



CEFREPA Newsletter January/February 2024

ARABIC TRAINING COURSES



Intensive Arabic Language Course

Gulf specialization

Levels B2 & C1

January, 2024 at Kuwait

CEFREPA organized two intensive Arabic courses in January 2024 for two levels, B2 and C1. For each level, there were standard Arabic courses, Gulf dialect courses and courses in the history of the Arabian Peninsula and Arab civilization. These internships offered the students who participated a total immersion in the Arabic language and culture for 60 hours, in addition to cultural visits and educational activities organized by CEFREPA.

40 students from different universities in Europe and France, majority from INALCO, universities of Rennes 2, Aix-Marseille, Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3, ENS Lyon & Sciences Po in addition to other European universities (Geneva, Vienna, and Napoli) participated in both Intensive Arabic Language Training Courses level B2 & C1 throughout the whole month of January 2024.

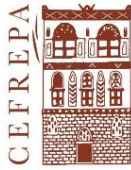
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Intensive specialized language and cultural training courses on the contemporary Gulf were organized by CEFREPA in partnership with INALCO. The first course for level B2 took place from January 7 to 16, 2024, and the second (level C1) took place from January 21 to 30, 2024.

The Standard Arabic courses were accompanied by courses in Gulf dialect and a course in Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Geopolitics, Archaeological and Artistic heritage). These intensive courses took place over one month at the Center in Kuwait City.

During the month of January, a series of visits to DAI library, Bait Al Arab, Tarek Rajab museum, Failaka Island... and also meetings with Kuwaiti personalities and university and research frameworks were also organized.

SEMINAR



Séminaire en islamologie

Le renouvellement de la pensée religieuse en islam à l'époque contemporaine : nouvelles perspectives de recherche en islamologie

Organisé par Makram Abbès (Directeur du Cefrepa/Koweït) & Mehdi Berriah (Chercheur Ifpo/Jérusalem)



Seminar in Islamology

“The renewal of religious thought in Islam in contemporary times: new research perspectives in Islamology”

A new monthly seminar has recently been set up by Makram Abbès (Director du Cefrepa/Koweït) & Mehdi Berriah (Researcher Ifpo/Jérusalem).

This seminar aims to publicize the work of researchers in Islamic studies who, through their

themes and approaches, contribute to the renewal of the field of study on Muslim thought from a perspective that is both diachronic (study of the doctrines of the past) and synchronic (theoretical positioning in relation to the writings of contemporary scholars). Organized by two Umifre-s (CEFREPA and IFPO) which cover 12 Arab countries, the seminar also aims to identify the voices of renewal of readings and interpretations, to make them known to the French and Western public, and to engage in a fruitful dialogue on common objects of study.

See the complete program: <https://cefrepa.cnrs.fr/2024/01/15/le-renouvellement-de-la-pensee-religieuse-en-islam-a-lepoque-contemporaine-nouvelles-perspectives-de-recherche-en-islamologie/>

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Particular interest was paid to new theorizations of theological-religious concepts, to the analysis of the construction or deconstruction of the sacred as well as to specific questions which have been the subject of debate for several decades now (relationship between politic/religion, secularism, human rights, war and peace, veil, halal, etc.).

Many specialists working in Western or Arab-Muslim contexts were called upon to intervene on these subjects, as the issues addressed today have a global dimension, due to major mutations and global upheavals of a political, economic or technological nature which have affected Muslim societies and Muslim minorities in the West. These situations have led scholars and intellectuals to question their destiny, and to propose new approaches to the classical Islamic corpus in the light of today's context, by increasingly integrating new tools from the human and social sciences. Various recent works relating to the founding texts as well as the facts of religion and society have sparked – and still spark – a number of debates, thus contributing to the renewal of contemporary Muslim thought. By making them known through this seminar and the exchanges it will generate, the public is able to glimpse new perspectives of research in the field of Muslim thought, and closely follow the intellectual dynamics at work in the different academic circles of the East and the West.

ANNOUNCEMENT



New French-Kuwaiti Archaeological Mission of Failaka devoted to the study of the Fortress and the Hellenistic Site.

Franco-Kuwaiti cooperation in the field of archaeology and heritage was recently strengthened with the signing of a new agreement between the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters and Mathilde Gelin (research fellow at the Arscan-CNRS laboratory, associated with CEFREPA). This agreement concerns the preservation

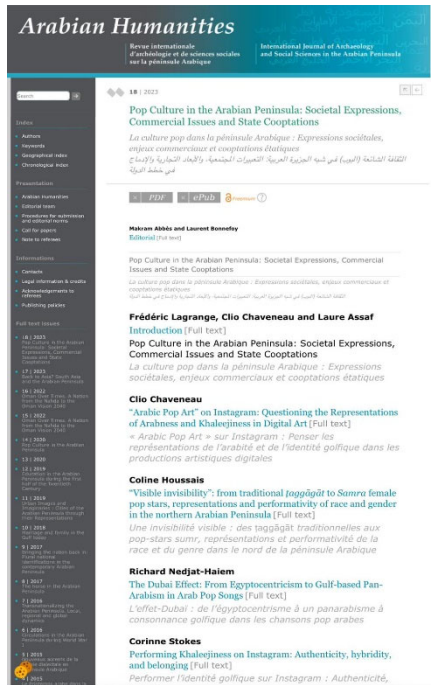
of the Hellenistic fortress and the study of the site, which is the strongest witness to the presence of Hellenistic culture in the Gulf region.

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The CEFREPA is delighted with the increase in the number of French archaeological missions in Kuwait, and with the existence, from now on, of two teams working, one on the site of al-Qusûr and the other on the site of the Hellenistic fortress. The establishment of this mission will enable French researchers to continue their work on the Hellenistic period in the Gulf, of which Failaka is the only major witness to date.

The mission is dedicated to what the Greeks "on Alexander's orders" called "Ikaros" when they saw Failaka, as reported by the historian Arrian. It focused on studying the culture that would emerge on the island following the installation of a garrison of Alexander the Great's army there, and the establishment of a branch of the Seleucid dynasty that would develop a culture at the crossroads of East and West. The result was a major ethnic and cultural melting pot, the traces of which are still visible on the site. The mission will focus on these aspects and, above all, on preserving and safeguarding the remains, in order to enhance the value of this exceptional heritage. In synergy with the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and the Department of Antiquities and Museums, this new mission will enrich scientific and cultural cooperation between France and Kuwait

PUBLICATIONS



Arabian Humanities – International Journal of Archeology and Social Sciences in the Arabian Peninsula - N.18/2023

« *Pop Culture in the Arabian Peninsula: Societal Expressions, Commercial Issues and State Cooptations* »

March, 2024

A new Issue N.18 of the Arabian Humanities Journal “« *Pop Culture in the Arabian Peninsula: Societal Expressions, Commercial Issues and State Cooptations* » is OUT!

<https://journals.openedition.org/cy/11027>

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Frédéric Lagrange, Clio Chaveneau et Laure Assaf

[Introduction](#)

Pop Culture in the Arabian Peninsula: Societal Expressions, Commercial Issues and State Cooptations

Clio Chaveneau

[“Arabic Pop Art” on Instagram: Questioning the Representations of Arabness and Khaleejiness in Digital Art](#)

Coline Houssais

[“Visible invisibility”: from traditional *taggāgāt* to *Samra* female pop stars, representations and performativity of race and gender in the northern Arabian Peninsula](#)

Richard Nedjat-Haiem

[The Dubai Effect: From Egyptocentrism to Gulf-based Pan-Arabism in Arab Pop Songs](#)

Corinne Stokes

[Performing Khaleejiness on Instagram: Authenticity, hybridity, and belonging](#)

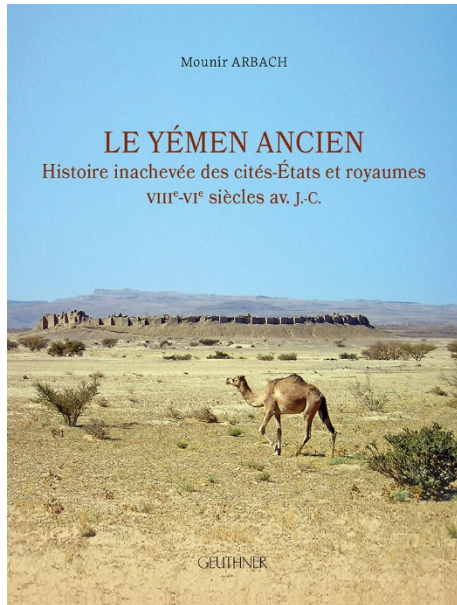
Frédéric Lagrange

[Ma fi gerger ziyada: the South Asian Character in Gulf Cultural Productions](#)

Laure Assaf

[Girls' Fashion and Khaleeji Pop Culture: The cultural fortunes of the *gambū'a*, from hairdo to Internet meme](#)

PUBLICATIONS



THE ANCIENT YEMEN

Unachieved history of the city-states and kingdoms VIII-VI centuries BC by Mounir ARBACH

The military conquests carried out by the kingdom of Saba' at the beginning of the 7th century BC caused the gradual disappearance of city-states in South Arabia through their integration into larger kingdoms. Those of the Jawf region were annexed by the kingdoms of Saba' and Ma'īn; those southern highlands are now in the orbit of Qatabān and Ḥaḍramawt, in the sixth century BC.

From this period of formation of the city-states and kingdoms of South Arabia was born the idea of this book, a true inventory of research on the history of ancient Yemen between the 8th and 6th centuries BC. It offers a historical reconstruction based on a

relative chronology of events and reigns, in the light of the latest discoveries and on solid data, mainly epigraphic and archaeological.

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Cradle of a flourishing civilization, Yemen was endowed from the beginning of the 1st millennium BC of a specific political, religious and social system. During this period of formation and constitution of South Arabian city-states and kingdoms, South Arabia was marked by the presence of multiple political entities composed of cities/tribes, the most documented of which are from the region of Jawf – Nashshān, Kamna, Haram, Inbba', Qarnā. They shared, in addition to a common language, Minaic, a religious iconography of Mesopotamian inspiration unique in Arabia. Each of them had its monarchical institution, its own pantheon and its social organization.

Mounir Arbach, research director at CNRS, is an epigraphist and historian of South Arabia before Islam. Affiliated to the French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula in Kuwait, he is currently on mission to Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, where he has led the Franco-Omani Epigraphic Prospecting Mission since 2021. For around thirty years, he has carried out long stays and numerous field missions in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and currently in Oman. Author/co-author and co-editor of around fifteen scientific works, he has also published more than a hundred articles appearing in international scientific and popular journals.



The French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula

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