



International Conference  
École Française de Rome  
Pontificio Istituto Orientale  
23-26 May 2023, Rome

# ETHIOPIANS ABROAD in the Middle Ages

## Program



PONTIFICIO ISTITUTO  
ORIENTALE



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

**Tuesday 23 May**

**PONTIFICIO ISTITUTO ORIENTALE**  
**Piazza Santa Maria Maggiore, 7**

**15h-15h45:** Visit of the Pontifical Oriental Institute

**15h45-16h15:** Coffee break

**16h15-16h45:** Welcoming address by Fr. David NAZAR (Rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute) and Fr. Rafał ZARZECZNY (Professor at the Pontifical Oriental Institute)

**16h45-17h45:** Keynote by Alessandro BAUSI

*Lost (and Found) in Egypt and the East: The contribution to Ethiopian Studies of  
Johann Michael Wansleben*

**19h:** Reception offered by the École française de Rome at the Palazzo Farnese

Address: *Piazza Farnese*

**Wednesday 24 May**

**ÉCOLE FRANCAISE DE ROME**  
**Piazza Farnese**

**9h:** Welcome at the École Française de Rome

**9h20:** Welcoming address by Vivien PRIGENT (Directeur des Études pour le Moyen Âge, École Française de Rome)

**9h30-10h:** Introduction by Julien LOISEAU (Aix-Marseille Université – ERC HornEast) and Martina AMBU (LabEx Hastec - EPHE LEM)

**SESSION 1: SLAVES AND FREED MEN AND WOMEN (10H-12H20)**

Chair: Alessandro GORI

**10h-10h40:** Sobhi BOUDERBALA (Université de Tunis – ERC HornEast)  
*At the service of Muḥammad: Ethiopian slaves and clients in Mecca and Medina during the first decades of Islam*

**10h40-11h20:** Giuseppe CECERE (Università di Bologna – Alma Mater Studiorum)  
*Ethiopian slaves and Muslim mystics in the Medieval Arab World: case studies and general issues*

**11h20-11h40:** *Coffee break*

**11h40-12h20:** Craig PERRY (Emory University)  
*Objects of Desire and Subjects of Knowledge: Enslaved and Freed Ethiopian Women in Fifteenth-Century Arabia*

**12h30-13h30:** *Lunch*

**13h30-14h15:** Introduction to the exhibition *Islam in Enderta. Two Years of Archaeological Survey and Excavations in Eastern Tigray, Ethiopia.*

## SESSION 2: CULTURAL BROKERS (14H20-18H)

Chair: Anaïs WION

**14h20-15h:** Alessandro GORI (Institut for Tværkulturelle og Regionale Studier – Københavns Universitet)

*An Ethiopian presence in the devotional geography of the Near East: the maqāms of Bilāl b. Rabāḥ*

**15h-15h40:** Sophia DEGE-MÜLLER (Universität Hamburg – Hiob Ludolf Center for Ethiopian Studies)

*The Mäqdāmā Wāngel – tracing its Arabic Vorlage and translation history*

**15h40-16h20:** Zaroui POGOSSIAN (Università degli Studi di Firenze)

*Saint Ewostatewos and Armenia in the Context of Armenian-Ethiopian Interactions*

**16h20-16h40:** *Coffee break*

**16h40-17h20:** Deresse AYENACHEW (I Tatti – The Harvard University Centre for Italian Renaissance Studies)

*The Stephanites abroad: the case of Abunä Ezra the wise*

**17h20-18h:** Mathilde ALAIN (Centre for the Study of the Renaissance at the University of Warwick – Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, Université de Tours)

*Este frade andara em Itália e sabia algum tanto de latim: Ethiopians abroad and Francisco Álvares' travel account*

# Thursday 25 May

## SESSION 3: JERUSALEM (9H-11H00)

Chair: Gianfrancesco LUSINI

**9h-9h40:** Olivia ADANKPO-LABADIE (Université Grenoble Alpes)

*Inventing Ethiopian Pilgrimage to Jerusalem:  
a study of Ethiopic Medieval Narratives and Archives (13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries)*

**9h40-10h20:** Alice CROQ (ANR ChrIs-cross) et Camille ROUXPETEL  
(Université de Nantes)

*Ethiopians in Jerusalem Patriarchates archives (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries)*

**10h20-11h:** Simon DORSO (ERC HornEast – Aix-Marseille Université)

*From Saḥart and Damūt to the Ḥaram al-Sharīf in Jerusalem: hypothetic trajectories  
of Rashīd and Mubāraka, two Ethiopian slaves in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century*

**11h-11h20:** *Coffee break*

## SESSION 4: NETWORKS I - MATERIALITY (11H20-12H40)

Chair: Sophia DEGE-MÜLLER

**11h20-12h:** Awet TEKLEHIMANOT ARAYA (Centre for Islamic  
Archaeology, Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies – University of Exeter  
& Curator of Hajar-Africa)

*The Abyssinian/Ethiopian presence in Medieval Eastern Arabia (7<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> c. AD).  
Reflections from archaeological investigations in Bahrain and the Arabian Gulf*

**12h-12h40:** Timothy INSOLL (Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies –  
University of Exeter)

*Ethiopians in India? An Archaeological Perspective from Islamic Eastern Ethiopia*

**13h-14h:** *Lunch*



## SESSION 5: NETWORKS II - MONASTERIES AND TARIQAS (14H-17H)

Chair: Vivien PRIGENT

**14h-14h40:** Mikael MUEHLBAUER (American Research Center in Egypt)

*Ethiopians at Egyptian Monasteries and Egyptian forms  
in Ethiopian Monasteries circa 1100*

**14h40-15h20:** Zacharie MOCHTARI DE PIERREPONT (FNRS – Université de Liège)

*Ethiopia, Western Arabia, and the Red Sea mystical environment: assessing the spread  
of Sufism within Ethiopian scholarly networks (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> c.)*

**15h20-16h:** Martina AMBU (LabEx Hastec – EPHE LEM) & Samantha KELLY (Rutgers University)

*Ethiopians from Jerusalem, Cairo, and Rome: circulations and exchanges  
(15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries)*

**16h-16h20:** *Coffee break*

**16h20-17h:** Bertrand HIRSCH (Université Paris 1 – Panthéon Sorbonne)

*Ethiopian Monks and Dominicans in the Sixteenth century*

## SESSION 6: NETWORKS III - EMBASSIES (17H-18H20)

Chair: Timothy INSOLL

**17h-17h40:** Verena KREBS (Ruhr-Universität Bochum – Historisches Institut)

*All the King's Men: Italians as Solomonic Ethiopian ambassadors in the 15<sup>th</sup> century*

**17h40-18h20:** Anaïs WION (CNRS – Institut des Mondes Africains, Paris)

*The cost of sending Ethiopian emissaries abroad: a case study (early 16<sup>th</sup> century)*

# Friday 26 May

## SESSION 7: ETHIOPIAN CAIRO (9H-12H15)

Chair: Giuseppe CECERE

**9h-9h40:** Perrine PILETTE (CNRS – Orient & Méditerranée, Paris)

*The many Lives of Matthew I the Poor (1378-1409), from Egypt to Ethiopia*

**9h40-10h20:** Magdi GUIRGUIS (Kafr el-Sheikh University – IFAO)

*The Coptic traditions of writing to Ethiopian kings and bishops, 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries*

**10h20-11h:** Iskandar BCHEIRY (Atla)

*Ethiopians in Egypt and Jerusalem during the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries:  
an examination of four unpublished letters written by the  
Coptic Patriarch John XIII (1484-1524)*

**11h-11h20:** *Coffee break*

**11h20-12h:** Julien LOISEAU (Aix-Marseille Université – ERC HornEast)

*Is there any Ethiopian connection? People from the Horn of Africa  
in late 14<sup>th</sup>-century Cairo*

**12h-12h15:** General Conclusions

**12h30-14h:** *Lunch*

**15h30:** Proposed visit of the *Museo delle Civiltà* (Entrance fee 10 €)

Ill. : Fra Mauro *mappa mundi*  
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