

MATTHEW L. KEEGAN

ISLAM AND ADAB: READING AL-HARIRI'S MAQAMAT IN AN AGE OF COMMENTARY

Monday Majlis Online on the 16th of March, 17:00-18:30 (UK time)

[Centre for the Study of Islam](#), Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

Register please on this link:

<https://Universityofexeter.zoom.us/join/0IINz8EATQKNhFUjKvj7dA>



al-Hariri's *Maqamat*, BnF Arabe 7290

Abstract: At the dawn of the 12th century CE, al-Hariri first circulated his collection of fifty trickster stories or *maqamat* by having the text read aloud in the presence of the scholarly elite of Baghdad. Over the course of the next eight centuries, this text became a central text in Islamic education and the object of scores of commentaries. This *majlis* introduces the main arguments of Keegan's first monograph, [Before World Literature: The Trickster Tales of al-Hariri in an Age of Commentary](#). It seeks to understand how the *Maqamat* became such an important text in the culture of commentary and how it subsequently fell dramatically out of favor in the nineteenth century when both European Orientalists and Arab reformist thinkers derided the text for being decadent and derivative.

In the spirit of the label 'Majlis' and also to make the talks even more interesting, our speakers present the topic discussed as embedded in their own journey.

You can watch the previous Majlises here

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-

However, we don't record the Q&A in order to keep the discussion free.

Please come and enjoy the talks and the discussions :) If you'd like to be included in the CSI (Centre for the Study of Islam, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter) mailing list, please write to me (I.T.Kristo-Nagy@ex.ac.uk).

We'll be happy to welcome you!

István T Kristó-Nagy <https://experts.exeter.ac.uk/4333-istv%C3%A1n-t-krist%C3%B3nagy>



Bio: **Matthew L. Keegan** is the Moinian Assistant Professor in Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures at Barnard College of Columbia University. His research focuses on the intersections of Arabic literature and Islamic thought in the pre-modern Arabic world. He has published on Arabic poetry, Quranic exegesis, Islamic legal riddles, and the study of manuscripts. He was a Mellon Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study and held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Freie Universität Berlin. <https://amec.barnard.edu/profiles/matthew-l-keegan> <https://barnard.academia.edu/MatthewKeegan>