

Motherhood and Unfreedom

in the Islamicate World 700–1000

Wednesday, 4 June 2025

Allard Pierson, Oude Turfmarkt 127–129, 1012 GC Amsterdam
Postbus 94436, 1090 GK Amsterdam

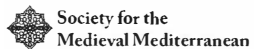
This workshop is organized by Dr. Zahra Azhar and Dr. Leone Pecorini Goodall in collaboration with our partners at UVA, Dr. Ewan Short, the Allard Pierson Museum and the National Museum of Slavery. The workshop is supported by the Juynboll Foundation, the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean and the ERC Horizon Starting Grant Project, “Embodied Imamate: Mapping the Development of the Early Shi’i Community 700-900 CE (ImBod),” grant number 101077946, led by Dr. Edmund Hayes.

Image from BNF, MS. Arabe 2964, f. 35

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nationaal slavernijmuseum
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| 09:00 - 09:15

Welcome Coffee

| 9:15-9:30

Opening remarks delivered by Leone Pecorini Goodall (Universiteit Leiden)

| 9:30- 10:00

What are 'concubines' in a medieval Islamicate context?
Jelle Bruning (Universiteit Leiden)

| 10:00- 10:30

Gender at the Origins: Female Agency and Political Participation in Pre-Islamic Arabia
Peter Webb (Universiteit Leiden)

| 10:30-11:00

Elite Abbasid Women: Reframing the Concept of Elite in Abbasid Women's Historiography
Reem alRudainy (University of Kuwait)

| 11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

| 11:30- 12:00

The Demographic Significance of Concubine-Born Sons
Alasdair Grant (Universitat Hamburg)

| 12:00- 12:30

Celestial Slavery in Islam and Byzantium: A Cross-cultural Examination of Unfreedom in the Afterlife
Justin Piggott (University of Leicester)

| 12:30 - 14:30

Lunch and Tour of Allard Pierson Collection

| 14:30-15:00

Between Social Coercion and Religious Freedom: The Role of Veiling in the Agency of Enslaved Women in Early Islam
Hadi Gerami (Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, Tehran)

| 15:00-15:30

Enslaved Women And Vulnerable Citizens In The Archives Of Sharia Courts: A New Perspective
Wafya Hamouda (Tanta University)

| 15:30-16:00

Coffee break

| 16:00- 16:30

Enslaved Women: Bearers of Knowledge in the Imam's Household
Zahra Azhar (Universiteit Leiden)

| 16:30-17:00

Mothers of Imams: Status, Kinship, and Lineage in Early Shi'i Conceptions of 'Alī ibn Ḥusayn
Sheida Heydaroshivor (University of Leicester)

| 17:00-17:30

Labelling the dead: epitaphs identifying 'umahat al-walad
Petra Sijpesteijn (Universiteit Leiden)

| 18:00

Walk to dinner

| 18:30

Dinner at A Beautiful Mess (Oosterdokskade 227 1011 DL Amsterdam)

