

Mag. Dr. phil. Lorenz Nigst • *Curriculum Vitae* [short]

Current Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral researcher, Stand Alone Project P 28736 'Death & Life: Local Conceptions of Reincarnation among the Druzes in the Middle East' (financed by the Austrian Science Fund | FWF); www.fwf.ac.at

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Lecturer for Arabic Language, Austrian Oriental Society (ÖOG), Dominikanerbastei 6/8, 1010 Vienna, Austria; <http://www.orient-gesellschaft.at/>

Areas of Expertise

Islamic sainthood; cult of the saints; concepts of closeness to God; asceticism, Islamic theology; prayer literature; *adab*-literature; Ibn Taymiyya; ʿImād ad-dīn al-Wāsiṭī

Druze poetry; transmigration of the souls (*taqammuṣ*).

Contemporary Muslim discourses of authenticity.

Education

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| 03/2011 | PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies; theme of the PhD thesis: 'Legitime Nähe: Ibn Taymiyyas theoretisches Konstrukt von den <i>awliyāʾ Allāh</i> '
Supervisors: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stephan Procházka & Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Lohlker |
| 08/2003 | MA in Arabic and Islamic Studies; theme of the MA thesis: 'Asketisches Gedankengut in Abū l-ʿAlāʾ al-Maʿarrī's <i>Luzūmiyāt</i> '
Supervisors: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stephan Procházka & Univ.-Prof. Dr. Arne Ambros |
| 10/1997–08/2003 | Enrolled in the program for Arabic at the Institute for Oriental Studies at the University of Vienna; additional courses in social anthropology, linguistics, philosophy, and African Studies; courses in Hebrew and Kanuri |
| 10/2001–06/2003 | Enrolled in the program for 'Teaching German as a Foreign Language' (DaF) at the Institute for German Studies at the University of Vienna (Austria) |
| 02/2000–09/2000 | Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University (Egypt) |
| 02/1997–09/1997 | Granada, Spain (language course) |

Academic Appointments | Teaching

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| 04/2016– | Postdoctoral researcher: 'Death & Life: Local Conceptions of Reincarnation among the Druze in the Middle East,' funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Austrian Academy of Sciences. Director: Gebhard Fartacek |
| 09/2016– | Affiliate scholar at the Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), Beirut (Lebanon) |
| 05/2014–07/2015: | Postdoctoral researcher; 'Early Modern Ottoman Culture of Learning,' funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), University of Vienna. Director: Gisela Procházka-Eisl |

10/2004–09/2016	Lecturer for Arabic philology, Institute for Oriental Studies at the University of Vienna (Austria)
03/2013– 07/2013	Lecturer for Arabic at the Austrian Foreign Ministry
10/2012–05/2013	Lecturer for Arabic for the OPEC Fund
05/2010–01/2011	Predoctoral researcher: ‘Sharing Ancient Wisdoms’ (SAWS), funded by HERA, joint project of the University of Vienna, King’s College London, and the University of Stockholm; University of Vienna. Director: Stephan Procházka
01/2008 –06/2008	Lecturer for Arabic at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna (Austria)
03/2006–9/2007	Predoctoral researcher: ‘Dialect, culture, and popular religion in a changing Bedouin society: the Marāzīg tribe of Southern Tunisia,’ funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), University of Vienna. Director: Stephan Procházka
03/2004–01/2006	Lecturer for German as a Foreign Language at the Austrian Oriental Society (ÖOG)
09/2003–02/2004	Lecturer for German at Al-Azhar University & 6 th of October University in Cairo (Egypt)

Courses Taught | University of Vienna (selection)

2016 (summer)	Arabic National Grammar: Historical overview & close-reading of key texts
2014 (winter)	Philological seminar: ‘Al-Būṣīrī & poems in praise of Muḥammad’
2013 (winter)	Philological seminar: ‘The Language of power, and the power of language: At-Tawḥīdī’s <i>Aḥlāq al-wazīrayn</i> , and the concept of <i>ḡāh</i> ’
2011 (summer)	Philological seminar: ‘Liminality and the reversal of normality in medieval Islamic texts: Al-Ġazālī’s <i>K. Asrār al-ḥaġġ</i> & Ibn Qayyim al-Ġawziya’s <i>K. Ḥādī al-arwāḥ</i> ’
2011–2016	Media Arabic
2004–2016	Modern Standard Arabic Grammar

Invited Presentations (selection)

03/2015	‘Baraka im Rahmen des lokalen Pilgerwesens im Großraum Syrien;’ invited lecture for the workshop <i>Towards an Anthropology of Blessing</i> , a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne, Universität zu Köln (Germany)
07/2012	‘Ibn Taymiya on religious virtuosity;’ invited lecture for the conference <i>Spiritualitäten im Dialog: Gott mehr gehorchen als den Menschen?</i> , Stift Kremsmünster, Kremsmünster (Austria)
11/2011	‘Holy places and the transmission of baraka – B: Dissociation and the transgression of social norms;’ invited lecture for the international conference <i>Performing Religion: Actors, Contexts, and Texts</i> , Orient-Institute Beirut (OIB), Beirut (Lebanon)
09/2011	‘Become what you are: Some observations about the recourse to <i>Fiṭra</i> in contemporary discourses;’ invited presentation for the symposium <i>Love, Seduction, and Gender</i> , Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Berlin (Germany)
04/2011	‘The Boyāt phenomenon;’ invited presentation for the <i>Youth at the Crossroads Conference</i> , Sharjah Higher Colleges of Technology, Sharjah (United Arab Emirates)

Paper Presentations (selection)

- 11/2018 'His grandmother is a good deal younger than him: The Druze discourse on children who speak about previous lives,' *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association* (MESA), San Antonio (USA)
- 07/2018 'You are not my mother: The ambivalent situation caused by Druze children who speak about previous lives,' presentation at the *World Congress of Middle East Studies* (WOCMES), Seville (Spain)
- 11/2017 'The Ambivalent presence of "speaking" in the Druze communities,' presentation at the workshop *Reincarnation and personal identity in the Middle East*, 30.11.2017 – 01. 12. 2017, Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS), Vienna (Austria)
- 09/2015 '*Baraka* and ethnic-religious boundaries,' presentation for the *GAA conference 2015*, Marburg (Germany) (with Gebhard Fartacek)
- 09/2011 'Dissociation and conformity to norms: Modes of *baraka* in the context of local pilgrimage in contemporary Syria,' presentation in the frame of the 6th *International Conference on Middle Eastern and North African Popular Culture*, Vienna (Austria) (with Gebhard Fartacek)
- 06/2011 'Die Pilgerfahrt nach Mekka: Liminalität in al-Ġazālīs *Ihyā' 'ulūm ad-dīn*,' presentation at the conference *Spiritualitäten im Dialog: 'Pilgerschaft'*, Stift Kremsmünster, Kremsmünster (Austria)
- 07/2010 'Boyāt in the Gulf,' presentation at the *World Congress of Middle East Studies* (WOCMES), Barcelona (Spain) (with José Sánchez García)
- 10/2008 'The Concept of *al-ghayb* in Southern Tunisia,' presentation for the 5th *International Conference on Middle Eastern and North African Popular Culture*, Oran (Algeria)
- 04/2008 'Heilige als mächtige Individuen,' presentation at the *4. Tage der Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie 2008*, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna, Vienna (Austria)