

## **Maxim Yosefi, PhD**

**Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Seminar für Arabistik / Islamwissenschaft I**

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### **Academic degrees relevant to the proposed project**

- 2016 PhD, Department of Middle East Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Thesis title: Anthropology of Traditional Arabic Poetry: Social and Ritual Functioning. Supervisor: Prof. Aref Abu-Rabia. Overall grade – 94,75 (excellent).
- 2009-2010 Pre-Doctoral studies in Arabic language, literature and dialectology, Department of Arabic language and literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2007 Candidate of Science, Peter the Great Institute/Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, St. Petersburg.
- 2004 Specialist degree (cum laude), Ancient Greek and Roman history; Ethnography and Anthropology. The Faculty of History, Saint Petersburg State University.

### **Other studies and academic degrees**

- 2016 MA, East Asian Studies, the Faculty of Social Sciences, Universität Duisburg-Essen. Overall grade – 1,5 (very good).
- 2009 Specialist degree, World Economy. The Faculty of Economics, Saint Petersburg State University.

### **Professional experience**

- 01/2017-present Researcher and Lecturer, Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany.
- 10/2015-10/2016 Researcher based in Duisburg and affiliated with the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev to accomplish the PhD project and disseminate its results in European Universities (see invited lectures during this period).
- 10/2010-09/2014 Researcher, Department of Middle East Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- 10/2009-09/2010 Middle East analyst, “Kursor” Information Agency, Tel-Aviv.

11/2004-09/2009      Researcher, Department of South and South-East Asia, Peter the Great Institute of Anthropology and Ethnography, St. Petersburg.

### **Fellowships**

03/2025-02/2028      DFG project “Arabic poetry as mediator in early Abbasid society (second half of the 8th – early 10th CE)”

09/2023-02/2025      DAAD PRIME fellowship (Göttingen and Uppsala). Project: “Social commitment in early Islam: meaning-making via Arabic poetry”

05/2018-04/2020      Fritz Thyssen research fellowship (Göttingen). Project: “The culture of inspiration in the Arab-Islamic tradition”.

01/2017-12/2017      Minerva research fellowship of the Max Planck Society (Göttingen). Project: “Ethics and religious ideology in early Arabic poetry”.

10/2010-09/2014      Research Scholarship of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Ben-Gurion University.

01/2006-12/2009      Research scholarship of the Russian Foundation for Humanities. Project: “Tribal Arabic poetry in the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century.”

### **Awards**

10/2015      Award from the journal *Jamā‘a*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, for the article “The Relation of Early Islamic Authorities towards Poets and Poetry in the First Centuries of Islam: Textual Discussion”.

05/2013      Award from the Chaim Herzog Center for Middle East Studies and Diplomacy for a PhD project under implementation.

### **Courses taught**

Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Arabistik/Islamwissenschaft:

2021- 2025      Medieval Islamic discussion of poets and poetry (M.A.)

Arabia in the Light of the Golden Odes (M.A.)

Hebrew for Arabists (B.A., M.A.)

Uppsala University:

WiSe 2024/5	Arabic and Hebrew literature of Muslim Spain
SoSe 2024	Arabic literature
WiSe 2023/4	Arabic literary history

### **Editorial work**

Nov. 2017-  
July 2019      *Chronique du Manuscrit au Yémen* (ISSN 2116–0813), No. 25 – 28 (Jan. 2018 – July 2019) – reviews of publications in Arabic press on the topic of Arabic manuscripts, reviews of scholarly articles

### **Invited lecture**

- 07/2025      “Götterbilder im Judentum,” Summerschool Bildlichkeit und Bildgewalt in der Spätantike und im frühen Islam, Universität Göttingen.
- 12/2024      “Das Bilderverbot im Judentum der Spätantike,” Universität Göttingen.
- 05/2024      “The Samarkand Codex/The ‘Uthmān Qur’ān: its history and what it tells us about the history of the Quran,” Uppsala Universitet.
- 05/2023      “Engaging the audience’s imagination: the art of twisted metaphor in early Arabic poetry,” Uppsala University.
- 03/2023      “Gottesvorstellungen in den jüdischen Quellen der Spätantike,” Universität Göttingen.
- 12/2022      “Gottesvorstellungen in der altarabischen Dichtung,” Universität Göttingen.
- 01/2022      “The art of incredible: strategies employed by early Arab poets to surpass the competitors,” University of Göttingen.
- 09/2021      “The ambiguity of the term *shā‘ir* and its influence on the Islamic discussion of poets,” Uppsala University.
- 11/2019      “Arabic panegyric from Jāhiliyya to Islam,” Uppsala University.
- 12/2017      “Pre-Islamic and Islamic notions of poetic inspiration and their influence on the discussion on the poet’s ethics,” Tel-Aviv University.

- 06/2016 “Early Arab poets and the supernatural,” University of Heidelberg.
- 06/2016 “The problem of lie in early Arabic poetry: historical-cultural mechanism,” Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.
- 06/2016 “The problems of lie and slander in early Arabic poetry” (in Arabic), University of Bamberg.
- 06/2016 “The discussion on Muhammad’s avoidance of metered utterances,” Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena.
- 01/2016 “Ethics and religious ideology in early Arabic poetry”, University of Göttingen.
- 01/2016 “The Prophet’s attitude towards poets and poetry as described by the Islamic tradition: a conflict hidden behind the discourse,” University of Helsinki.
- 10/2015 “The Prophet’s attitude towards poets and poetry as described by the Islamic tradition: a conflict hidden behind the discourse,” University of Vienna.
- 10/2015 “Arab poets and religious ideology in the first centuries of Islam: The Problems of Lie and Slander,” Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society (LUCIS).
- 09/2015 “Collective ritual in tribal Arabic poetry,” University of St. Andrews.

### **Major papers presented internationally offline**

- 09/2024 “The pre-Quranic notions of Fate as reflected in early Arabic poetry and their influence on the Quranic representation of Allah,” International Workshop “Qur’ān and Arab Christianity: Religious Themes and Motifs in Pre-Qur’anic Arabic Poetry,” Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen.
- 01/2024 “From the symbol of doomed power to the personification of wisdom: Luqman in classical Arabic poetry,” International Workshop “Making of a Sage: Corpora of Wise Sayings in a Religio-Historical Perspektive,” Georg-August Universität Göttingen.
- 09/2022 “What did the Meccans mean by referring to Muḥammad as *shā’ir*: seven exegetical solutions and the influence on the Islamic discussion of poets,” Der Deutsche Orientalistentag, Freie Universität Berlin.
- 11/2021 “Goldziher and the Founders of Islamic Studies in Russia,” Ignaz Goldziher and His Correspondents, Georg-August Universität Göttingen.

- 08/2019 “The Attitudes towards Poetic Inspiration in Arab Culture and its Influence on the Islamic Doctrine on Poets and Poetry,” Nordic Middle Eastern Studies Conference, University of Helsinki.
- 07/2019 “Arabic Panegyric: from Tribal Practice to Court Ritual,” From Jāhiliyya to Islam, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 08/2018 “The Origins of the Traditional Approach towards the *Jinn* of Poetic Inspiration in Tribal Arab Culture,” Seminar for Arabian Studies, London.
- 05/2018 “Beliefs and Opinions of Saadia Gaon vis-à-vis Morals and Ethics of Miskawayh,” Miskawayh symposium, University of Göttingen.
- 11/2016 “The Problem of Slander in Early Arabic Poetry,” annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Boston.
- 09/2015 “Collective Ritual in Tribal Arabic Poetry,” International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) conference, University of Krakow.
- 05/2015 “Symbols and Values as Intertwined Elements in Traditional Arabic Poetry,” Gad and Judie Ben Meir’s international conference on Arabic literature “Intertwined Elements in Arabic Literature: Classical, Modern and Popular,” Tel-Aviv University.
- 08/2013 “Bida‘ as a Poetic Form and Social Practice in the Bedouin Society of the Negev Desert,” IUAES conference “Evolving Humanity, Emerging Worlds,” University of Manchester.
- 07/2011 “The Traditional Arabic Qasīda as a Ritual,” Seminar for Arabian Studies, London.
- 05/2008 “Poets Without Borders: The Smugglers of Sinai,” tenth anniversary seminar “Boundary Encounters. Heteroglossia. Heterochrony,” Norwegian University Centre, Saint Petersburg.
- 09/2007 “Tribal Poetry as an Ethnographic Source: The Camel Industry in the Bedouin Society,” seventh Nordic conference on Middle Eastern Studies: “The Middle East: Diversity – Variation – Interpretation,” University of Helsinki.

## **Publication list**

### **a) Monographs**

Yosefi, M. *Followed by the Wayward: the underlying aspects of medieval Islamic discussion of poets and poetry*, Leiden: Brill, 2026. (manuscript under revision for publication)

### **b) Peer-reviewed books (collections)**

Yosefi, M. "Friend, teacher, "shaykh": Goldziher and the founders of Islamic Studies in St. Petersburg." In *Building Bridges: Ignaz Goldziher and His Correspondents. Islamic and Jewish Studies around the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, ed. Hans-Jürgen Becker, Kinga Dévényi, Sebastian Günther, und Sabine Schmidtke. Leiden: Brill, 2024, 369-390. (ISBN 978-90-04-69058-5)

Yosefi, M. "The quest for divine guidance as intercultural educational discourse: an inquiry into Saadia Gaon's and Miskawayh's ethics." In *Ethics as Educational Discourse: Thought and Impact of the Classical Muslim Thinker Miskawayh*, ed. Sebastian Günther and Yassir Al-Jamouhi. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck Publishers, 2021, 203-226. (ISBN 978-3-16-159944-6)

Yosefi, M. "Saving Poetic Forms in Isolation from Traditional Culture: the Experience of the Negev Bedouins." *Russia and Palestine: Scientific and Cultural Connections* [Rus.: Rossiya i Palestina: Nauchnye i Kulturnie Svyazi], edited by Galina Pumpyan. Saint-Petersburg: The Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 2018, 329-335. (ISBN 978-5-336-00236-2)  
[http://www.rasl.ru/e\\_editions/russia\\_palestina\\_2018\\_full.pdf](http://www.rasl.ru/e_editions/russia_palestina_2018_full.pdf)

Yosefi, M. "The Mu'allāqa of 'Antara as an Arabian Bestiary." In *The Asian Bestiary. Animal images in the Traditions of South and South-West Asia IV*, edited by Mikhail Rodionov. Saint-Petersburg: Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, 2017, 81-98. (ISBN 978-5-88431-329-3)  
[https://lib.kunstkamera.ru/files/lib/978-5-88431-329-3/978-5-88431-329-3\\_06.pdf](https://lib.kunstkamera.ru/files/lib/978-5-88431-329-3/978-5-88431-329-3_06.pdf)

Yosefi, M. "The Influence of Religious Ideology on Arab Poets in the First Centuries of Islam: the Problem of Lie," *Arabian Routes in the Asian Context*, edited by Pavel Pogorelskiy and Maxim Yosefi. Saint-Petersburg: Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, 2016, 120-152. (ISBN: 978-5-88431-323-1) [https://lib.kunstkamera.ru/files/lib/978-5-88431-323-1/978-5-88431-323-1\\_06.pdf](https://lib.kunstkamera.ru/files/lib/978-5-88431-323-1/978-5-88431-323-1_06.pdf)

Yosefi, M. "Battles, Heroes, Luxury: Horses in the Cultural Space of Arabia." In *The Asian Bestiary. Animal Images in the Traditions of South and South-West Asia III*, edited by Mikhail Rodionov, 194-203. Saint-Petersburg: Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, 2014. (ISBN 978-5-88431-271-5) (In Russian)  
[https://lib.kunstkamera.ru/files/lib/978-5-88431-271-5/978-5-88431-271-5\\_16.pdf](https://lib.kunstkamera.ru/files/lib/978-5-88431-271-5/978-5-88431-271-5_16.pdf)

### **c) Peer-reviewed journals**

Yosefi, M. “*Ḥayātī al-uḥrā fī Ḥaḍramūt...In memoriam of Mikhail Rodionov (1946–2022),*” *Nouvelles Chroniques du manuscrit au Yémen* 16 (Jan 2023): 1-16. (ISSN 2116–0813)

Yosefi, M. “The *jinn* of poetry in contemporary Yemen and ancient Arabia: parallels, inconsistencies, and the origins of an ambivalent attitude towards inspiration,” *Chronique du Manuscrit au Yémen* 25 (Jan 2018): 73-109. (ISSN 2116–0813)

[https://www.academia.edu/44281190/The\\_jinn\\_of\\_poetry\\_in\\_contemporary\\_Yemen\\_and\\_ancient\\_Arabia](https://www.academia.edu/44281190/The_jinn_of_poetry_in_contemporary_Yemen_and_ancient_Arabia)

Yosefi, M. “The Prophet’s Attitude towards Poets and Poetry as Described in the Islamic Tradition: a Conflict Hidden behind the Discourse,” *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 107 (2017): 289-315. (ISSN 0084-0076)

[https://www.academia.edu/44282822/Muhammad\\_s\\_Attitude\\_towards\\_Poets\\_and\\_Poetry\\_as\\_Described\\_in\\_the\\_Islamic\\_Tradition\\_A\\_Conflict\\_Hidden\\_Behind\\_the\\_Discourse](https://www.academia.edu/44282822/Muhammad_s_Attitude_towards_Poets_and_Poetry_as_Described_in_the_Islamic_Tradition_A_Conflict_Hidden_Behind_the_Discourse)

Yosefi, M. “The Attitude of the Religious Establishment toward Poets and Poetry in the First Centuries of Islam: A Textual Discussion,” *Jamā’a* 23 (2017): 49-82. (ISSN 2626-986X) (In Hebrew)

Yosefi, M. “Modernization of the Bedouin World and the Smuggling.” *Vostok/Oriens* 5 (Moscow: Nauka, 2007): 132-142. (ISSN 0869-1908) (In Russian)

### **d) Peer-reviewed conference proceedings**

Yosefi, M. “The relevance of early Arabic poetry for Quranic studies and debates it arouses.” In *The IASA Bulletin 2019*, ed. Daniel Eddisford et. al., 29-30. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2020. (ISSN: 2632-4954)

Yosefi, M. “The origins of the traditional approach towards the *jinn* of poetic inspiration in tribal Arab culture.” In *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* 49, ed. Janet Starkey et al. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2019, 293-302. (ISSN 0308-8421)

Yosefi, M. “Tribal Arabic Poetry – Correlation between Written and Oral Traditions.” *Odysseus* (Moscow: Institute of the Universal History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 2008): 155-164. (ISBN 978-5-02-036740-1) (In Russian)

### **e) Reviews**

Yosefi, M. “A review of Dahami, Yahya Saleh Hasan. 2018. “The Magnificence of Arabic: Orwa ibn Al-Ward an Epitome,” *Chroniques du Manuscrit au Yemen* 27 (Jan 2019): 26-30. (ISSN 2116–0813)

[https://www.academia.edu/44282202/On\\_Yahya\\_Saleh\\_Hasan\\_Dahami\\_s\\_The\\_Magnificence\\_of\\_Arabic\\_Orwa\\_ibn\\_Al\\_Ward\\_an\\_Epitome](https://www.academia.edu/44282202/On_Yahya_Saleh_Hasan_Dahami_s_The_Magnificence_of_Arabic_Orwa_ibn_Al_Ward_an_Epitome)

Yosefi, M. “A review of Pavel Pogorelski and Maxim Yosefi (eds.), *Arabian Roots in the Asian Context*,” *Chroniques du Manuscrit au Yémen* 24 (July 2017): 5-17. (ISSN 2116–0813)  
[https://www.academia.edu/44282242/Arabian\\_Roots\\_in\\_the\\_Asian\\_Context](https://www.academia.edu/44282242/Arabian_Roots_in_the_Asian_Context)

Yosefi, M. “Speak, Cultural Memory: A Review of Mikhail Rodionov, *Cultural Memory and Metered Speech in Southern Arabia: Ḥaḍramawt*.” *Anthropological Forum* 29 (2016): 269-283. (ISSN-1815-8870)  
[https://www.academia.edu/44282630/Speak\\_cultural\\_memory](https://www.academia.edu/44282630/Speak_cultural_memory)

#### **f) Introducing, editing, annotating and academic translations**

Yosefi, M. (introduction, edition, annotations, indexes and translation), “Iraq – Samarkand – St. Petersburg – Tashkent: the history of the “‘Uṭmān Qur’ān”/Samarkand Codex and its extensive description” (a revised, edited and annotated English translation of Alexey Shebunin’s detailed description of the Samarkand Codex), *Chronique du Manuscrit au Yémen* 18/37 (Jan 2024): 130-268. (ISSN 2727-5221)

Yosefi, M. (introduction, edition, annotations, indexes and translation), “Arabic manuscripts from Yemen in the collections of Tashkent” – a revised, edited and annotated English translation of a catalogue by Viktor Belyaev of 1947,” *Chronique du Manuscrit au Yémen* 29 (Jan 2020): 46-134. (ISSN 2116–0813)  
[https://www.academia.edu/44280813/Victor\\_Belyaevs\\_Arabic\\_Manuscripts\\_from\\_Yemen\\_in\\_the\\_Collection\\_of\\_Tashkent\\_1947\\_](https://www.academia.edu/44280813/Victor_Belyaevs_Arabic_Manuscripts_from_Yemen_in_the_Collection_of_Tashkent_1947_)

Yosefi, M. (introduction, edition, annotations, indexes and translation), “Arabic manuscript collections in the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen” – a revised, edited and annotated English translation of a catalogue by Anas Khalidov of 1979,” *Chronique du Manuscrit au Yémen* 26 (July 2018): 57-104. (ISSN 2116–0813)  
[https://www.academia.edu/44280725/Anas\\_Khalidovs\\_Arabic\\_manuscript\\_collections\\_in\\_the\\_PDRY\\_1979\\_](https://www.academia.edu/44280725/Anas_Khalidovs_Arabic_manuscript_collections_in_the_PDRY_1979_)

Yosefi, M. “Tri Mu‘allaqi [Rus.: Three Mu‘allaqāt].” In *Chasha i vinocherpiy. Sbornik pam’ati A.A. Dolininoy* [Rus.: The Cup and the Cupbearer. In memory of A.A. Dolinina], ed. Sarali Ginzburg and Victor Dzevanovskiy, 12-34. Saint-Petersburg: Peterburgskoye vostokovedeniye, 2018. (In Russian) (ISBN 978-5-85803-512-1)  
[https://www.academia.edu/44281160/Three\\_Mu%CA%BFallaq%C4%81t](https://www.academia.edu/44281160/Three_Mu%CA%BFallaq%C4%81t)

#### **g) Non-peer-reviewed collections**

Yosefi, M. “Types of Poets and Genre Forms in Tribal Arabic Poetry.” In *Poetika Tradicii* [Ru.: Poetics of Tradition], edited by Yaroslav Vasilkov and Maxim Kisilier, intr. Yuri Kleiner, 139-178. Saint-Petersburg: Evropeyskij dom Publishers, 2010. (ISBN 978-5-8015-0254-9)



Yosefi, M. “Camel as the Main Hero of the Arabian Bestiary.” In *Aziatskiy Bestiariy. Zhivotnye Obrazy v Traditsiyah Yuzhnoy i Yugo-Zapadnoy Azii* [Ru.: The Asian Bestiary. Animal Images in the Traditions of South and South-West Asia], edited by Mikhail Rodionov, 161-169. Saint-Petersburg: Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, 2009. (ISBN 978-5-88431-139-8)

Yosefi, M. “A Poet and a Composer in Traditional Arab Society.” In *Al-Madh - Voskhvalenie* [Ru.: Al-Madh - Praise], edited by M. Meyer, 380-399. Moscow: Moscow State University, 2008. (ISBN 978-5-93136-060-7)

Yosefi, M. “Arabic Qasīda – the Form Changing.” In *Cultura Aravii v Asiatskom Kontexte* [Ru.: The Culture of Arabia in the Asian Context], edited by Juri Berezkin, Igor Alimov and Maxim Yosefi, 183-197. Saint-Petersburg: Peterburgskoye Vostokovedeniye, 2006. (ISBN 978-5-85803-333-4)

#### **h) Co-edition of collected volumes**

Juri Berezkin, Igor Alimov and Maxim Yosefi (eds.): *Cultura Aravii v Asiatskom Kontexte* [Ru.: The Culture of Arabia in the Asian Context]. Saint-Petersburg: Peterburgskoye Vostokovedeniye, 2006. (ISBN 978-5-85803-333-4)

Pavel Pogorelski and Maxim Yosefi (eds.): *Arabian Roots in the Asian Context*. Saint-Petersburg: Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, 2016. (ISBN: 978-5-88431-323-1)