

Call for Application

Doctoral Spring School 2019: "Patronage and Clientelism in the Muslim world"

Date: Monday 18 - Friday 22 March 2019,

Venue: Escuela de Estudios Árabes, CSIC, Cuesta del Chapiz, 22.

Granada, Spain.

Application deadline: Friday, 25th of January 2019

The ENIS Spring School intends to address the theme of patronage and clientelism in the Muslim world in its various dimensions. Patronage is a relevant angle from which Islamic practices can be studied. Therefore, we invite doctoral students and Early Stage Researchers working on or being interested in aspects of patronage and clientelism in the Muslim world from different disciplines in humanities and social sciences (history, anthropology, sociology, economics, cultural studies, political sciences, religious studies) to explore and present the relevance of these concepts for their work.

The Granada Spring School will be organized by ENIS (the European Network for Islamic Studies), consisting of: IISMM (EHESS-CNRS), NISIS, CNMS (Marburg University), Freie Universität Berlin, SeSaMO and CSIC (Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean and Escuela de Estudios Árabes)

Requirements for applications

PhD candidate students and advanced MA students, whose research focuses on the study of Muslims, Muslim societies and Islam, in the broadest sense of the word, are invited to apply for participation. The application deadline is Friday, the 25th of January 2019.

Successful applicants will receive the following:

- Participation in the complete programme, including one excursion and a conference dinner.
- Either an allowance of € 500 for travel and housing expenses (please note that this is a maximum!) or travel and housing will be taken in charge (for the applicants at IISMM), depending on the institution.

Please note:

Candidates enrolled at French and Spanish universities are invited to apply at IISMM.

Candidates enrolled in Italian universities are invited to apply at SeSaMO.

Candidates enrolled in Dutch universities are invited to apply at NISIS.

Candidates enrolled in German universities are invited to apply at the CNMS.

Candidates not enrolled at universities in one of these countries are requested to apply at one of the four institutions only.

To apply for participation, please send your application, according to the procedure previously mentioned, to:

Prof. Pascal Buresi (CNRS, EHESS-IISMM): pburesi@ehess.fr, **and cc:** administration.iismm@ehess.fr

Prof. Albrecht Fuess (CNMS/University of Marburg): albrecht.fuess@staff.uni-marburg.de

Prof. Daniela Melfa (SeSaMO president, University of Catania): melfa@unict.it

Prof. Christian Lange (Director NISIS): nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Dr. Mayte Penelas (Director EEA, Granada, CSIC): mpenelas@eea.csic.es

Applications must include the following:

- a CV
- a motivation letter
- a one-page description of your PhD or MA project
- a title and an abstract of 300 words (max.) of your presentation (15 minutes) to be given at the spring school
- a short biography of 50 words (max. in the third person)

*If your application is successful these will be used in the digital program booklet

Please note the following:

Successful applicants must arrange their own visa (if applicable), transport and accommodation (except for the participants through IISMM, whose transport and accommodation will be taken care of).

Theme: 'Patronage and Clientelism in the Muslim world'

The *umma* is the imagined community par excellence in Islam, based on the principle that all Muslims are equal before God. However, this community is not homogeneous. Within the *umma*, there always were many hierarchies between the elites and the people, people of pens and swords, leaders and subjects, craftsmen and peasants, men and women, free persons and slaves. And in the contemporary world the *umma* is cut across by political, national, economic, social and ethnic loyalties. Despite the calls for the unity of the *umma*, there are numerous practices that reproduce internal hierarchies and loyalties. Sometimes these practices can be justified theologically by Koranic instructions to help the poor, the elderly and orphans, or by the proclaimed equality of the faithful. They also refer to a socio-economic or symbolic order that they reinforce. Patronage often enters into an economy of salvation and allows the patron to buy his place in Paradise and legitimise his earthy wealth. Patronage and reciprocity are adjacent concepts. Patron-client relationships are based on various modalities of exchange and reciprocity which imbue these relationships with moral undertones.

One of the modalities of the distinction is patronage, which can take various forms depending on the period and region. For the beginnings of Islam, the *walā'* system allowed the integration of non-Arabs as new converts or freed slaves to participate in the Arab-Muslim conquest and benefit from it, or even to exercise power. In pre-modern Islamic society, where the urban network was developed very early on, the social hierarchy was also manifested by evergetism —founding madrasas, building fountains, hospices, dispensaries or hospitals. It also includes the various expressions of Islamic charity —donations to the community of precious objects, books, land or businesses in the form of mortmain goods (*waqf* or *ḥabūs*), which have played a major role in the social and economic organisation of the Islamic Commonwealth up to the present time. The art market may be the most known example. Since ancient times, men of power and wealth considered it their duty to sponsor arts for various reasons, one motivation being the prestige they earned by showcasing art in their homes. Modern art is often based on the system of individual and institutional patronage as well which influences considerably the vision and structural foundation of artistic and cultural production today.

More recently, it is sponsorship or support for charitable NGOs that has taken over traditional forms of charity and has recently taken up ground abandoned by public services of state institutions.. It is sometimes difficult, however, to distinguish the boundaries and points of interference between evergetism, patronage and clientelism, which is one of its expressions. Patronage and clientelism have taken on new forms in present-day political and socio-economic practices behind the semblance of modernity and meritocracy. The discussions about money flows from rich Muslim countries to Muslims in Western Europe are often based on the assumption that it creates undesirable dependencies and leads to corruption and influence, thereby ignoring that political reciprocity and favouritism is not at all absent in 'modern' societies. Charismatic personalities, with their own network of personal ties, dominate political parties and state apparatuses. Likewise, logics of patronage always undergird the redistribution of services, power, and resources, not only in contemporary rentier states, but in all social formations across the globe.

Convenors:

The organisation of the Granada ENIS Spring School is a joint effort by:

- The Centre for Near and Middle Eastern Studies / Centrum für Nah- und Mittelost-Studien (CNMS), University of Marburg
- L'Institut d'études de l'Islam et des Sociétés du Monde Musulman (IISMM, UMS 2000, CNRS/ EHESS)
- The Netherlands Interuniversity School for Islamic Studies (NISIS)
- The Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean and Escuela de Estudios Arabes
- La Società per gli Studi sul Medio Oriente (SeSaMO)

At the scholarly initiative of:

- Prof. Pascal Buresi (CNRS, EHESS-IISMM)
- Prof. Albrecht Fuess (University of Marburg)
- Dr. Petra de Bruijn (Direction by interim NISIS) and Prof. Christian Lange (Director NISIS)
- Prof. Daniela Melfa (SeSaMO President, University of Catania)
- Dr. Mayte Penelas (Director EEA, Granada, CSIC)