspiration in Arab culture and its influence on the Islamic doctrine on poets and poetry,” Nordic Middle Eastern Studies Conference, University of Helsinki, Finland.
- July 2019 “Arabic panegyric: from tribal practice to court ritual,” From Jāhiliyya to Islam, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
- Aug. 2018 “The origins of the traditional approach towards the *jinn* of poetic inspiration in tribal Arab culture,” Seminar for Arabian Studies, London, United Kingdom.
- May 2018 “Beliefs and Opinions of Saadia Gaon vis-à-vis Morals and Ethics of Miskawayh,” Miskawayh symposium, University of Göttingen, Germany.
- Nov. 2016 “The Problem of Slander in Early Arabic Poetry,” annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Boston, United States of America.
- Sept. 2015 “Collective Ritual in Tribal Arabic Poetry,” International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) conference, University of Krakow, Poland.
- May 2015 “Symbols and Values as Intertwined Elements in Traditional Arabic Poetry,” Gad and Judie Ben Meir’s international conference on Arabic literature “Intertwined Elements in Arabic Literature: Classical, Modern and Popular,” Tel-Aviv University, Israel.
- Aug. 2013 “Bida‘ as a Poetic Form and Social Practice in the Bedouin Society of the Negev Desert,” IUAES conference “Evolving Humanity, Emerging Worlds,” University of Manchester, United Kingdom.
- July 2011 “The Traditional Arabic Qasīda as a Ritual,” Seminar for Arabian Studies, London, United Kingdom.
- May 2008 “Poets Without Borders: The Smugglers of Sinai,” tenth anniversary seminar “Boundary Encounters. Heteroglossia. Heterochrony,” Norwegian University Centre, Saint Petersburg, Russia.
- Sept. 2007 “Tribal Poetry as an Ethnographic Source: The Camel Industry in the Bedouin Society,” seventh Nordic conference on Middle Eastern Studies: “The Middle East: Diversity – Variation – Interpretation,” University of Helsinki, Finland.

## Recent publications

Yosefi, M. *Early Arabic Poetry in the Light of Islamic Doctrine: Factors behind Conflict and Discussion*, Leiden: Brill, 2022. (Manuscript submitted, positive evaluation received)

Yosefi, M. “The quest for divine guidance as intercultural educational discourse: an inquiry into Saadia Gaon’s and Miskawayh’s ethics.” In *Ethics as Educational Discourse: Thought and Impact of the Classical Muslim Thinker Miskawayh*, ed. Sebastian Günther and Yassir Al-Jamouhi. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck Publishers, 2021, 203-226. (ISBN 978-3-16-159944-6)

Yosefi, M. (ed., trans.) “Arabic manuscripts from Yemen in the collections of Tashkent” – a revised, edited and annotated English translation of a catalogue by Viktor Belyaev of 1947,” Introduction, edition, annotations, indexes and translation by Maxim Yosefi, *Chronique du Manuscrit au Yémen* 29 (Jan 2020): 46-134. (ISSN 2116–0813)

Yosefi, Maxim. “The relevance of early Arabic poetry for Quranic studies and debates it arouses.” In *The IASA Bulletin* 2019, ed. Daniel Eddisford et. al., 29-30. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2020. (ISSN: 2632-4954)

Yosefi, M. “The origins of the traditional approach towards the *jinn* of poetic inspiration in tribal Arab culture.” In *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* 49, ed. Janet Starkey et al., 293-302. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2019. (ISSN 0308-8421)

Yosefi, M. “A review of Dahami, Yahya Saleh Hasan. 2018. “The Magnificence of Arabic: Orwa ibn Al-Ward an Epitome,” *Chroniques du Manuscrit au Yemen* 27 (Jan 2019): 26-30. (ISSN 2116–0813)

Yosefi, M. “The *jinn* of poetry as heroes of the Arabian Bestiary.” In *The Asian Bestiary V*, edited by Mikhail Rodionov, 37-50. Saint-Petersburg: Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, 2019. (ISBN 978-5-88431-369-9)

Yosefi, M. (ed., trans.) “Arabic manuscript collections in the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen. A revised, edited and annotated English translation of a catalogue by Anas Khalidov of 1979,” Introduction, edition, annotations, indexes and translation by Maxim Yosefi, *Chronique du Manuscrit au Yémen* 26 (July 2018): 57-104. (ISSN 2116–0813)

Yosefi, M. “The *jinn* of poetry in contemporary Yemen and ancient Arabia: parallels, inconsistencies, and the origins of an ambivalent attitude towards inspiration,” *Chronique du Manuscrit au Yémen* 25 (Jan 2018): 73-109. (ISSN 2116–0813)

Yosefi, M. “Saving Poetic Forms in Isolation from Traditional Culture: the Experience of the Negev Bedouins.” *Russia and Palestine: Scientific and Cultural Connections* [Rus.: Rossiya i Palestina: Nauchnye i Kulturnie Svyazi], edited by Galina Pumpyan. Saint-Petersburg: The Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 2018, 329-335. (ISBN 978-5-336-00236-2)

Yosefi, M. “Tri Mu‘allaqi [Rus.: Three Mu‘allaqas].” In *Chasha i vinocherpiy. Sbornik pam’ati A.A. Dolininoy* [Rus.: The Cup and the Cupbearer], ed. Sarali Ginzburg and Victor Dzevanovskiy, 12-34. Saint-Petersburg: Peterburgskoye vostokovedeniye, 2018. (In Russian) (ISBN 978-5-85803-512-1)

Yosefi, M. “The Prophet’s Attitude towards Poets and Poetry as Described in the Islamic Tradition: a Conflict Hidden behind the Discourse,” *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 107 (2017): 289-315. (ISSN 0084-0076)

Yosefi, M. "The Attitude of the Religious Establishment toward Poets and Poetry in the First Centuries of Islam: A Textual Discussion," *Jamā'a* 23 (2017): 49-82. (ISSN 2626-986X)

Yosefi, M. "The Mu'allaqa of 'Antara as an Arabian Bestiary." In *The Asian Bestiary. Animal images in the Traditions of South and South-West Asia IV*, edited by Mikhail Rodionov. Saint-Petersburg: Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, 2017, 81-98. (ISBN 978-5-88431-329-3)

Yosefi, M. "The Influence of Religious Ideology on Arab Poets in the First Centuries of Islam: the Problem of Lie," *Arabian Routes in the Asian Context*, edited by Pavel Pogorelskiy. Saint-Petersburg: Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, 2016, 120-152. (ISBN: 978-5-88431-323-1)