

14:30–16:00 Session 6

Chair: Marianna Zarantonello

**Maryam Moazzen** (University of Louisville)  
*Justice and Governance in Two Late  
Safavid Advice Works*

**Delia Cortese** (Middlesex University,  
London)  
*A Sicilian in Ujjain: a reception of Ibn Ḥafar's  
Sulwān al-muṭā' among the Ismaili Da'udi  
Bohras of India*

16:00–16:30 Closing Remarks

19:00 Dinner at Sultan Meze Cuisine

**Venue:**

Department of Islamic History and Culture  
Wilhelmstraße 113  
72074 Tübingen

**Convenor:**

Marianna Zarantonello

[marianna.zarantonello@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:marianna.zarantonello@uni-tuebingen.de)

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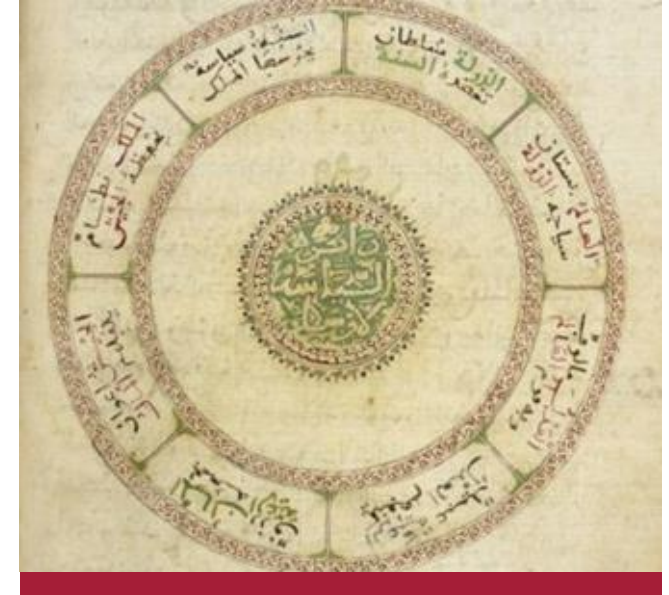


Image credits

Front: Ibn Khaldun, *al-Muqaddima*, MS, British Library,  
Add. 9574, f. 29v.

Back: Ibn Ḥafar al-Siqillī, *Sulwān al-Muṭā' fi 'Udwān al-  
Atbā'*, Doha, Museum of Islamic Art, MS.27.1999, f. 44r.

EBERHARD KARLS  
UNIVERSITÄT  
TÜBINGEN



## Figures of Authority

**Argumentative Strategies,  
Exemplary Motifs, and Narrative  
Patterns in the Political Advice  
Literature of the Premodern  
Islamic World**

International Workshop  
Tübingen, 15-16 June 2026

Faculty of Humanities  
Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies  
Department of Islamic History and Culture



# Program

## Monday, 15 June 2026

9:30–9:45 Arrival and Registration

9:45–10:00 Welcome

10:00–12:15 Session 1

Chair: Regula Forster

**Emily Cottrell and Mohammed Allehbi**

(University of Strasbourg and Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies)

*The Making of the King-Philosopher from Late-Umayyad to Early-Abbasid Chanceries*

**István T. Kristó-Nagy** (University of Exeter)

*Forging Past and Present: Ibn al-Muqaffa's Creative Uses of Notions of a Superior Past*

**Marianna Zarantonello** (University of Tübingen)

*An Anthology of Authority: Mobilizing the Exemplary Past in al-Iskāfi's Luṭf al-tadbīr fī siyāsāt al-mulūk*

12:15–13:30 Lunch break

13:30–15:00 Session 2

Chair: H. Kaveh Kardgar

**Enrico Boccaccini** (University of Jena)  
*Female Figures of Authority: Gendered Argumentative Strategies in Premodern Islamic Mirrors for Princes*

**Negin Yavari** (Columbia University, New York)

*The Anonymous Baḥr al-fawā'id as a Mirror to Political Change*

15:00–15:30 Coffee break

15:30–17:00 Session 3

Chair: H. Kaveh Kardgar

**Louise Marlow** (Wellesley College)  
*Changing Meanings of Figures of Authority across Recensions: Examples from some early thirteenth-century Persian mirrors*

**Petra G. Schmidl** (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

*Prognostics as advice at court: Examples from Rasūlid Yemen*

19:00 Dinner at Neckarmüller

## Tuesday, 16 June 2026

9:30–11:00 Session 4

Chair: Katarina Roberts

**Laura Tribuzio** (UCLouvain)

*Authority and Counsel in the Būstān al-'Uqūl: Persian Reworkings of the Epistle on Animal*

**Philip Bockholt** (University of Münster)  
*Adapting Wisdom: Narratives, Motifs, and Morality in Turkish Translations of the Qābūs-nāma*

11:00–11:30 Coffee break

11:30–13:00 Session 5

Chair: Katarina Roberts

**Linda T. Darling** (The University of Arizona)  
*Mirrors in Transition: Mustafa Ali's Counsel for Sultans of 1581*

**Habib Saçmalı** (Marmara University, Istanbul)  
*A Dialogue of Persuasion: Advocating Peace and Reform to Sultan Ahmed III in Sual-i Osmanî, Cevab-ı Nasranî*

13:00–14:30 Lunch break