ESR POSITION IN THE MARIE SKŁODOWSKA CURIE ACTION

mediating Islam in the digital age

- Location : **Berlin, Germany**
- Programme : **MSCA-H2020-ITN 813547-MIDA**
- University of enrolment : **Freie Universität Berlin**
- Work package : **Images and Materiality**

CALL FOR POSITION >
EARLY STAGE RESEARCHER 8

The commodification and displacement of *waqf*-portable assets from the 18th c. onwards

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION >

While *waqf*-s (endowments to pious foundations) are considered a central institution in Islam, the formation of Islamic manuscript and art collections worldwide suggests the institution underwent severe dislocation from the late 18th c. onwards. More and more portable artefacts from Islamic foundations were channelled to secular places, such as library and museum holdings, mostly in Europe and the US, but also in the Middle East, where portable assets were systematically relocated to museums or libraries from the 1880s onwards. The modern reconfiguration of tangible heritage collections from and in the Islamic world, whether connected to Orientalist knowledge, the colonial and national invention of tradition or the current reclaiming of Arab heritage by collectors and institutions in the Gulf, offers plenty of evidence for a study of the transformation of a major Islamic institution through its gradual commodification. The process can be observed through the study of selected collections of manuscripts and personal libraries (such as the one assembled by the Egyptian scholar Ahmad Zaki in the early 20th c.), which still exist today. In the past two decades, these holdings experienced another fundamental transformation: large numbers of manuscripts have been digitised (with varying degrees of consideration for copyright). An inquiry into how the availability of these collections has shaped scholarly practices will help us understand how the emergence of a new medium can impact scholarship.

The ESR will be under the supervision of Prof. Konrad Hirschler (Freie Universität Berlin) and co-supervision of Prof. Mercedes Volait (InVisu). External tutor : Monika Hasenmüller (Gotha Research Library).

**Application form on :
www.itn-mida.org**

The applicant is expected to develop his/her own research project within the framework of the position description.
The applicant will interact on a regular basis with the other project partners and cooperate with the other Early Stage Researchers where required. Additionally, travel abroad will be necessary.

Each applicant may apply for up to 3 Early Stage Researchers positions.

SECONDMENT >

- **Gotha Research Library**, University of Erfurt (Monika Hasenmüller)
- **Brill**, Leiden (Nicolette van der Hoek)
- **Cultural Heritage without Borders**, Sarajevo (Adisa Dzino Suta)

Deadline : 1st of June
Candidatures received after the 1st of June will not be considered.

Starting date : ideally in September 2019

REQUIREMENTS >

Essential criteria :
- Master level degree (or equivalent) in History, Social Studies, Middle Eastern Languages and Studies or other similar domains
- ETS TOEFL certificate (min. 600 for paper-based test, 250 for computer-based test, 100 for internet-based test) ; Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English, CPE (any grade) ; Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English, CAE (grade A or B) ; IELTS test (level 7.0)
- Applicants who are native speakers or applicants who have graduated from an English speaking university in a country with English as an official language are exempted from this verification
- Fluency in written Arabic
- Commitment to collaborate in the general development of the project

Desirable criteria :
- Experience in working in an interdisciplinary team
- Experience in working with digital tools in data management
- Relevant MA thesis

BENEFITS >

Successful candidates will receive an attractive salary, based on the Marie Curie Program regulations.

For further information about the project and the position, please contact : **info@mida.org**

Eligibility criteria :
- no residence in Germany for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately preceding the engagement date
- no PhD degree
- less than 4 years of research, Master excluded
- not restricted to EU citizens

Application file :
- copies of degree certificates (Master degree or equivalent)
- curriculum vitæ
- list of publications (if applicable)
- reference letter
- 2-page research proposal
- short motivation letter