

This workshop brings together scholars from diverse disciplines working on the coastal regions of South Asia and transcultural contacts with the Arab and Mediterranean worlds. It is related to a research project on sources produced by and for the coastal communities of the Malabar Coast as a case study of the emergence of religious demarcation in the Indian Ocean world. The project explores origin legends in Arabic, Malayalam, and Hebrew, for identifying patterns of inter- and intra-religious demarcation. We use literary, linguistic, and content analysis to study cross-communal relations and transregional contacts during a period of significant transformations in global trade and geopolitics.

### Organisers

Ophira Gamliel, University of Glasgow  
Ines Weinrich, University of Münster

### Contact

Institut für Arabistik und Islamwissenschaft  
Schlaunstr. 2  
48143 Münster  
himuje@uni-muenster.de  
Tel.: +49 251 83-24571

### Venue

Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies  
Schlaunstr.2  
2nd floor, Room 225

### Sponsors:

DFG - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft  
Institut für Arabistik und Islamwissenschaft



The workshop is part of the AHRC-DFG grant  
"Hindu-Muslim-Jewish Origin Legends in Circulation  
between the Malabar Coast and the Mediterranean,  
1400s–1800s"  
University of Münster and University of Glasgow  
Principal Investigators Ophira Gamliel (Glasgow)  
and Ines Weinrich (Münster)

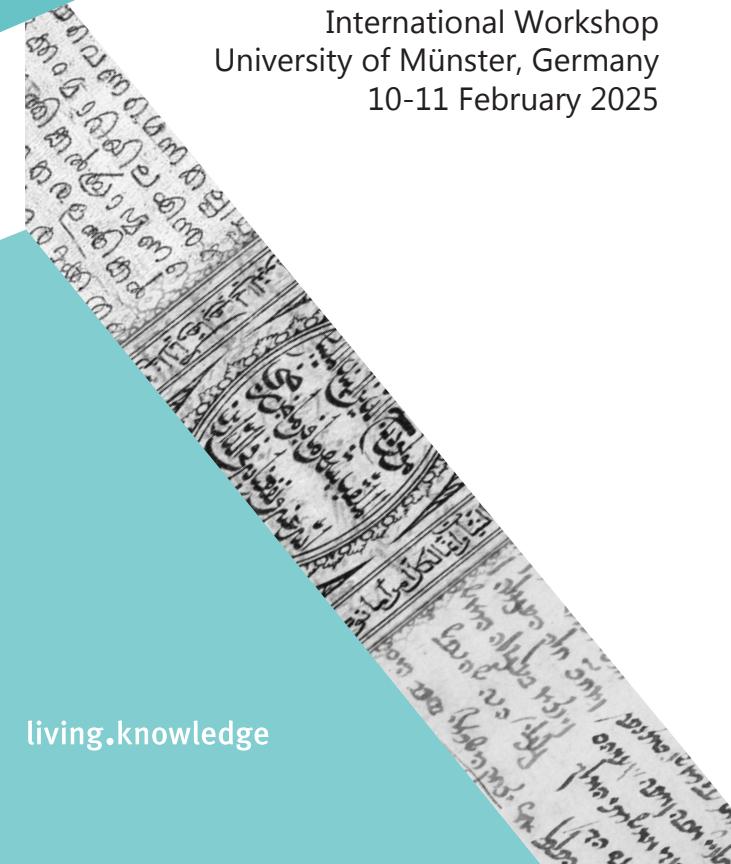
Project website:  
<http://himuje-malabar.glasgow.ac.uk/>



# Language Contact and Cultural Translation between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean

International Workshop  
University of Münster, Germany  
10-11 February 2025

Image credit: Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen & Endangered Archives Programme (British Library) & Bodleian Libraries



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## Monday, 10 February

9.00

Welcome & Introduction

**Ines Weinrich** (Münster)

**Ophira Gamliel** (Glasgow)

9.45 Coffee break

### Panel I: History Telling and the Materiality of Sources

10.00

**Mahmood Kooria** (Edinburgh): Qissas and Utpattis as Social Archives: Patriarchal claims of matrilineal settlements in premodern Malabar

10.40

**Ines Weinrich** (Münster): The Manuscript Context of the *Qışṣat Shakarwatī Farmāz* [Farmāq]

11.20 Coffee break

### Panel II: Textual Intersections and Synergies

11.35

**Verena Klemm** (Leipzig): Two *Ismā‘īlī* Notebooks from Gujarat – opportunities and challenges of research

12.15

**Ophira Gamliel** (Glasgow): Conversion, Translation, and the Split Moon in the *Kēralōlpatti*

12.55 Lunch break

### Panel III: Novel Approaches to Reading Sources

14.30

**Shihan de Silva Jayasuriya** (London): Frescoes as Historical Archives of Social and Cultural History

15.10

**Menashe Anzi** (Beersheba): Magid Hadashot or Chronicles on Yemen and South India in the 17-18 Centuries

15.50 Coffee break

16.05 Roundtable

18.00 Dinner for speakers

## Tuesday, 11 February

9.15 Welcome

### Panel IV: Crafting Identity through Language and Literature

9.30

**Meia Walravens** (Oxford): The Persian Gulf and Arabic in Sultanate India (late 15th century)

10.10

**Abhilash Malayil** (Tirur): The Burden of Being King: Brahma-kṣatra Brahmins and the genesis of a royal apostate in the *Kēralōlpatti* corpus

10.50 Coffee break

### Panel V: Reflections and Patterns in Literature and Language

11.05

**Lennart Bes** (Leiden): Hares Hunting Hounds, Snakes Sheltering Strongmen. Dynastic foundation myths in the Vijayanagara successor states

11.45

**Torsten Tschacher** (Heidelberg): Lost in translation? Studying religion through translation and the pitfalls of culturalization

12.35 Lunch Break

### Panel VI: Knowledge Flows Between India and the Mediterranean

14.00

**Gal Sofer** (Beersheba): From India to Cush: What Does a Fifteenth-Century Italian Physician Have to Do with the Indian Ocean World?

14.40

**Syrinx von Hees** (Münster): The *Bādī‘iyya* by Ghulām ‘Alī Āzād Bilgrāmī (d. 1200/1786)

15.20 Coffee break

15.35 Final discussion

16.30 End

18.00 Dinner for speakers

