



CEFREPA Newsletter January/February 2025

ARABIC TRAINING COURSES



Intensive Arabic Language Course Gulf specialization Levels B2 & C1 January, 2025 at Kuwait

For the 4 consecutive year, CEFREPA organized two intensive Arabic courses in January 2025 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.

Students from different universities in France, majority from INALCO, universities of Rennes 2, Aix-Marseille, Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3, ENS Lyon & Sciences Po participated in both Intensive Arabic Language Training Courses level B2 & C1 throughout the whole month of January 2025.

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Intensive specialized language and cultural training courses on the contemporary Gulf were organized by CEFREPA. The first course for level B2 took place from January 5 to 15, 2025, and the second (level C1) took place from January 19 to 30, 2025.

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.

- Gulf Arab, Kuwaiti Arabic specialization: Jenan Ben Salamah (CEFREPA),
- Contemporary standard Arabic: Julien Sibileau (INALCO),
- Cultures and history of the Arab countries of the Gulf: program led by Makram Abbès with the intervention of numerous academics in the human and social sciences disciplines, 2 hours/day.

Makram ABBES (ENS-Lyon - CEFREPA)

Philippe PETRIAT (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne – CNRS)

Julien SIBILEAU (INALCO)

Luc CHANTRE (Université Rennes 2 - l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris)

Yousef Al-BADR (PAAET- Kuwait University)

Reem AL-RUDAYNI (Kuwait University)

Elizabeth. VAUTHIER (Université Jean Moulin – Lyon 3)

Taleb AL-RIFAI (Kuwaiti novelist)

Hassan AL-FAILAKAWI (NCCAL)

Guillaume CHARLOUX (CNRS)

During the month of January, a series of visits to Bait Al Arab, Tarek Rajab museum, Failaka Island, Dar Al Athar, IFK, Sheikh Abdallah Al Salem cultural center and also meetings with Kuwaiti personalities and university and research frameworks were also organized.

For more info about this article, please visit the link <https://www.aljarida.com/article/89524>

MEETING WITH TALEB AL RIFAI



Mr. Talib Al-Rifai, visited the French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula January 21, 2025 at CEFREPA

As part of the intensive training course in the Arabic language that was organized by CEFREPA last January, the Kuwaiti novelist, Mr. Talib Al-Rifai, visited the French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula and gave a lecture on his literary works, most of which were translated into French. The students enjoyed listening to this lecture with this distinguished literary personality. Mr. Talib Al-Rifai also wrote an article about this meeting, in which he expressed his impressions and thoughts, and published it in Al-Qabas newspaper on January 29.

For more info about this article, please visit the link: <https://t.co/HENxL7VxV9>

BOOK PUBLICATION



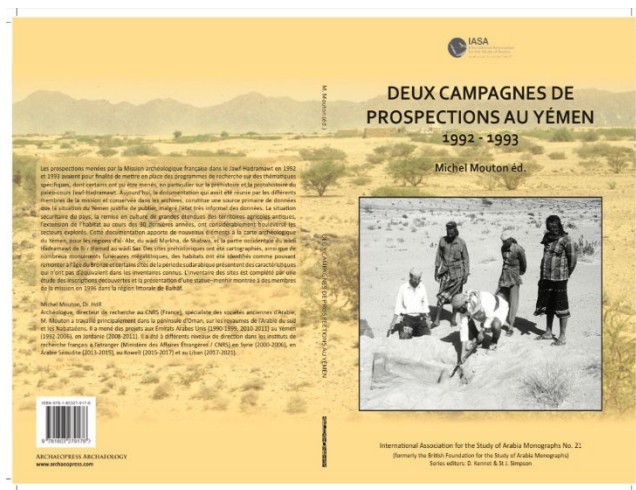
Publication of the book “The Arabian Peninsula in the Third Century AD in the Light of South Arabian Inscriptions” by Dr. Mounir Arbach and Dr. Jérémie Schiettecatte.

The French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula was pleased to announce the publication of the book “The Arabian Peninsula in the Third Century AD in the Light of South Arabian Inscriptions” by Dr. Mounir Arbach and Dr. Jérémie Schiettecatte. This book was published by CEFREPA and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in Sultanate of Oman.

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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.

Jérémie Schiettecatte is a research fellow at the French National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris. He holds a PhD in Near-Eastern archaeology from the Sorbonne University (Paris). His current interests lay in the archaeology and history of the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa from the Bronze Age to the Late Antiquity. He directed several research programs: “EmOAD – Emergence des oasis de l’Arabie déserte” (Sorbonne University) (2014-16) and “MAPARABIA — Mapping Ancient Arabia for enhancing knowledge and shifting paradigms” (National Research Agency, 2018-23). He authored 12 books and more than 80 scientific papers about ancient Arabia.



DEUX CAMPAGNES DE PROSPECTIONS AU YÉMEN

1992 - 1993

Michel Mouton éd.

The French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula was pleased to announce the publication of the book:

DEUX CAMPAGNES DE PROSPECTIONS AU YÉMEN

1992 - 1993

Michel Mouton éd.

International Association for the Study of Arabia Monographs No. 21
(formerly the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia Monographs)
Series editors: D. Kennet & St J. Simpson

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Surveys carried out by the French Archaeological Mission in Jawf-Ḥaḍramawt in 1992 and 1993 had the aim of setting up research programs on themes specific studies, some of which have been carried out, in particular on the prehistory and protohistoric of Paleo-course Jawf-Ḥaḍramawt. Today, the documentation that had been brought together by the different members of the mission and kept in the archives, constitutes a primary source of data that the situation in Yemen justifies publishing, despite the very informal state of the data. The situation security of the country, the re-cultivation of large areas of ancient agricultural territories, the expansion of habitat over the last 30 years, have considerably disrupted the explored areas. This documentation brings new elements to the archaeological map of Yemen, for the regions of al-‘Abr, wādī Markha, Shabwa, and the western part of the wādī Ḥaḍramawt of Bi‘r Ḥamad to wādī Sar. Prehistoric sites have been mapped, as well as numerous megalithic funerary monuments, habitats have been identified as being able to date back to the Bronze Age and certain sites from the South Arabian period present characteristic which have no equivalent in known inventories. The inventory of sites is supplemented by a study of the discovered inscriptions and the presentation of a statue–menhir shown to members of the mission in 1996 in the littoral region of Balhāf.

Michel Mouton, Dr. HDR

Archaeologist, research director at CNRS (France), specialist in ancient Arabian societies,

Mr. Mouton worked mainly in the Oman peninsula, on the kingdoms of southern Arabia and the Nabataeans. He led projects in the United Arab Emirates (1990-1999, 2010-2011) in Yemen (1992-2006), in Jordan (2008-2011). He has been at different levels of management in the institutes of French research abroad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs — CNRS) in Syria (2000-2006), in Saudi Arabia (2013-2015), Kuwait (2015-2017) and Lebanon (2017-2021).

CONFERENCE–DEBATE



La nostalgie est-elle le nouveau pétrole du monde arabe?

January 29, 2025 at CEFREPA

CEFREPA hosted on January 29, 2025 a rich and captivating conference/Debate entitled: « La nostalgie est-elle le nouveau pétrole du monde arabe? » with Sofiane Si Merabet in presence of the Ambassador of France in Kuwait Mr. Olivier Gauvin.

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Nostalgia is often described as a feeling frozen in time, or even a curse. At a time when many questions emerge around the definition of Arab identities, this feeling appears more and more as a socio-cultural trait present and claimed in the cultures of the countries of the Arab world. Migration as well as recent political conflicts have helped to spread the idea that “it was better before”. How to define this “Arab nostalgia”? Through the concept of “future of nostalgia applied to Arab regions, Sofiane Si Merabet discussed how history and culture can be, and already are, drivers of development for certain countries.

Sofiane Si Merabet is an artist and cultural entrepreneur living and working in Dubai. A polyglot traveler, he has participated for many years in projects linked to plural identities. Through his Instagram account @theconfusedarab, he explores the concept of “future of nostalgia”, as well as the question of identities and memories in the Arab world and its diaspora. He recently published in 2024, an essay *The Confused Arab* (Belfond edition) addressing contemporary Arab identities in both a personal and documented manner.

LES MARDIS DU CEFREPA



«La diplomatie culturelle est-elle encore une diplomatie d'influence?

A propos de l'ouvrage *Actions et diplomaties culturelles dans le Nord de l'Afrique et au Moyen-Orient (XIXe-XXIe siècle)*»

February 4, 2024 at CEFREPA

CEFREPA had the pleasure of organizing a conference by Luc Chantre: “La diplomatie culturelle est-elle encore une diplomatie d'influence?

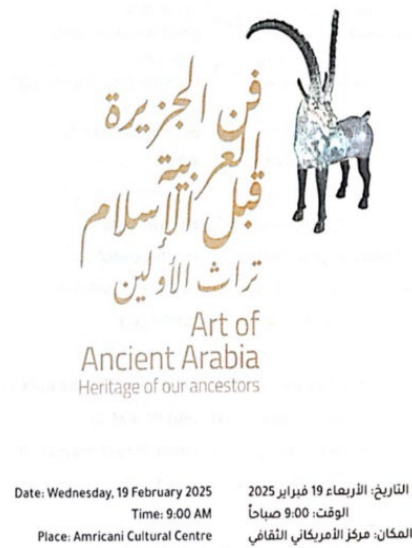
A propos de l'ouvrage *Actions et diplomaties culturelles dans le Nord de l'Afrique et au Moyen-Orient (XIXe-XXIe siècle)*” in the presence of the Ambassador of France in Kuwait Mr. Olivier Gauvin.

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What are the political and diplomatic uses of cultural productions and practices within the vast territory and era ranging from the Egypt of Mehemet Ali to contemporary Morocco? Based on specific examples that touch on different fields (fine arts, music, cinema, school curricula, archaeological practices, etc.) and different spaces (Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Algeria, Tunisia), a question of returning to the realities and issues of national (with particular attention to France) and international cultural actions generally was presented as forms of soft power or diplomacy of influence.

Luc Chantre is a lecturer in contemporary history at Rennes 2 University (Tempora Research Unit), an associate researcher at the French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula (CEFREPA, USR 3141) and at the Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Africa and the Middle East (CIRAM, Laval University). He works on the Muslim policy of European colonial empires and on the religious and cultural diplomacy of France in the Middle East. Among the works published recently: *Pilgrimage of empire. A European History of the Pilgrimage to Mecca* (2018), *The Pilgrimage to Mecca. A French affair* (2021), and *Actions and cultural diplomacies in North Africa and the Middle East. 19th-21st century* (2024).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Art of Ancient Arabia - Heritage of our ancestors

February 19, 2025 at Americani Cultural Centre

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah, Prime Minister and on the occasion of Kuwait, Arab Capital of Cultural and Media, Dar Al-Athar Al- Islamiyyah organized on February 19, 2025 at Americani Cultural Centre an event. Also CEFREPA was happy to moderate a panel with Dr. Sabina Antonini and Dr. Christian Robin. A beautiful homage for the Art of Ancient Arabia and the celebration of the land of Yemen where the CEFREPA was founded in 1982.

CONFERENCES



“Thoughts on the Concept of Heritage”

February 24, 2025 at Kuwait

“Ornament at the Service of Cultural Dialog”

February 26, 2025 at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

CEFREPA had the pleasure to host the Director of the Institute of Islamic Studies and Director of the Jean Pepin Center for Research in Latin and Arabic Philosophy in Paris, Dr. Pierre Caye.

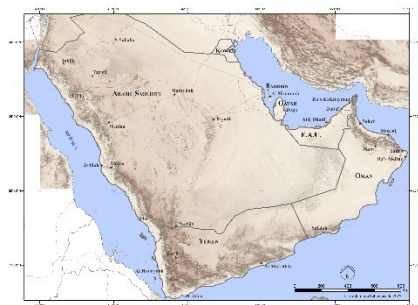
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The tour included a visit to Kuwait, then Riyadh and Jeddah, where Dr. Pierre Caye gave two lectures. The first lecture in Kuwait was entitled “Thoughts on the Concept of Heritage” and the second in Jeddah was entitled “Ornament at the Service of Cultural Dialog” on the sidelines of the Islamic Arts Biennale currently being held there.

This visit was also an opportunity to meet many personalities from the academic world, many researchers and heads of scientific organizations and cultural institutions in Kuwait, Riyadh, and Jeddah. Most of the meetings resulted in cooperation projects that will be held in the near future with several parties, such as the conference scheduled to be held in 2026 with the House of Islamic Arts in Jeddah on the ornament.

Dr. Makram Abbes announced that another conference will be held in Kuwait in cooperation with Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah and the National Council next May. It will focus on new research at the global level in the field of studying ancient Arab thought.

For more info about this article, please visit the link: <https://www.aljarida.com/article/91814>



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