

Name Dr. Sara Kuehn
E-mail sara@sarakuehn.com; sara.kuehn@univie.ac.at
Homepage www.sarakuehn.com
URL [Academia](#) | [Orcid](#)

Education

- 2000–2009** **Dr. phil. (*magna cum laude*, 'with distinction') Islamic and East Christian Art History and Archaeology, Department of History of Art, Free University of Berlin.** Dissertation: "The Dragon: Evolution of an Iconography in Central Asia and Beyond". Advisor: Prof. Dr. Claus-Peter Haase
- 1998–1999** **M.A. History of Art and Archeology, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.** Dissertation: "Sufi Brotherhoods in Anatolia and Their Iconographic Representations" in Islamic and Central Asian/Chinese Art and Archeology
- 1988–1991** **B.A.S. (Bachelor of Arts and Sciences) Chinese, Korean and Japanese Art and Archaeology, International Christian University (ICU), 国際基督教大学, Tokyo;** second degree in **Macroeconomics, International Christian University (ICU), Tokyo;** Monbusho Scholarship, Japanese Government Scholarship Program (Monbu-kagaku-shō)

Academic Career, Prizes, Fellowships and Awards

- 2021–2022** **Fellowship, Research Project "Contemporary Art and Sufi Aesthetics in European Context"** granted by the **Academy for Islam in Science and Society (AIWG)** at the Goethe University in Frankfurt which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Stiftung Mercator [grant number 3309010003]
<https://aiwg.de/forschungsfellows/>
- Since 2021** **Department of Islamic Theology and Religious Education,** University of Innsbruck. Lecturer

- 2018–2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, Research Project “The Visual Culture of Sufism in France and in Germany” (SufiVisual),** funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon 2020-EU.1.3.2. – Nurturing excellence by means of cross-border and cross-sector mobility / European Commission [Project ID: 794958]
<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/794958>
- 2018–2020 Institut d’ethnologie méditerranéenne, européenne et comparative (IDEMEC) / Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Aix-Marseille Université.** Research Fellow
<https://idemec.cnrs.fr/spip.php?article1450&lang=fr>
- 2019–2020** Winter Semester; Secondment in the framework of *SufiVisual*: **Centre for Islamic Theology (ZITh), University of Tübingen.** Research Fellow
<https://uni-tuebingen.de/en/210826>
- Since 2017 Department of Islamic Theological Studies,** University of Vienna.
Lecturer
- 2017 National Museum of Ethnology (MINPAKU),** Osaka; collaboration in exhibition *Transregional Migrations of Monster Motifs. Between Europe, West Asia, and East Asia*, scheduled for 2022 at the National Museum of Ethnology (MINPAKU), Osaka, Japan. Overseas Visiting Fellow
<https://www.minpaku.ac.jp/en/research/organization/foreigner>
- 2016–2017 Fellowship, Research Project “The Visual Culture of Sufism in Vienna: Ways of Viewing in the Mystical Islam of the Chishti-Inayati and the Halveti-Jerrahi”** funded by the **Cultural Department of the City of Vienna, Promotion of Science and Research** [MA7–1007867/16], Department of Religious Studies, University of Vienna.
<https://rw-ktf.univie.ac.at/en/research/funded-research/the-visual-culture-of-sufism-in-vienna/>
- 2017 Erasmus+ Teaching Staff Mobility Program** for teaching assignments funded by the European Commission, University of Aberdeen
- 2016 Fellowship, Research Project “Framing Ritual Visualisation in Muslim Mysticism: The Case of Southeastern Europe”** at the **Nantes Institute for Advanced Study (IAS-Nantes)**

https://www.iea-nantes.fr/en/chercheurs/kuehn-sara_386

- 2015** **Fellowship, Research Project “Framing Ritual Visualisation in Muslim Mysticism: The Case of Southeastern Europe”** at the **Institute for Advanced Study of Aix-Marseille University (IMéRA)**
<https://imera.univ-amu.fr/en/resident/sara-kuehn>
- 2015–2018** **Department of Religious Studies, University of Vienna.** Lecturer
<https://rw-ktf.univie.ac.at/en/former-staff/sara-kuehn/>
- 2013–2014** **The European Institutes for Advanced Study Fellowship Program (EURIAS) / Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship** as part of the EU-funded project EU-Institutions for Advanced Study Fellowship Program (EU-IAS-FP), NEC-Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest. Junior Fellow; continuation of field research in the Dobruja, Romania, and the Crimea, Ukraine
<http://www.2018-2019.eurias-fp.eu/fellows/sara-susanne-kuehn>
- 2013** **20th Joint World Prize for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran**, issued by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for *The Dragon in Medieval East Christian and Islamic Art*. Leiden: Brill 2011
- 2013** **Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF), London.** Research Grant
- 2012–2013** **Orient-Institut Beirut der Max Weber Stiftung (OIB), Beirut.** Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- 2012** **London Academy of Iranian Studies (LAIS).** Grant for continuation of field research in Central and Southeastern Europe. Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- 2011–2012** **Austrian Research Foundation/Österreichische Forschungsgemeinschaft (ÖFG).** Grant for pilot study and **fieldwork on the visual and material culture of Sufism in Central and Southeastern Europe** (Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Novi Pazar Sandžak in Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, the Dobruja, Romania, the Crimea, Ukraine, and Hungary) [MOEL-477]. Postdoctoral Research Fellow

- 2009–2011** **Museum of Applied Arts (MAK), Vienna.** Curatorial documentation and research of the holdings of the Islamic textiles and costumes, Textiles and Carpets Collection
- 1998–2009** **UNESCO / UNDP.** Evaluation of museum collections, curatorial as well as other consulting activities; resulting in regular missions to the Middle East (at least five times per year for a period of six to eight weeks each) This allowed for extensive fieldwork, acquaintance with monuments and museums, and establishment of a comprehensive photographic database on various themes related to art and archaeology in the Mediterranean World (the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Spain, France, and Italy), Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia), the Indian Subcontinent (Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh), the Caucasus (Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan), and the Far East (China, Japan and Korea)
- 1998–2009** **Kuwait National Museum, Dār al-Athār al-Islāmiyyah (Al-Sabāh Collection),** Kuwait; curatorial documentation and cataloguing of a wide range of artefacts

Museum Work

- 2023** ***Spuren des Sufismus in Europa/Traces of Sufism in Europe***, Photo Exhibition Sara Kuehn at the Department of Islamic Theological Studies, University of Vienna, 15 March-14 April 2023
<https://spurensufismuseuropa.univie.ac.at/>
- 2022** ***Shared Sacred Spaces Exhibition***, Museum of Ethnology (Weltmuseum), Vienna (postponed)
- 2021** ***Paylaşulan Kutsal Mekânlar / Shared Sacred Spaces Exhibition***, Anadolu Kültür, in collaboration with the French Institute and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Cermodern in Ankara, 1 July–30 September 2021. The “Shared Sacred Spaces” project highlights the multisensory experience of pilgrimage, as seen through the lens of the three major Abrahamic religions

- 2019** *Paylaşulan Kutsal Mekânlar / Shared Sacred Spaces Exhibition*, Anadolu Kültür, in collaboration with the French Institute and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, DEPO İstanbul, Tophane, 20 April–14 July 2019
- 2017** *Confluence of Faiths: Shared Sacred Spaces Exhibition*, Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museum of Photography Thessaloniki, and Yeni Cami, 23 September–31 December 2017 as well as the 2017 Thessaloniki Biennale, 30 September 2017–14 January 2018
- 2017–2018** *Transregional Migrations of Monster Motifs, between Europe, West Asia, and East Asia*, exhibition scheduled for 2019, National Museum of Ethnology (MINPAKU), Osaka
- Since 2016** Research for facsimile publication and collaboration in 2018 Anniversary Exhibition of the *Kitāb al-diryāq A.F.10*, **Austrian National Library Vienna**
- 2014–2015** *Lieux saints partagés / Shared Sacred Spaces Exhibition*, MuCEM (Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations), Marseille, 29 April–31 August 2015
- 2009–2011** **Museum of Applied Arts (MAK), Vienna**
- 1998–2008** **UNESCO / UNDP**
- 1998–2008** **Kuwait National Museum, Dār al-Athār al-Islāmiyyah (DAI)**

Publications {Published and Forthcoming}

Monographs

Vision and Visuality in Western European Sufism (forthcoming)

Monsters or Bearers of Life-Giving Powers? Trans-Religious Migrations of an Ancient Western Asian Symbolism. With a Foreword by Lokesh Chandra (New Delhi: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Co-Published: D.K. Printworld 2016) (25,000 words with 50 full colour illustrations)

The Dragon in Medieval East Christian and Islamic Art. With a Foreword by Robert Hillenbrand (Islamic History and Civilization: Studies and Texts 86, Leiden: Brill 2011), 215,000 words with 200 full colour and b/w illustrations
doi.org/10.1163/ej.9789004186637.i-390
Awarded: 20th Joint World Prize for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2013, issued by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Reviewed: *Journal of Studies in the Christian Culture of Asia and Africa* (The State Hermitage Museum/Russian Academy of Science) 9/15 (2021), 409–418; *Bulletin critique des Annales islamologiques* 28 (2012), 118; *Eastern Christian Art* 9 (2012–2013), 119–124; *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 103 (2013), 499–501; *The Journal of Oriental and African Studies* 22 (2013), 330–333; *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* September (2015), 1–2

Silk Route Oases in Chinese Turkestan (Munich: KBP 1997) (83 pp. with 38 full colour and b/w illustrations)

Edited volumes

Female Spiritual Visions: The Religious Visual Culture of Contemporary Female Islamic Mysticism, eds. A. Buturovic and S. Kuehn (Women and Gender series, Leiden: Brill, forthcoming)

The Intermediate Worlds of Angels. Islamic Representations of Celestial Beings in Transcultural Contexts, collective volume of 15 articles, eds. S. Leder, S. Kuehn and H.-P. Pökel, Beiruter Texte und Studien (BTS) (Würzburg: Ergon-Verlag 2019)
doi.org/10.5771/9783956506239-7
Reviewed: *Arabica* 69 (2022), 231–243

Guest-edited journals

Holy Sites in the Mediterranean, Sharing and Division, Special Issue of *Religiographies* 1/1, guest editors D. Albera, S. Kuehn and M. Pénicaud (2022)
ISSN 2974-6469 (open access)

Exhibition catalogues

"Engel im Islam," in: *Engel – himmlische Boten in alten Handschriften. Begleitbuch zur gleichnamigen Ausstellung der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek, November 2014 – Januar 2015* [Angels – Celestial Messengers in Ancient Manuscripts. Catalogue of an Exhibition at the Austrian National Library, November 2014–January 2015], ed. M. Theisen (Berlin: Lambert Schneider 2014), 138–171

Central Asian and Islamic Textiles and Works of Art 2 (London: Rossi & Rossi Ltd 2001) 87 pp. with 40 full colour illustrations

Central Asian and Islamic Textiles and Works of Art 1 (London: Rossi & Rossi Ltd 2000) 56 pp. with 45 full colour illustrations

Journal articles and book chapters (selected)

"Rose blossoms, Ashura pudding, and a 'golden trophy': embodied material traces of Islamic mysticism in Ottoman Hungary," in: *Material Religion*, Special Issue "Materiality of Religion in Central-Eastern Europe," guest editor Csaba Szabó (2023, open access)

"Metamorphosis, Mediation, Mannāt: Sufi Spiritual Ecology and Endangered Animals in Bangladesh and Pakistan," in: *The Journal of Religion, Nature and Culture*, Special Issue "Religion and the Experience of Nature," guest editor Matthias Egeler (2023).

"Sufi Materiality in Islamic Painting," in: *Sufi Material Culture*, eds Th. Zarccone and A. Papas (Handbook of Sufi Studies, Leiden: Brill, 2023).

"Entangled Sanctity: Sarı Saltuk and St. George in the Ottoman Balkans," in: *Entangled Sufism in (Post-)Ottoman Europe: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches*, eds. Cem Kara, Evelyn Reuter, and Zsófia Turóczy (London: Routledge, forthcoming)

"Vom Schmerz der Gottesliebe verwundet": Die rosenförmigen Brandmale des Gül Baba," in: *Die Materialität religiöser Emotionen im Christentum, Judentum und Islam*, ed. Ulrike Gleixner, Wolfenbütteler Hefte (Wolfenbüttel: Herzog August Bibliothek / Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2023)

"The Literal and the Hidden in Some Albanian Bektashi Religious Materialities," in: *Beyond Karbala: New Approaches to Shī'i Materiality*, eds. C. Funke, F.G. Marei, Y. Shanneik (Shia Texts and Studies, Leiden: Brill, 2023), 63–90

"Contemporary Art and Sufi Aesthetics in European Context," in: Special Issue "Sufism in the Modern World," guest editor S. Zarrabi-Zadeh, *Religions* 14/2 (2023), 1–39 (open access)
doi: 10.3390/rel14020196

"Introduction: Religious Sharing, Mixing, and Crossing in the Wider Mediterranean," in: *Special Issue: Holy Sites in the Mediterranean, Sharing and Division*, guest editors D. Albera, S. Kuehn and M. Pénicaud, *Religiographies* 1/1 (2022), 14–21 (open access)
<https://www.cini.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Albera-Penicaud-Kuehn-2022-Introduction-1.pdf>

"Mixed Worship: The Double Cult of Sarı Saltuk and St. Nicholas in the Balkans," in: *Special Issue: Holy Sites in the Mediterranean, Sharing and Division*, guest editors D. Albera, S. Kuehn and M. Pénicaud, *Religiographies* 1/1 (2022), 63–81 (open access)
<https://www.cini.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Kuehn-2022-Mixed-Worship-1.pdf>

"Rachid Koraïchi's Migratory Aesthetics," in: *Special Issue: Holy Sites in the Mediterranean, Sharing and Division*, guest editors D. Albera, S. Kuehn and M. Pénicaud, *Religiographies* 1/1 (2022), 115–141 (open access)
<https://www.cini.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Kuehn-2022-Heterography-1-1.pdf>

"Cyclical Time, Nature Spirits, and Translation Activities: The Transreligious Role of the Meeting of Khidr and Ilyās in the Balkans," in: *Inter-religious Practices and Saint Veneration in the Muslim World. Khidr/Khizr from the Middle East to South Asia*, eds M. Boivin and M. Pénicaud (New York and London: Routledge, 2023)

"Buddhists, Turks, and Trees: Some Notes on the Practice of *Khalwa* of the Early Khalwatiyya in Visual and Textual Sources," in: *The Khalwatiyya Soufi Order - L'Ordre soufi Khalwatiyya, Journal d'Histoire du Soufisme (JHS)*, ed. Th. Zarccone, vol. 8 (2023)

"Multiplication, Translocation and Adaptation: Şarī Şaltūq's Multiple Embodied Localities Throughout the Balkans," in: *Constructing and Contesting Holy Places in Medieval Islam and Beyond*, eds. A. Görke and M. Guidetti (Islamic History and Civilization Series, 200, Leiden: Brill, 2023)
<https://brill.com/display/title/63426>

"Nourishment of Remembrance: Ritual Foodways during Mātām and the 'Āshurā' Feast at Sufi Orders in the Balkans," in: *Food for Gods, Food for Mortals. Culinary and Dining Practices in the Greater Iranian World*, eds. S. Farridnejad & T. Daryae, Čistā. Studies in the History, Cultures and Religions of the Iranian World 1 (Irvine, CA: University of California 2022), 115–141

"'Ganymede and the Eagle': Representations of Spiritual Ascent in the Greater Iranian World from Late Antiquity to the Medieval Period," in: *Sasanian Studies. Late Antique Iranian World 1* (2021), 179–205
<https://doi.org/10.13173/SSt.1.179>

"'In any case we are Sufis': the creation of hijra spiritual identity in South Asia," in: *Islamology* 11/1, Special Issue: *Contesting Boundaries and Producing the Norm: Gender-Related Issues in Islamic Theory and Practice*, guest editors M. Kemper and G. Sibgatullina (2021), 38–61 (open access)
<http://dx.doi.org/10.24848/ismlg.11.1.04>

"Piercing the Skin: Pain as a Form of Piety in Rifa'i Ritual Sensescapes" in: *Collectes sensorielles. Recherche-Musée-Art*, eds. V. Dassié, A. Fanlo, M.-L. Gélard, C. Isnart, and F. Molle, Univers sensoriels et sciences sociales (Paris: Éditions Pétra 2021), 65–102

"Ästhetik im Islam," in: *Handbuch Islamische Religionspädagogik*, ed. E. Aslan (Leiden/Göttingen: Brill | V & R unipress 2021), 563–587

"Mischwesen in der Kunst des Islam und des östlichen Christentums," in: *Monster, Chimären und andere Mischwesen in den Text- und Bildwelten der Vormoderne*, eds. B. Burrichter and D. Klein (Würzburg: Verlag Königshausen & Neumann) (forthcoming)

"Monster. Islam," in: *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception (EBR)*, vol. 19, Midrash and Aggadah – Mourning, eds. C. M. Furey et al (Berlin/Boston: Walter de Gruyter 2021), 909–913
<https://doi.org/10.1515/ebr.monster>

"Miracle. Islam," in: *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception (EBR)*, vol. 19, Midrash and Aggadah – Mourning, eds. C. M. Furey et al (Berlin/Boston: Walter de Gruyter 2021), 287–291
<https://doi.org/10.1515/ebr.miracles>

"Conceptualisations de la Covid-19 : les monstres coronavirus comme avertisseurs, révélateurs et explorateurs," in: *Tour du monde de la Covid-19*, eds. S. Kuriyama, O. de Leonardis, C. Sonnenschein, and I. Thioub (Paris: Éditions Manucius 2021), 130–131

"Meditate, Meditation. Islam," in: *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception (EBR)*, vol. 18, Mass – Midnight, eds. C. M. Furey et al (Boston, Berlin: De Gruyter 2020), 441–444
<https://doi.org/10.1515/ebr>

"A Saint 'on the Move': Traces in the Evolution of a Landscape of Religious Memory in the Balkans," in: *Saintly Spheres and Islamic Landscapes: Emplacements of Spiritual Power across Time and Place*, eds. D. Ephrat, E.S. Wolper, P.G. Pinto (Brill Handbook of Oriental Studies 147, Leiden: Brill 2020), 117–148
https://doi.org/10.1163/97890044444270_006

"Watching Myself in the Mirror, I Saw 'Alī in My Eyes': On Sufi Visual and Material Practice in the Balkans," in: *Religious Materiality in the Early Modern World. With an Epilogue by Caroline Walker Bynum*, eds. S. Ivanić, M. Laven and A. Morrall (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press 2019), 151-173 and colour pls. 8.1 and 8.2
<https://doi.org/10.1515/9789048535422-012>

(with L. Pokorny) **"On Ināyati Female Visions in Austria: Female Leadership in the Western Sufi Tradition,"** in: *Religion in Austria 4* (Vienna: Praesens Verlag 2019), 53–114

"Die verborgene Moschee: zur Sichtbarkeit muslimischer Gebetsräume in Wien (The Hidden Mosque: On the Visibility of Muslim Prayer Rooms in Vienna) by Josef Peter Schuller, Anwendungsorientierte Religionswissenschaft. Beiträge zu

gesellschaftlichen und politischen Fragestellungen, Bd. 4, Marburg: Tectum, 2013, in: *Religion in Austria 4* (Vienna: Praesens Verlag 2019), 299–306

"The Primordial Cycle Revisited: Adam, Eve and the Celestial Beings," in: *The Intermediate Worlds of Angels. Islamic Representations of Celestial Beings in Transcultural Contexts*, eds. S. Leder, S. Kuehn and H.-P. Pökel (Beiruter Texte und Studien, 114, Beirut: Orient-Institut Beirut; Ergon Verlag in Kommission 2019), 173–200
<https://doi.org/10.5771/9783956506239-7>

(with S. Leder and H.-P. Pökel) **"Introduction,"** in: *The Intermediate Worlds of Angels. Islamic Representations of Celestial Beings in Transcultural Contexts*, eds. S. Leder, S. Kuehn and H.-P. Pökel (Beiruter Texte und Studien, 114, Beirut: Orient-Institut Beirut; Ergon Verlag in Kommission 2019), 11–45
<https://doi.org/10.5771/9783956506239-7>

"Wild Social Transcendence and the Antinomian Dervish," in: *Interdisciplinary Journal for Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society* 6/1 (2018), 254–285
doi.org/10.14220/23642807-00401014 (open access)
https://brill.com/view/journals/jrat/4/1/article-p254_14.xml

"The Interplay of the Angels and the Prophet Muḥammad in the Earliest Images of the Prophet in Islamic Book Arts," in: *Medieval Angelology: An Interfaith Exploration of Angels*, ed. J.-A. Greeley (Cardiff: University of Wales Press) (in print)

"On the Transcultural and Transreligious Dimension of the so-called 'Sēnmurw'," in: *Ein Hildesheimer Drachen-Aquamanile des 12. Jahrhunderts. Objekte und Eliten in Hildesheim, 1130 bis 1250*, vol. 1, eds. G. Lutz and J. Olchawa (Regensburg: Schnell & Steiner, 2017), 103–126; also published in *Patrimonia* 382 (Berlin: Kulturstiftung der Länder 2017)

"Pilgrimage as Muslim Religious Commemoration: The Case of Ajvatovica in Bosnia-Herzegovina," in: *Muslim Pilgrimage in Europe*, eds. I. Flakerud and R.J. Natvig (Routledge Studies in Pilgrimage, Religious Travel and Tourism, ed. J. Eade, New York, NY: Routledge 2017), 98–117

"The Eclipse Demons Rāhu and Ketu in Islamic Astral Sciences," in: *In Umbra: Demonology as a Semiotic System / ДЕМОНОЛОГИЯ КАК СЕМИОТИЧЕСКАЯ СИСТЕМА. АЛЬМАНАХ 5*, eds. D. Antonov and O. Khristoforova (Moscow: Indrik 2016), 211–244

- "An Unusual Large Circular Compartmented 'Stamp Seal' of the Goddess with Animals: Some Thoughts on the Religious Symbol System of the Central Asian Bronze Age Culture of Bactria-Margiana,"** in: *Transactions of the Margiana Archaeological Expedition: In Memory of Professor Victor Sarianidi* 6, eds. N. Dubova, E.V. Antonova, P.M. Kozhin, M.F. Kosarev, R.G. Muradov, R.M. Sataev, A.A. Tishkin (Moscow: Staryi sad 2016), 492–508
- "Vestiges of the Ourobóros in Medieval Islamic Visual Tradition,"** in: *Proceedings of the 9th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE)* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2016), 169–182
<https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvc770z3.16>
- "Twelver Shī'ī Components in Contemporary Bektāši Visual Piety in the Western Balkans?: A Note on Bektāši Visual Culture,"** in: *NEC Institute for Advanced Study Yearbook 2013–2014* (Bucharest: New Europe College 2015), 289–334
- "The Dragon in Medieval Islamic Astrology and Its Indian and Iranian Influences,"** in: *Proceedings of the Indo-Mongol Colloquium, 01–04 February, 2012* (New Delhi: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts) (forthcoming)
- "The Dragon Fighter: The Influence of Zoroastrian Ideas on Judaeo-Christian and Islamic Iconography,"** in: *Zoroastrianism in the Levant, ARAM Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies* 26, 1 and 2 (Leuven: Peeters 2014), 65–101
- (with M. Tütüncü) **"Further Notes on the Setting of Veneration for Sari Saltuq Dede,"** in: *Balkanlara gidişinin 750. yılında Uluslararası Sarı Saltuk Gazi Sempozyumu: bildiriler, 06-10 Kasım 2013, Köstence-Romanya / Uluslararası Sarı Saltuk Gazi Sempozyumu, Constanța, Romania* (Trakya Üniversitesi Yayınları: 156, Balkan Araştırma Enstitüsü yayını 4, Edirne 2014), 218–237
- "Ungeheuer als Träger lebensspendender Macht? Transreligiöse Migrationen einer alten Symbolik im Vorderen Orient (9.–14. Jh.),"** in: *EOTHEN* VI (2014), 168–188
- "'Escaping the Jaws of Death': Some Visual Conceptualisations in Late Medieval Islamic and Eastern Christian Art,"** in: *In Umbra: Demonology as a Semiotic System / ДЕМОНОЛОГИЯ КАК СЕМИОТИЧЕСКАЯ СИСТЕМА. АЛЬМАНАХ* 3, eds. D. Antonov and O. Khristoforova (Moscow: Indrik 2014), 133–164

- "The Dragon in Transcultural Skies: Its Celestial Aspect in the Medieval Islamic World,"** in: *Spirits in Transcultural Skies, Transcultural Research – Heidelberg Studies on Asia and Europe in a Global Context*, eds. N. Gutschow and K. Weiler (Heidelberg: Springer 2014), 71–97
- "Reverberations of the Life and Work of the Seventeenth-Century Bosnian Shaykh and Poet Hasan Qā'imī,"** in: *International Journal for Comparative Philosophy and Mysticism. Transcendent Philosophy Journal* 13 (2012), 149–176
- "On the Role of the Ophidian and the Quadrupe Dragon within the Iconography of the Mythological Scheme of the Oxus Civilisation,"** in: *On the Track of Uncovering a Civilization. A Volume in Honor of the 80th Anniversary of Victor Sarianidi, Transactions of the Margiana Archaeological Expedition*, vol. 3 (Moscow-St. Petersburg: Aleteia 2009), 43–67
- "Tilework on Funerary Monuments of the 12th to 14th Century in Konya Urgench (Gurganj),"** in: *Arts of Asia* 38/2 (2007), 1–18
- "Towards the Dragon and the Mythical Bird: Tracing Possible Antecedents for some Elements of Khitan Iconography,"** in: *Arts of Asia* 36/5 (2006), 67–88

Courses Taught

Islamic Mysticism I (tasawwuf), Department of Islamic Theological Studies, University of Vienna (undergraduate/graduate course)

Islamic Mysticism II (tasawwuf), Department of Islamic Theological Studies, University of Vienna (undergraduate/graduate course)

Introduction to Sufism, Department of Religious Studies, University of Vienna (graduate course)

Introduction to Islamic Aesthetics, Art and Cultural History, Department of Islamic Theological Studies, University of Vienna (undergraduate/graduate course)

Islamic Art and Cultural History, Department of Islamic Theology and Religious Education, University of Innsbruck (undergraduate/graduate course)

Religious Iconoclasm: A History, Department of Religious Studies, University of Vienna (graduate course)

Islamic Central Asia, Islamic Art Module, Course Co-Tutor and Lecturer, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, London (postgraduate diploma class)

Islamic Mysticism, The Islamic College, Middlesex University, London (undergraduate course)

Introduction to the Art and Archaeology of the Near and Middle East, Course Co-Tutor and Lecturer, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, London (with Professor Geoffrey R.D. King, undergraduate/graduate course)

Erasmus+ Teaching Staff Mobility Program (Outgoing) for teaching assignments at the University of Aberdeen, 2017:

- Course "Islam": "The Visual Materiality of Sufi Practice in the Balkans"
- Myth research seminar: "Animal-Human Hybrids in Visual and Textual Representation"
- Religious Studies research seminar, "The Snake Genius in the Roman Domestic Cult"
- Course "Religions of the Near East": "Early Visual Testimony of the 'Life of Muhammad'"

Invited Lectures and Talks/Conference Papers

"'Vom Schmerz der Gottesliebe verwundet': Die rosenförmigen Brandmale des Gül Baba," International Workshop *Religion & Emotion: Materielle Praktiken im christlichen, jüdischen und muslimischen Europa der Frühen Neuzeit*, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, 27 January 2023

"The Prophet Muḥammad's Footprints in Stone, Indian Subcontinent," panel "Sensing the Divine: Relics, Remains and Traces in Medieval Islam," VI. Forum Kunst des Mittelalters: Sinne | Senses in cooperation with the Department of Art History, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, 29 September–3 October 2022

"Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan's 'Wisdom Book': A Live Music-Cinema Zoom Performance of a Play in Seven Acts," ESSWE 8 Western Esotericism and Creativity: *Art, Performance and Innovation*, 2021 Meeting of the European Society for the

Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), University College Cork, Ireland, 5–7 July 2022

"The Literal and the Hidden in Some Albanian Bektashi Religious Materialities,"

Beyond Karbala: New Approaches to Shi'i Materiality, a roundtable organized at the 2022 annual conference of the European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR), Cork, Ireland, 27 June–1 July 2022

"Contemporary Art and Sufi Aesthetics in European Context," Akademie für Islam in

Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft (AIWG) Kongress 2022, *Islam in Texten, Normen und Lebenswelten*, 23–24 June 2022

"The Materiality of Hijra Sufi Identity," École des hautes études en sciences sociales

(EHESS) seminar series Gender and Material Cultures in South Eastern Europe and the Middle East, Paris, 6 May 2022

"Zengīrlī šīš and Related Implements: Their Relation to the Rose Bud, Light, Fiery

Zeal, and the Burning of the Self in God," *Religion & Emotion: Materielle Praktiken im christlichen, jüdischen und muslimischen Europa der Frühen Neuzeit*, Herzog-August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, 21–22 March 2022

"Transculturality in Europe: Insights into Contemporary Sufi Communities from the Balkans to Germany," *Field research in the Study of Religions: An*

interdisciplinary introduction, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 17 December 2021

"Bektashi Female Leadership in a Transnational Context: The Spiritual Career of the Only Contemporary Female Dervish," Intern. Conference *Sufism and Gender in*

Contemporary Societies, Centro Studi di Civiltà e Spiritualità Comparate, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, University of Venice, 03–04 December 2021

"The Aesthetics of Ottoman Calligraphy: Sufi Symbolism and Spiritual Practice,"

Workshop di calligrafia Arabo-Islamica, Centro Studi di Civiltà e Spiritualità Comparate, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, University of Venice, 02 December 2021

"On Hybrid Demons and Liminal Monsters at the End of the Islamic World," *Global*

Eurasia – Comparison and Connectivity, Workshop III: Wanderungen des Wissens und Transformationen von Wissensräumen, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Medieval Research (IMAFO), Vienna, 4–5 November 2021 (postponed)

- "Contemporary Female Teachers in Sufi Belief and Practice: A Western Perspective,"** *2nd International Symposium on Alevism-Bektashism*, Izmir, 1–2 October 2021
- "Entangled Sanctity: Sarı Saltuk and St. George in the Ottoman Balkans,"** Intern. Conference *Entangled Sufism in (Post-)Ottoman Europe: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches*, University of Vienna, 21–23 October 2021
- "Material Traces of Sufism in Ottoman Hungary,"** *Materiality of Religion in CEE*, University of Szeged, Department of Religious Studies, 24–25 September 2021
- "Sacred Waterscapes as Ecological Habitats for Endangered Animal Species at Sufi Shrines in the Indian Subcontinent,"** Panel: *Designing Water: Morphology, Ecology and Histories of Waterscapes in South Asia*, 26th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS), University of Vienna, 26–29 July 2021
- "The 'Wisdom Book': A Live Music-Cinema Zoom Performance of a Play in Seven Acts,"** ESSWE 8 *Western Esotericism and Creativity: Art, Performance and Innovation*, 2021 Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), University College Cork, 5–7 July 2021 (postponed to 2022)
- "Inayati Sufi Living Religious Traditions in Private Museum Contexts,"** International Conference *Religious Materials Emic Perspectives - Etic Constructions - Museum Classifications*, Research Network "Dynamics of religious things in museums" (REDIM), Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Religionsforschung (ZIR), Marburg University, 3–6 June 2021
<https://archiv.ub.uni-marburg.de/es/2022/0001>
- "Binding Threads and Expanding Threads: The Interlaced Serpents on the Lining of the so-called Mantle of Roger II (dated 528/1133–4),"** Workshop *Ritual Objects in the Medieval Middle East*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, 24–27 May 2021
- "Animal Cults, Ecology and Sufism: The Example of Some Sufi Shrines in the Indian Subcontinent,"** International Conference *Religion and the Experience of Nature: Comparative Perspectives*, Center for Advanced Studies, LMU Munich, 9–10 April 2021
- "Extreme Ritual Actions: Pain and Religious Emotions in Rifa'i Zikr Rituals (Remembrance of God) in Ottoman Turkey,"** Workshop *Religion & Emotion:*

Materielle Praktiken im christlichen, jüdischen und muslimischen Europa der Frühen Neuzeit, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, 1–3 March 2021

“Die religiöse Visuelle Kultur von Transgender im Islam: Ein Überblick” / “The Religious Visual Culture of Transgender in Islam: An Overview,” Presentation, Department of Art and Cultural Studies, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, 15 December 2020

“Ansätze für pluralistisches Denken am Institut für Islamisch-Theologische Studien Wien,” Podiumsdiskussion, Ringvorlesung: Diversität im Islam, Department of Islamic Theological Studies, University of Vienna, 10 December 2020

“‘Spiritual Ideal in Action and Not Just in Words’: Inayati Sufi Transnational ‘Cyber-pedagogy’ of Social Activism,” Seminar *Universalisations et patrimonialisations du soufisme*, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, 4 December 2020

“Ansätze für pluralistisches Denken am Institut für Islamisch-Theologische Studien Wien,” Panel discussion, lecture series: *Diversity in Islam*, Department of Islamic Theological Studies, University of Vienna, 10 December 2020

“‘Spiritual Ideal in Action and Not Just in Words’: Inayati Sufi Transnational ‘Cyber-pedagogy’ of Social Activism,” Seminar *Universalisations et patrimonialisations du soufisme*, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, 4 December 2020

“The Visual Culture of Sufism in France and Germany,” Online Presentation, European Researchers’ Night 2020, 27 November 2020

“On Hybrid Demons and Liminal Monsters at the End of the Islamic World,” *Global Eurasia – Comparison and Connectivity, Workshop III: Wanderungen des Wissens und Transformationen von Wissensräumen*, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Medieval Research (IMAFO), Vienna, 23–24 November 2020 (postponed)

“‘A Real-Life Jātaka Tale’: Seeking Inspiration from the Life of Pīrzadi-Shahīda Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan,” International Conference *Female Visions: The Religious Visual Culture of Contemporary Female Islamic Mysticism*, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, 16–18 October 2020; [conference website](#)

"Welcome and Introduction," International Conference *Female Visions: The Religious Visual Culture of Contemporary Female Islamic Mysticism*, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, 16–18 October 2020; [conference website](#)

"Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Muslim Same-Sex Marriage. Current Debates," Panel "Ehe im Spannungsverhältnis von Theologie und Gegenwart. Eine Reflexion aus koranischer, überlieferungsgeschichtlicher und islamisch rechtlicher Perspektive." Kongress-2020 der Akademie für Islam in Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft / The Academy for Islam in Research and Society (AIWG) in cooperation with the German Society for Islamic Theology (DEGITS), Frankfurt, 24–26 Sept 2020 (postponed to 2022)

"Sensorial experiences of Sari Saltuk's blessings: Mediation of sacred materiality at the cave sanctuaries on Mt Kruja and Mt Pashtrik in the Western Balkans," 16th EASA Biennial Conference: *New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe*, International Conference Panel P087 "Sensing Divine Presence: Media, Mediation, Materiality," Lisbon, 21–24 July 2020

"Two recent private religious museums on the living religious traditions of the Bektashi and the Inayati Sufi communities in Europe," Research Network "Dynamics of religious things in museum" (REDIM), International Workshop *Handling religious things: the material and the social in museums*, Philipps-Universität Marburg, 10–12 June 2020 (postponed)

"A Real-Life Jātaka Tale': Seeking Inspiration from the Life of Pīrzadi-Shahīda Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan," International Conference *Female Visions: The Religious Visual Culture of Contemporary Female Islamic Mysticism*, Weingarten, 3–5 April 2020 (postponed)

"Spiritual Ecology: The Veneration of 'Sacred' Animals at Sufi Shrines in Bangladesh," Ninth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), University of Chicago Center in New Delhi, 11–13 March 2020 (postponed)

"Transculturality in Europe: Insights into Contemporary Sufi Communities from the Balkans to Germany," Department of Islamic Studies and the International Centre for Spiritual Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, 7 March 2020

"Die Visuelle Kultur des Sufismus in Europa," Workshop *Sufismus in Europa*, Zentrum für Islamische Theologie (ZITh), Universität Tübingen, 28 January 2020

"Die visuelle Welt von transgender Personen im Islam: Darstellungen und Einblicke in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart / The Visual World of Transgender Persons in Islam: Re-Presentations and Insights in Past and Present," Department of Art and Cultural Studies, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, 3 December 2019

"Piercing the Skin: Materializing the Sensory in Rifā'ī and Sa' dī Dhikr Rituals (Remembrance of God)," Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference 2019, Panel "Beyond Islamic Art: New Approaches to the Material Culture of the Middle East," New Orleans, 14–17 November 2019

"The Aesthetics of Ottoman Calligraphy: Its Iconic and Pictorial Quality," Workshop *di Calligrafia Araba-Islamica*, Centro Studi di Civiltà e Spiritualità Comparete, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, 5 November 2019

"Träger lebensspendender und todbringender Macht: Mischwesen in der mittelalterlichen Kunst der islamischen Welt und des östlichen Christentums," Ringvorlesung: *Monster, Chimären und andere Mischwesen in den Text- und Bildwelten der Vormoderne*, Universität Würzburg, 29 October 2019

"Binding Threads and Expanding Threads: The Interlaced Serpents on the Lining of the so-called Mantle of Roger II (528/1133–4)," *Threads of Tradition – Textile Metaphors*, Workshop, Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 28–29 October 2019

"Schönheit im Islam: Die allegorische Abhandlung von Shihāb al-Dīn Yaḥyā Suhrawardī," Herbstzyklus 2019: *Wege der Liebe*, Haus des Friedens, Vienna, 10 October 2019

"Kruja: The 'Revival' of the City's 366 Bektashi Saints' Tombs," *Troisièmes Rencontres d'Etudes Balkaniques / Villes des Balkans : Échelles locales, nationales, globales*, MuCEM (Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée), Marseille, 13–14 September 2019

"Pain as a Form of Piety in Rifā'ī Self-Mortification Rituals: The Role of the Body in 'Training the Soul' (Riyāḍat al-Nafs)," *Sufism and the Body*, International

Conference in the framework of ERC Project *The Senses of Islam* (SENSIS),
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Utrecht University, 12–13
September 2019

"On the Visual Materiality of Practice of Alevi Communities in Germany," *9th European Conference of Iranian Studies (ECIS)*, Societas Iranologica Europaea (SIE), Freie Universität Berlin, 9–11 September 2019

"Spiritual Ecology: The Veneration of Bayazid Bistami's 'Holy' Turtles in Chittagong, Bangladesh," *The 8th SSEASR Conference (South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion) of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)*, Member of CIPSH under the Auspices of UNESCO, "Connecting Cultures of South and Southeast Asia," Dhaka, 12–16 June 2019

"I am the City of Knowledge and 'Alī is its Gate': On Contemporary Sufi Visual and Material Ascetic Practice in Southeastern Europe," Centre for Studies in Social Sciences and Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Resource Centre (JBMRC), Kolkata, 11 June 2019

"Gendering Devotion: Inayati Female Visions in Austria and Germany," Women's Studies Department, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 6 June 2019

"The Meeting of Khidr and Ilyas: A Transreligious Heritage in the Mediterranean," *Paylaşilan Kutsal Mekânlar / Shared Sacred Spaces*, International Workshop, DEPO İstanbul, Tophane, 20 April 2019

"Some Thoughts on the Visual Materiality of Practice in Sufi Contexts," Seminar, Institut d'éthnologie méditerranéenne, européenne et comparative (IDEMEC)-Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l'homme (MMSH) / Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Aix-en-Provence, 11 January 2019

"Mystische Dimensionen des Islams," Ringvorlesung: **Diversität im Islam**, Institut für Islamisch-Theologische Studien, Universität Wien, 30 October 2018

"Şarī Şaltūq's Role and Function in the Sacred Topography of the Balkans: Mediation and Negotiation in Inter-Religious Contact Zones," *Prophéties et Saintetés en Islam*, International Workshop, The Nantes Institute for Advanced Study, 13–14 March 2018

- "A Supernatural Creature in a Transcultural and Transreligious Framework: The Case of the so-called 'Sēnmurw',"** Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo, 26 January 2018
- "Traditions of Divine Service of the Sufi Orders in the Balkans: On Forms of Loud Dhikr (Remembrance of God),"** *Strange Sounds: Auditory Connections to the Other World* 「異音—この世ならざるものにつながる音」, International Workshop, National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, 20 January 2018
- "Taming the Animal Soul (Nafs): Esoteric Meaning in Sufi Visual Symbolism in the Western Balkans,"** 10th MINPAKU Lecture Series in Modern Middle East Studies, National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, 5 December 2017
- "A Dervish is Covered with a Thousand and One Signs': 'Para-nomian' and 'Supra-nomian' Embodiments of the 'Fools for God',"** **Topography of Wonders and the Uncanny** 「驚異と怪異の場」, International Symposium, Keio University, Tokyo, 3 November 2017
- "Essential Characteristics of the Topography of Shared Sacred Spaces,"** **Shared Sacred Spaces in the Balkans and the Mediterranean**, Exhibition / International Workshop, Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki Museum of Photography, Yeni Cami, Thessaloniki, 23–24 September 2017
- "Hārūt and Mārūt in a Sufi Context: The Deliverance of the Fallen Angels,"** **Quran and Islamic Tradition in Comparative Perspective**, International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), Berlin, 07–11 August 2017
- "On the Visual Materiality of Practice in the Balkans,"** Department of Religious Studies, University of Vienna, 12 January 2017
- "The Materiality of Spiritual Ascent in the Late Antique and Early Medieval Near East,"** **Mysticism in Comparative Perspective**, Mystical Theology Network (MTN), Glasgow University, 14–16 December 2016
- "On the Visual Materiality of Practice in the Balkans,"** The Nantes Institute for Advanced Study, 28 November 2016
- "The Theriaca in the *Kitāb al-diryāq*,"** International Workshop on the *Kitāb al-diryāq A.F.10*, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek Wien (Austrian National Library), 17–18 November 2016

"On the First Chapter of the Book of Galinus/Jālīnūs," International Workshop on the *Kitāb al-diryāq A.F. 10*, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek Wien (Austrian National Library), 17–18 November 2016

"Ophidian Traces in the Pre-Islamic Iranian Pantheon," **Art and Religions in Pre-Islamic Central Asia**, Polish Institute of World Art Studies, Krakow, 24–26 October 2016

"'In Power the Emperor is like unto God': Ideological Trappings of the Pre-Mongol Sculptural Reliefs of Vladimir-Suzdal'. Solomon, David, Alexander the Great and the Beastly Court," *Influence and Exchange in the Twelfth-Century 'Greater Europe': People, Images and Knowledge*, International Conference of the Deutsches Historisches Institut Moskau (DHI), Max Weber Stiftung, and Center for Medieval Research at Moscow Higher School of Economics, Moscow, 13–15 October 2016

"The Ophidian Genius in the Roman Domestic Cult," *The Materiality of Divine Agency in the Graeco-Roman World*, Postgraduate Workshop at the Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt, 2 September 2016

"Die transkulturelle und transreligiöse Dimension des 'Sēnmurw'," *Drachenlandung. Ein neu erworbenes Aquamanile des 12. Jahrhunderts im Dommuseum Hildesheim*, International Symposium, Dommuseum Hildesheim, 17–18 June, 2016

"Confessional Identity Formation in the Inter-Religious Contact-Zones in the Balkans as Medium of a Common Conceptual Vocabulary and Shared 'Text' of Different Interpretative Communities," *The Balkans – Past and Present: Mutual Influences and Interactions*, 5th International Balkan Annual Conference (IBAC), Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Istanbul University, Sofia, 26–28 November 2015

"The *Asrār al-tawḥīd* on the Architectural Decoration of the Mausoleum of the Great Shaykh Abū Sa'īd ibn Abī 'I-Khair Maihanī in Northern Khurasan," *Dialogue of the Cultures on the Great Silk Road*, State Institute of Cultural Heritage of Turkmenistan, Central Asia and the East and the Turkmenistan Ministry of Culture, Ashgabat, 11–13 November 2015

- "The Primordial Cycle Revisited: Adam, Eve and the Angels,"** *Angels and Mankind: Nature, Role and Function of Celestial Beings in Near Eastern and Islamic Traditions*, International Conference, Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), 02–04 July 2015
- "Oneiric Horizons and Cross-Cultural Convergences? Şarī Şaltūq Once More,"** *Lieux saints en Méditerranée. Entre partage et partition*, International Conference, MuCEM (Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations), Marseille, 03–05 June 2015
- "Footprints and Miraculous Journeys: The Archetypal Missionary Warrior,"** *Constructing and Contesting Holy Places in Medieval Islam and Beyond*, International Conference, University of Edinburgh, 15–17 June 2015
- "Twelver Shi'i Components in Contemporary Bektashi Visual Piety in the Western Balkans?: A Note on Bektashi Visual Culture,"** Eötvös Loránd University, Department of Iranian Studies, 12 February 2015
- "The Iconography of Cosmic Rulership in the Medieval Islamic World,"** *Insignes et lieux de pouvoir*, Histoire et archéologie de l'Islam et de la Méditerranée médiévale, Institut de recherche sur Byzance, l'Islam et la Méditerranée au Moyen Âge (IRBIMMA), Sorbonne, Paris, 14 January 2015
- "Ganymede and the Eagle': Variations of an Airborne Theme in the Iranian World?,"** *The Visual World of Persianate Culture*, International Conference, University of Edinburgh, 24–26 October 2014
- "On the Iconographic Theme and the Cross-Cultural Diffusion of the 'Sēnmurv',"** The 1st Conference of the European Association for Asian Art and Archaeology, Palacký University Olomouc, 25–27 September 2014
- "Vestiges of the Ourobóros in the Medieval Islamic Visual Tradition,"** 9th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE), University of Basel, 09–13 June 2014
- "Iconographic Expressions of Muslim Mysticism: The Case of the Western Balkans,"** NEC-Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest, 21 May 2014
- "The Interplay of the Angels and the Prophet Muḥammad in the Earliest Images of the Prophet in Islamic Art,"** 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, College of Arts and Sciences, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, 08–11 May 2014

"Towards a Pluridimensional Reading of Some Symbols and Imageries Employed by Present-Day Mystical Confraternities in the Western Balkans," Annual Meeting of EURIAS Fellows, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, 25–26 April 2014

"The Dragon Fighter in Eastern Christian and Islamic Art," American University of Beirut (AUB) Archaeological Museum, Beirut, 26 March 2014

"The Itinerant Antinomian Dervish: Reflections in 16th- and 17th-Century Mughal Miniatures in the Context of Indo-Iranian Traditions," Historical & Cultural (Indo-Persian) Relations of India, Iran and Central Asia: Centuries of Continuity, International Conference, Department of Persian, Guwahati University, Assam, 06–08 February 2014

"Monsters as Bearers of Life-Giving Powers? Trans-Religious Migrations of an Ancient Western Asian Symbolism (9th to 14th Century CE)," Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, 04 February 2014

"Animals as Agents of Symbolic Metamorphoses in the External (Dis)guise of the Antinomian Dervish in Pre-Modern Visual Culture," Le bestiaire des prophètes et des saints de l'islam, International Workshop organized by CNRS, GSRL and CETOBAC, Collège de France, Paris, 06 December 2013

(with M. Tütüncü) **"Balkanlarda Yaşayan Sarı Saltuk: Günümüzde Sarı Saltuk'un Balkan Ülkelerindeki önemi ve algısı üzerine,"** Balkanlara Gidişinin 750. Yılında: Uluslararası Sarı Saltuk Gazi Sempozyumu organized by T.C. Trakya Üniversitesi and Tika T.C. Başbakanlık, Constanta, 6–10 November 2013

"Further Notes on the Setting for the Veneration of Şarī Şaltūq Dede," Scientific Readings in the Memory of Usein Bodaninskiy in Bakchisaray, Crimea, Ukraine, CRI "Bakhchisaray Historical and Cultural Preserve" and the Institute of Archaeology of the Ukraine (NAS), Bakhchisaray, Crimea, 23–27 October 2013

"Pilgrimage as Muslim Religious Commemoration: The Case of Ajvatovica in Bosnia-Herzegovina," *Muslim Pilgrimage in Europe*, Workshop, University of Bergen, Centre for Middle East and Islamic Studies, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, 03–04 October 2013

- "Contemporary Bektashi Visual Piety in the Western Balkans,"** Sixth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), Bosniak Institute (Bošnjački Institut), Sarajevo, 02–06 September 2013
- "Symbolic Characteristics of the Practice of Spiritual Retreat (*Khalwa*) in the Teachings of Sayyid Yaḥyā al-Shirwānī al-Bākūbī and His Spiritual Lineage,"** Proceedings in Celebration of the 550th Anniversary of the Birth of Seyyid Yahya Bakuvi, National Academy of Sciences Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, 02–03 July 2013
- "Ungeheuer als Träger lebensspendender Macht? Transreligiöse Migrationen einer alten Symbolik im Vorderen Orient (9.–14. Jh.),"** Department of Art History, University of Vienna, 19 February 2013
- "Escaping the "Jaws of Death": Some Visual Conceptualisations in Late Medieval Islamic and Eastern Christian Art,"** Orient Institut Beirut (OIB), 22 January 2013
- "On Beauty in the 'Illuminist Vision' of Suhrawardī Maqtūl,"** *Aesthetics of the Sublime: Religious Texts and Rhetorical Theory*, invited speaker, International Workshop, Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB) and Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context" (Heidelberg University), Cairo, 15–17 December 2012
- "The Jaws of Life or of Death in Islamic and Eastern Christian Art (10th–13th Centuries),"** The Ninth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, The International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS) and the Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF), Istanbul, 01–05 August 2012
- "The Lupine Steppe Dragon Revisited: Its Representative Role on 3rd- to 1st-Century BC Pastoral Paraphernalia from Rostov Province to South Central and Western Siberia,"** 55th Annual Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC), Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, 22–27 July 2012
- "The Dragon in Medieval Islamic Astrology and Its Indian and Iranian Influences,"** *India-Mongol Relations – Some Unexplored Areas of Research*, The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, 01–04 February 2012
- "The Dragon in Transcultural Skies: Its Celestial Aspect in the Medieval Islamic World,"** *Spirits in Transcultural Skies*, International Workshop, Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context," University of Heidelberg, 30 June–02 July 2011

"The Tilework of the Mausoleum of the Great Shaykh Abū Saʿīd ibn Abī 'I-Khair Maihanī in Northern Khurasan," *The Ancient Material Culture of Turkmenistan and Its Place in the Development of World Civilization*, State Institute of Cultural Heritage of Turkmenistan, Central Asia and the East, Ashgabat, 07–08 March 2011

"The *Makara* and the *Yaksha* in Kushan-Period Gandhara," *The European Association of South Asian Archaeology and Art (EASAA)*, University of Vienna, Department of Art History, 04–10 July 2010

"The Dragon Fighter: The Influence of Zoroastrian Ideas on Judaeo-Christian and Islamic Iconography," *Zoroastrianism in the Levant*, ARAM Twenty Eighth International Conference, University of Oxford, The Oriental Institute, 05–07 July 2010

"The Reliefs of the Çifte Minare Madrasa at Erzurum as Image Vehicles of Islamic and East Christian Artistic Transfer?," *Cultural and Artistic Transfer in the Christian Middle East. Beyond Byzantium: Interdisciplinary and Transcultural Perspectives*, Society for Renaissance Studies and the University of York, 15–17 July 2010

"Towards the Devouring and Issuing Aspect of the Dragon Iconography in the Iranian World, the Caucasus and Eastern Anatolia/Jazira from the 10th to the 13th Century: Some Preliminary Reflections," panel "The Turkic World, the Caucasus and Iran–Crossroads of Civilizational Interaction," organized by *Iran and the Caucasus* (Brill), the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, and the National Academy of Sciences, RA, Yerevan, 10–12 July 2009

"Towards the Serpent-Dragon Iconography in the Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex," invited speaker, *The Turkmen Land as a Centre of Ancient Cultures and Civilizations*, State Institute of Cultural Heritage of Turkmenistan, Central Asia and the East and the Turkmenistan Ministry of Culture, Ashgabat, 01–03 October 2008

"Tilework on 12th- to 14th-Century Funerary Monuments in Urgench (Gurganj)," invited speaker, *Kunya Urgench: Resources and Partnerships for Preservation and Conservation of World Heritage in Central Asia*, The Turkmenistan National Commission for UNESCO, Ashgabat and Kunya Urgench (World Heritage site), Ashgabat, 01–03 May 2006

Conferences and Panels Organized or Chaired / Exhibitions

Convener, paper presentation, artists' panel, and discussant of **Art, Aesthetics and Islamic Mysticism: Contemporary Perspectives**. Drawing on recent methodological tendencies inspired by the 'aesthetic turn', this two-day interdisciplinary conference will focus on the aesthetic engagement of contemporary artists with Sufi practices, rituals, and discourses. The conference is convened by the Department for Interreligious Dialogue, Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, and the Center for Islamic Theology (ZITh), Tübingen University, 30–31 March 2023

Spuren des Sufismus in Europa/Traces of Sufism in Europe, Photo Exhibition Sara Kuehn at the Department of Islamic Theological Studies, University of Vienna, 15 March-14 April 2023
<https://spurensufismuseuropa.univie.ac.at/>

Convener, paper presentation, and panel chair of "**Sensing the Divine: Relics, Remains and Traces in Medieval Islam**," 6th Forum Medieval Art "Sinne / Senses" in cooperation with the Department of Art History, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, 29 September–3 October 2022
[file:///C:/Users/Sara/Downloads/220912Programmheft_Mittelalter_screen%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Sara/Downloads/220912Programmheft_Mittelalter_screen%20(2).pdf)

Collaborator at **Paylaşılan Kutsal Mekânlar / Shared Sacred Spaces**: exhibition and workshop, Anadolu Kültür, in collaboration with the French Institute and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Cermodern in Ankara, 3 May–4 July 2021. The "Shared Sacred Spaces" project highlights the multisensory experience of pilgrimage, as seen through the lens of the three major Abrahamic religions
<https://www.anadolukultur.org/35-duyurular/1347-paylasilan-kutsal-mekanlar-sergisi-ankarada/>

Convener, paper presentation, artists' panel, and discussant of **Female Visions: The Religious Visual Culture of Contemporary Female Islamic Mysticism**. Drawing on recent literature regarding the visual-material turn in the study of religion, this conference assessed the role of women in Sufism in a three-day international interdisciplinary conference in collaboration with the Center of Islamic Theology, University of Tübingen, the Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, and the Institut d'ethnologie méditerranéenne européenne et comparative (IDEMEC) / Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Stuttgart-Hohenheim, 3–5 of April (postponed), rescheduled 16–18 October 2020.
Conference website <https://www.akademie-rs.de/visions>

Panel chair and discussant, panel on "**Religionsästhetische und -philosophische Überlegungen (Aesthetics and Philosophy of Religion: Some Considerations)**": international workshop *Mit der Zeit gehen: Chancen und Herausforderungen einer Alevitischen Theologie in Europa (Move with the times: Opportunities and Challenges of an Alevi Theology in Europe)*, Department of Islamic Theological Studies, University of Vienna, 5–7 February 2020

Die visuelle Welt von transgender Personen im Islam: Darstellungen und Einblicke in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart / The Visual World of Transgender Persons in Islam: Re-Presentations and Insights in Past and Present: Department of Art and Cultural Studies, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, 3 December 2019

Collaborator at **Paylaşulan Kutsal Mekânlar / Shared Sacred Spaces**: exhibition and workshop, DEPO İstanbul, Tophane, 20 April 2019
<https://www.depoistanbul.net/event/paylasilan-kutsal-mekanlar/>

Gender, Religion und visuelle Kultur im Islam / Gender, Religion and Visual Culture in Islam: workshop at the Department of Art and Cultural Studies, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, 11 December 2018

Co-organizer with Gabriel S. Reynolds, Ahmed Ouldali, and Mathias B. Savadogo, **Prophéties et Sainteté en Islam**: International Colloquium, The Nantes Institute for Advanced Study and Lieu Unique, Nantes, keynote speaker Pierre Lory, 13–14 March 2018
<http://ipra.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/programme-et-resumes-atelier-propheties-et-saintetes-en-islam-13-et-14-mars-2018.pdf>

Collaborator at **Confluence of Faiths: Shared Sacred Spaces**: exhibition and workshop, Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museum of Photography Thessaloniki, and Yeni Cami, 23 September–31 December 2017 as well as the 2017 Thessaloniki Biennale, 30 September 2017–14 January 2018
https://biennale6.thessalonikibiennale.gr/en/event/koinoi_ieroi_topoi

Co-organizer and chair with Hans-Peter Pökel, panel on **The Angels of Babylon and the 'Demonic Mimesis' of Temptation. Hārūt and Mārūt in (the Light of) Near Eastern Traditions**: International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), Berlin, 07–11 August 2017

Co-organizer with Stefan Leder and Hans-Peter Pökel, **Angels and Mankind: Nature, Role and Function of Celestial Beings in Near Eastern and Islamic Traditions**:

international conference with 18 presentations at the Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), the Monastery of Balamand and the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology, University of Balamand (UOB), Koura, 02–04 July 2015
<https://www.orient-institut.org/events/event-details/angels-and-mankind-nature-role-and-function-of-celestial-beings-in-near-eastern-and-islamic-tradit/>

Co-organizer with by Dionigi Albera and Manoël Pénicaud, ***Lieux saints en Méditerranée. Entre partage et partition***, international conference with 18 presentations, at the Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (MuCEM), Marseille, 03–05 June 2015
<https://idemec.cnrs.fr/spip.php?article616&lang=fr>

Ongoing Research Projects

1. ***Contemporary Art and Sufi Aesthetics in European Context***

Research project conducted in the framework of a research fellowship granted by the Academy for Islam in Science and Society (AIWG) at the Goethe University in Frankfurt funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Stiftung Mercator [grant number 3309010003]
2021-2022

Organized within the framework of Sara Kuehn's fellowship:
international conference "Art, Aesthetics and Islamic Mysticism: Contemporary Perspectives", convened by the Centre for Islamic Theology (ZITh), University of Tübingen, and the Department for Interreligious Dialogue, Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, 30–31 March 2023

Outcome: 1 international conference, 3 conference presentations, 1 peer-reviewed journal article, 1 journal article, 1 edited volume: Art, Aesthetics and Islamic Mysticism: Contemporary Perspectives (preliminary title)

2. ***The Visual Culture of Sufism in France and in Germany*** (SufiVisual)

Research project conducted in the framework of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon 2020–EU.1.3.2. – Nurturing excellence by means of cross-border and cross-sector mobility / European Commission [Project ID: 794958]
2018-2020

Outcome: 1 international conference, 1 workshop, 14 conference presentations, 2 peer-reviewed journal articles, 2 book chapters, 1 edited volume (forthcoming), 1 monograph (forthcoming)

3. **Gender and Islam**

Female Spiritual Visions: The Religious Visual Culture of Contemporary Female Islamic Mysticism (provisional title)

Collective volume edited by Sara Kuehn and Amila Buturovic (Women and Gender series, Leiden: Brill)

which developed out of the international conference "Female Visions: The Religious Visual Culture of Contemporary Female Islamic Mysticism"

16–18 October 2020, Stuttgart, organized in the framework of Sara Kuehn's research project "The Visual Culture of Sufism in France and in Germany"

convened by the Institut d'ethnologie méditerranéenne, européenne et comparative (IDEMEC) / Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Centre for Islamic Theology (ZITh), University of Tübingen, und the Department for Interreligious Dialogue, Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart

Conference website <https://www.akademie-rs.de/visions>

Outcome: 1 international conference, 4 conference presentations, 3 peer-reviewed book chapters, 1 edited volume

4. **Materiality of Religion**

Research project and fieldwork on the visual and material culture of Sufism in Central and Southeastern Europe (Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Novi Pazar Sandžak in Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, the Dobruja, Romania, and the Crimea, Ukraine) [MOEL-477] funded by the Austrian Research Foundation/Österreichische

Forschungsgemeinschaft (ÖFG)

2011–2012

Outcome: 4 peer-reviewed book chapters, 3 journal articles, 18 conference presentations

5. **Angels in Islam**

Research project conducted in the framework of a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Orient-Institut Beirut der Max Weber Stiftung (OIB), Beirut

2015–2019

The Intermediate Worlds of Angels. Islamic Representations of Celestial Beings in Transcultural Contexts

Collective volume edited by Sara Kuehn, Stefan Leder and Hans-Peter Pökel

which developed out of the international conference "Angels and Mankind: Nature, Role and Function of Celestial Beings in Near Eastern and Islamic Traditions" (co-

organized with Stefan Leder and Hans-Peter Pökel) at the Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), the Monastery of Balamand and the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology,

University of Balamand (UOB), 2–4 July 2015

Outcome: 1 international conference, 1 conference panel, 4 conference presentations, 3 peer-reviewed book chapters, 1 journal article, 1 edited volume

6. **Shared Sacred Spaces**

Research project conducted in the framework of a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study of Aix-Marseille University – AMU (IMÉRA), Marseille
Since 2015

Holy Sites in the Mediterranean, Sharing and Division

Guest-edited journal by Sara Kuehn, Dionigi Albera and Manoël Pénicaud which developed out of the international conference "Lieux saints en Méditerranée. Entre partage et partition" (co-organized with Dionigi Albera and Manoël Pénicaud), at the Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (MuCEM), Marseille, 03–05 June 2015

Outcome: 4 conference presentations, 4 peer-reviewed journal articles, 4 peer-reviewed book chapters, 1 guest-edited journal

7. **Environmentalism and Ecology in Sufism**

Since 2014

Research Project and fieldwork on the spiritual ecology of Sufism in the Indian Subcontinent (Pakistan, India and Bangladesh Europe) conducted in the framework of a European Institutes for Advanced Study Fellowship Program (EURIAS) / Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship

Outcome: 5 conference presentations and 1 peer-reviewed journal article

8. **The Visual and Material Culture of Sufism in Central and Southeastern Europe**

Fellowships and grants for pilot study and fieldwork on the visual and material culture of Sufism in Central and Southeastern Europe (Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Novi Pazar Sandžak in Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, the Dobruja, Romania, the Crimea, Ukraine and Hungary) funded by the Austrian Research Foundation/Österreichische Forschungsgemeinschaft (ÖFG); the London Academy of Iranian Studies, London; and EURIAS / Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship as part of the EU-funded project EU-Institutions for Advanced Study Fellowship Program (EU-IAS-FP), NEC-Institute for Advanced Study (Junior Fellow)
2011–2015

Outcome: 12 conference presentations, 1 peer-reviewed journal articles, 1 monograph (forthcoming)

9. **Monsters, Hybrids, and Deviants in Western Asia**

Grant by the Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF), London
Since 2011

The Dragon in Medieval East Christian and Islamic Art. With a Foreword by Robert Hillenbrand (Islamic History and Civilization: Studies and Texts 86, Leiden: Brill 2011)
Awarded: 20th Joint World Prize for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2013, issued by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran; 6 international book reviews

Monsters or Bearers of Life-Giving Powers? Trans-Religious Migrations of an Ancient Western Asian Symbolism. With a Foreword by Lokesh Chandra (New Delhi: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts 2016)

Ongoing book projects include a transhistorical study focusing on the riddle of hybridity and species-defying anatomies generally expressed either in mixed animal-human or mixed animal anatomical form in Western Asia, provisionally titled *Monsters, Hybrids, and Deviants in Western Asia (2500 BCE to 650 CE)*.

Outcome: 26 conference presentations, 5 peer-reviewed journal articles, 9 peer-reviewed book chapters, 2 monographs, 1 monograph (forthcoming)

10. ***The Mosaic of Contemporary Sufism in Western Europe***, exhibition project with Manoël Pénicaut and Francesco Piraino

Since 2018

In this frameworks, see ***Spuren des Sufismus in Europa/Traces of Sufism in Europe***, Photo Exhibition Sara Kuehn, at the Department of Islamic Theological Studies, University of Vienna, 15 March-14 April 2023

<https://spurensufismuseuropa.univie.ac.at/>

Commissions of Trust

Since 2014: Expert evaluator, The European Institutes for Advanced Study Fellowship Program (EURIAS) / Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA)

Since 2017: Expert evaluator, French Institutes for Advanced Study Fellowship Program in the four IAS of Paris, Lyon, Marseille, and Montpellier and The Nantes Institute for Advanced Study

Since 2017: Referee, European Research Council (ERC) in the peer review evaluation of research proposals in the framework of the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program

Since 2017: Peer reviewer for the journals *Social Compass*, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, and *Byzantinoslavica*

Since 2021: Expert evaluations for the Research Council of the Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain)

Since 2022: Reviewer for the *Journal of Sufi Studies* (Brill), *Der Islam* (DeGruyter)

Professional Affiliations

Member of: The International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Societas Iranologica Europaea (SIE), Association for Modern and Contemporary Art of the Arab World, Iran, and Turkey (AMCA), and the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), and the European Network for the Study of Islam and Esotericism