



CEFREPA Newsletter November/December 2024

SYMPOSIUM



“Food cultures in the Arabian Peninsula between traditions, innovations and challenges”

November 4-5, 2024 at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi

A symposium titled “Food cultures in the Arabian Peninsula between traditions, innovations and challenges” took place on November 4-5, 2024 at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi in partnership with CEFREPA, Sorbonne University & Sorbonne University-Abu Dhabi.

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The aim of this symposium was to explore food cultures in the Arabian Peninsula over an extended historical period using a multidisciplinary approach, with the goal of highlighting transformations and current challenges, particularly regarding public health, and to propose potential solutions.

This event marked the launch of the Sorbonne Université Alliance's multidisciplinary "Food" Initiative, which brings together around forty colleagues from Sorbonne Université's three faculties (Humanities, Sciences and Engineering, Health), the Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN), CELSA, INSEAD, and INSPE.

The symposium also seeks to foster connections with local scholars by inviting them to participate in the call for papers, discussions, and roundtables, with the aim of establishing long-term partnerships, developing a structured network, and promoting international mobility for both faculty and researchers, as well as doctoral students.

Lastly, the event included an "open science" component to share research with the general public through two dedicated outreach events.

SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION



Exhibition & Symposium

50 YEARS OF SHARED HISTORY: CELEBRATING UNITED ARAB EMIRATES-FRANCE FRIENDSHIP

Wednesday 6 November – Sunday 8 December | Library, SUAD Campus

Wednesday 6 November | Exhibition Inauguration: 10:30 am
Symposium: 11:30 am

“50 Years of shared history: celebrating United Arab Emirates–France friendship”

November 6, 2024 at SUAD campus- United Arab Emirates

A captivating exhibition from November 6, 2024 to December 8, 2024 proposed by H.E. Nicolas Niemtchinow, Ambassador of France to the UAE, in collaboration with the French Institute in the UAE and the National Library and Archives and CEFREPA took place in SUAD campus. This exhibition showcased a rich array of both French and Emirati archives, illustrating the exceptional partnership that has developed over many years, long before the opening of the first French embassy in 1974.

LECTURE - LES MARDIS DU CEFREPA



Screening and presentation of the documentary film *Monumenting* with Anahi Alviso-Marino (film director), Deema Alghunaim, Lolwa AlKandari and Zahra Almahdi (participants in the film)

November 19, 2024 at CEFREPA

The French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula (CEFREPA) organized a presentation entitled “Screening and presentation of the documentary film *Monumenting*” with Dr. Anahi Alviso-Marino on November 19, 2024.

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This session was dedicated to the screening of *Monumenting* (in-progress). As monuments continue to be toppled, relocated and reassessed all over the world, this documentary took us to Kuwait City, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sanaa, questioning what a monument is and asking what a monument could be. Following the screening, Anahi Alviso-Marino, Deema Alghunaim, Lolwa AlKandari and Zahra Almahdi talked about the film, the research journey of its making and playing as research.

CONFERENCE-DEBATE



Islam in Europe: complex conversations with secularization and institutions

November 27, 2024 at CEFREPA

The CEFREPA hosted on November 27, 2024 a rich and captivating conference/Debate entitled: «Islam in Europe: complex conversations with secularization and institutions» with Dr. Michael Privot in presence of the Ambassador of France in Kuwait Mr. Olivier Gauvin.

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The increasing presence in Europe, specifically in North-West Europe, over the last 60 years have brought up many challenging questions for both Muslim communities and their leaders as well as for institutions, from the local to the European levels, on how to apprehend this complex, multilayered and decentralized phenomenon. Whereas Muslims have repeatedly expressed strong concerns about the negative impacts of modernity and secularization on Islam, the very growth of Islam, its profusion of trends and varieties, its “liquidity” in adapting to 27 different national contexts is specifically linked to the high level compatibility

of its DNA with secularization/secularism. The conference discussed how to bring interesting insights in this complexity through the eyes of one committed participant to this adventure.

Dr. Michaël Privot is a trained scholar in the field of Islamic Studies, from the University of Liège (Belgium), where he serves as scientific collaborator at the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Migration (CEDEM). His doctoral researches were articulating the fields of philology, codicology, Islamic classical philosophy and tasawwuf. He later explored issues linked to identities of European Muslims, liberal theology and radicalization. He is recognized as a voice that matters in Belgium and European Islam. He has authored a number of books and papers, including on Imamate in Europe. He currently serves as Board Member of the Muslim Council of Belgium, the official representative body of the Muslim cult in Belgium. In his daily life, Michael is a consultant in D&I as well as public diplomacy.

LAUNCH OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN NCCAL, CEFREPA, and ARCHAÏOS



A collaboration between NCCAL, CEFREPA, and ARCHAÏOS was launched on December 5, 2024 at CEFREPA

A great evening with Dr. Muhammad Al-Jassar, SG of NCCAL, and Ambassador Olivier Gauvin, marking the launch of a collaboration between NCCAL, CEFREPA and ARCHAÏOS to train experts in Kuwait on restoring and preserving historical heritage buildings.

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The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and the French “ARCHAÏOS” Foundation participated in an innovative training program specializing in the restoration and preservation of historical heritage buildings, organized by CEFREPA and in the presence of H.E Dr. Muhammad Al-Jassar, General-Secretary of the Council and Mr. Olivier Gauvin, Ambassador of France to Kuwait.

Dr. Makram Abbes, Director of the Center, explained that this program specializes in the restoration and preservation of historical heritage buildings. This program also aims to provide Kuwaiti architects and archaeologists with the skills and tools to investigate historical buildings and architectural heritage.

This initiative is an important step in strengthening scientific and cultural cooperation between Kuwait and France and confirms the commitment of the two countries to preserving and enhancing heritage.

GLOBAL SEMINAR



Diriyah Global Seminar: "The Crossroads of Trade and Tradition: Diriyah and Central Arabia's Role in Global Exchange"

December 8-9, 2024 at Riyadh

The French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula, represented by its director Dr. Makram Abbes and four associated researchers, Dr. Philippe Pétriat (Paris1-Panthéon Sorbonne), Dr. Stephen McPhilipps (CNRS), Dr. Jérémie Schiettecatte (CNRS) and Camille Bougault (Phd student) participated on December 8 and 9, 2024, in the Diriyah International Global Seminar, where several discussions and lectures were held and an elite group of experts and researchers gathered to review the legacy of Diriyah and the central region, which made them a center for cultural and commercial exchange throughout the ages. The CEFREPA's panel addressed the topic "Globalizing Markets of Diriyah and Central Arabia".

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



On the Roads of Arabia. Itinerary by land and sea.

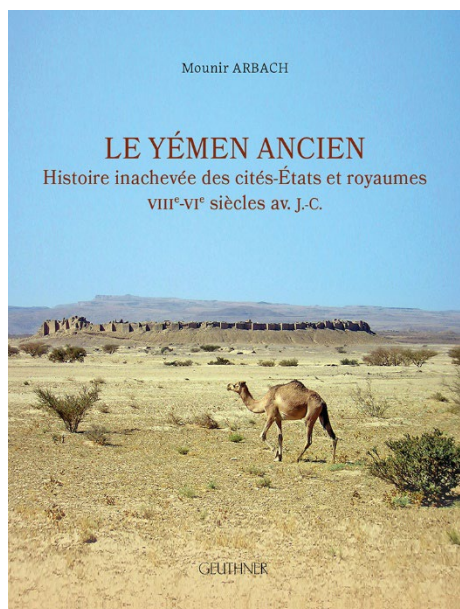
December 12, 13 & 14, 2024 at Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA), Paris

An international conference entitled “On the Roads of Arabia. Itinerary by land and sea” has been held on 12-13-14 December 2024 at Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA), Paris and was organized by Routes de l’Orient, l’Institut du monde arabe & ARCHAÏOS in partnership with CEFREPA, AFALULA, ARSCAN, CVEC, Sorbonne university, Ecole doctorale 22 and Orient & Méditerranée.

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Organized by Sterenn Le Maguer-Gillon (Unil/Archaïos/Cefrepa) and Joesselin Pinot (Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne/Archaïos), this magnificent international conference brought together some excellent specialists who, over the course of three days, addressed the following topics: 1. structures inherent to land and sea routes; 2. actors involved in the circulation of the Arabian Peninsula and its periphery; 3. trade and merchant networks; 4. circulation of goods, materials and techniques; 5. pilgrimage routes in the Islamic period; 6. maritime routes and resources.

PRICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE BOOK “THE ANCIENT YEMEN”, EDITION GEUTHNER/CEFREPA



THE ANCIENT YEMEN

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

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 was 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.

For this book published during his residency in Oman as a representative of CEFREPA’s activities, he received the prestigious price from the “Académie des sciences d’outre-mer”.

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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’in; 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.

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.



The French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula

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