

Prof. Dr. Nora LAFI

Born April 13, 1965 in Istres (Bouches-du-Rhône, France). French citizen.

Professor of Islamic Studies at Universität Bayreuth (1-year replacement)

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Education :

Diplôme d'études universitaires générales (DEUG) and Licence d'arabe (Université Aix-Marseille I, 1987-1990) (including Arabic Literature, Arabic Grammar, Islamic Studies and Arabic Philology and Epigraphy)

Diplôme d'études arabes DEAC, Cairo, 1988-1989 and teaching units in Arabic Literature, Arabic Grammar, Islamic Studies and Arabic Philology, Cairo University, 1989-1991.

Maîtrise d'arabe et d'histoire supervised by Prof. Robert Ilbert and Prof. Jean-Claude Garcin (Aix-Marseille I, 1991) : « Islam et orientalisme dans les écrits du Cheikh d'Al-Azhar 'Abd Jalil Chalabi (*'Al-Islâm wal-mustachriqûn*) ».

DEA d'études arabes et islamiques, Université Aix-Marseille I, 1996, supervised by Prof. Robert Ilbert and Prof. Jean-Paul Pascual : « Représentations de la ville de Tripoli dans la chronique du marchand Hasan al-Faqih Hasan ».

Doctorat en histoire (Université Aix-Marseille I. Lettres et Sciences Humaines. 1999). Mention très honorable avec les félicitations du jury à l'unanimité.

Habilitation à diriger des recherches (HDR) (Université Aix-Marseille I, 2011). Habilitation recognized by the Freie Universität Berlin in 2012. Recognition as Privat Dozentin (Freie Universität Berlin, 2012).

Qualified since 2013 by the French *Conseil National des Universités* to teach at the level of Full Professor (section 22). Qualified since 2019 by the French CNECEA to teach Architectural history at the level of Full Professor.

Winner of the Jean-Pierre Thieck Prize for the best PhD of the year (Institut national des Langues et Civilisations Orientales INALCO Paris, 1999). Distinguished on the Portal to Excellent Women Academics (Swiss National Science Fonds, 2022)

Previous Positions :

1992-1995: Junior Research Fellow: CNRS UMR TELEMME, Aix-en-Provence

1995-1999: Junior Research Fellow: Institut de Recherches sur le Maghreb Contemporain (IRMC), Tunis.

1999-2000: Lecturer: Université Aix-Marseille I, History Department.

2000-2003: Post-doctoral research fellow (Réseau des Maisons des Sciences de l'Homme) : Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (Villes et Territoires), Tours and C.N.R.S. URBAMA. Lecturer, Université François Rabelais, Tours (History Department).

2003-2004 : Lecturer : Institut du Patrimoine méditerranéen, Arles / Université Aix-Marseille I / Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme.

2004-2005 : Fellow of the AKMI programme of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

2006-2012 : Research Fellow: Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin (DFG programme)

2012-2019 : Senior Research Fellow: Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin (BMBF funded programme) and Privat Dozentin (habil.), Freie Universität Berlin, Islamwissenschaft Dpt and Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies.

2020: Senior Research Fellow, Max Weber Kolleg, Universität Erfurt (DFG funded Religion and Urbanity Programme)

2020-2023 and April-December 2024: Senior Research Fellow, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin. Project Leader of the HISDEMAB Leibniz-Collaborative Excellent Programme on the Historicity of Democracy in the Arab and Muslim Worlds.

Sept. 2023-April 2024: Senior Research Fellow: MECAM Tunis

January-March 2025: Senior Research Fellow, Max Weber Kolleg, Universität Erfurt (DFG funded Religion and Urbanity Programme)

April 2025-March 2026: Professor, Universität Bayreuth, Dpt. of Islamic Studies. 1-Year replacement.

Research Experience:

1992-1999 : Doctoral Researches on the history of urban governance in Tripoli (Libya) in Ottoman times. Research Stays in the archives of Istanbul, Tripoli, Rome, Nantes and Paris.

2000-2005 : Post-doctoral researches on the history of urban governance in North-Africa and the Middle East in Ottoman times. Research stays in Tunis, Alexandria, Istanbul, Cairo, Aleppo, Damascus.

2006-2007 : DFG-funded research programme on migrations in the Ottoman Empire. Research stays in Aleppo, Damascus, Istanbul, Tunis and Cairo.

2008-2012 : BMBF-funded research programme on Urban microcosms in the Ottoman Empire. Research stays in Aleppo, Damascus, Istanbul, Tunis and Cairo.

2012-2016 : BMBF-DFG-SOAS-funded programme on Urban Violence in the Middle-East. Research stays in Beirut, Istanbul, Tunis, Cairo, Geneva, Nantes, Paris, Aix-en-Provence, Marseille and London.

2016-2020 : BMBF-funded programme “Cities as Laboratories of Change” (Leibniz-ZMO, Berlin) and “Fantom Frontiers in Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Cities”. Research stays in Istanbul, Tunis, Venice, Heraklion, Nicosia, London, Vincennes, Geneva and Aix-en-Provence.

2020: The spatiality of religion in Tunis (Max Weber Kolleg, Universität Erfurt)

2020-2024: The historicity of democracy in the Arab and Muslim Worlds (Leibniz-ZMO, Berlin)

Sept. 2023-April 2024: Senior Research Fellow: MECAM Tunis: Research on the History of feminine resistance against colonization in Southern Tunisia

2024-2026: Leader (with S. Alghafal) of the Ghadames Heritage Project, funded by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung (Project based at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient)

Co-founder in 1999 and since then editor of *H-Mediterranean* (H-Net, Michigan State University. 1300 researchers subscribers and 12.000 weekly views on average); Editor and Board Member (2010-2015) of *H-Urban* (H-Net, Michigan State University); Since 2011 : Board Member and Book Review Editor of the journal *Planning Perspectives* (Routledge); Since 2018: Board Member of the journal *Urban History* (Cambridge University Press); Since 2020: Board Member of the journal *Africa* (Viella Editrice); Member of the International Committee of the journal *Les Cahiers de Tunisie*; Member of: European Association for Urban History (EAUH); Associazione italiana di storia urbana (AISU); Deutsche Arbeitsstelle Vorderer Orient (DAVO); Member of the Board the EUME Collegium (Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin); Member of the Scientific Board of the *Annales Islamologiques* (2023-2027); Experience as evaluator: European Research Council (ERC); Ministero delle Ricerche / ANVUR (Italy)..

Publications :

Books, Edited Books and Guest-Edited Journal Issues

Une ville du Maghreb entre ancien régime et réformes ottomanes : Genèse des institutions municipales à Tripoli de Barbarie (1795-1911), Paris, L'Harmattan, 2002, 305p.

Les annales tripolitaines de Charles Féraud, re-ed and introduction, Paris, Editions Bouchène, 2005, 440p.

Municipalités méditerranéennes : les réformes urbaines ottomanes au miroir d'une histoire comparée (Moyen-Orient, Maghreb, Europe méridionale) (ed.), Berlin, Klaus Schwarz Verlag, 2005, 373p.

The City in the Ottoman Empire: Migration and the Making of Urban Modernity (ed. with U. Freitag, M. Fuhrmann et F. Riedler), London, Routledge, 2010, 269p.

Daily life and Family in the Ottoman Empire, Guest-edited issue with U. Freitag, *History of Family*, 2011, n.2.

Urban Governance under the Ottomans: Between Cosmopolitanism and Conflict (ed. with U. Freitag), London, Routledge, 2014, 238p.

Silvestre de Sacy. Le projet européen d'une science orientaliste (ed. with M. Espagne and P. Rabault-Ferhahn), Paris, Editions du Cerf, 2014, 356p.

Urban Violence in the Middle East. Changing Cityscapes in the Transition from Empire to Nation State (ed. with U. Freitag, N. Fuccaro and C. Ghrawi), New-York/Oxford, Berghahn, 2015, 334p.

Understanding the City through its Margins (ed. with A. Chappatte and U. Freitag), London, Routledge, 2018, 190p.

Urban Boundaries in the Ottoman Empire (Guest-edited issue with F. Riedler), *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 2018-61.

Die osmanische Stadt (Guest-edited issue with Florian Riedler), *Moderne Stadtgeschichte*, 2018.

Esprit civique et organisation citadine dans l'empire ottoman, Leiden, Brill, 2018, 360p.

(Guest-Edited with Colin Arnaud and Alessandra Ferrighi), *Transforming Cities, Negotiating Centrality*, *Historical Social Research*, 47, 2022

[العشرين القرن مطلع العربية المنطقة في السياسية المشاركة حول تأملات](#) [Reflections on Political Participation in the Arab World at the Beginning of the 20th c.], (dir. Avec A. Amer et A.H. El-Kayyali), Amman, Alaam, 2024.

[الديمقراطية تاريخية حول تأملات: التاريخ عبر ليبيا](#) [Longue Durée Reflexions on the Historicity of Democracy in Libya (ed. with S. Al-Ghafal), Tunis, Nirvana, 2025, 397p.

Articles and Book Chapters (since 2022)

2025

“Heritage Protection in Ghadames, Libya: *Dâr al-Qâdî* as a Laboratory of Community-Based Practices” (with Suaad Alghafal), *Plateia*, 5, p.54-63.

“Female Agency and Colonial Repression: Memory and Archives in Tunisia”, *MECAM Papers*, 10.

"Il cibo come urbanità: analisi di un manoscritto inedito" in Rita Tolomeo and Raffaella Gerole (eds.), *In Viaggio: Scritti di amici per B. Crevato-Selvaggi*, Rome, Società Dalmata di Storia Patria, p.229-237.

"Oralità ed erudizione: riflessioni attorno al dizionario italiano/arabo di fra' Bonaventura di Venezia" in *Oralità, scrittura, lingua e letteratura nello Stato da mar* (B. Crevato-Selvaggi and D. Vlassi eds.), Roma, Società Dalmata di Storia Patria, p.152-162.

2024

“Africa and the Nature of the Ottoman Empire: Challenging the Inertia of Eurocentrism”, *Eurasian Studies*, 21(2), 276-302

“Réflexions sur l'historicité de la délibération dans le monde arabe : Tripoli à l'époque ottoman » in *Éclairages variés sur la Libye contemporaine*, ed. Neila Saadi, Tunis, Institut de recherche sur le Maghreb contemporain, 2024.

(with S. Alghafal), "Digitization and the Protection of Endangered Patrimonies: Ghadames as a Laboratory of Community-Based and Collaborative Strategies", *ZMO-Bulletin*, 2024, 44, p.3-4.

2023

"Daily Life Spatialities and Temporalities of Religion in Ottoman Tunis", *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* (25-1, p.309-333).

2022

"Réflexions sur l'analyse historique des processus de négociation: Tunis ottomane et la pression coloniale en 1871" in *La négociation entre le Maghreb et l'Europe méditerranéenne du Moyen-Âge au XXe siècle*", edited by H. Amamou, L. Maziane and M. Jerad (Tunis, GLD, 2022).

"Urban Infrastructure between Local Networks and the Wider World: The Tramway in Late-Ottoman Aleppo", in Y. Ben-Bassat and J. Büssow (eds), *From the Household to the Wider World*, Tübingen University Press.

"Conceptualising Urbanity, Reinterpreting Coexistence: A hisba Manuscript of the Late Ottoman Era in Tunis", in *Religion and Urbanity Online*, edited by S. Rau and J. Rüpke, Berlin-Boston, De Gruyter.

"Longue-Durée Reflections on Anti-Colonial Movements in the Middle-East (1798–today)" in Bouris (Dimitris), Huber (Daniela) and Pace (Michelle), *Routledge Handbook of EU-Middle East Relations*, Abingdon, Routledge.

"Réflexions sur l'analyse historique des processus de négociation: Tunis ottomane et la pression coloniale en 1871" in *La négociation entre le Maghreb et l'Europe méditerranéenne du Moyen-Âge au XXe siècle*, edited by Hayet Amamou, Leila Maziane and Mehdi Jerad (Tunis, GLD).

"Urban Infrastructure between Local Networks and the Wider World: The Tramway in Late-Ottoman Aleppo", in Y. Ben-Bassat and J. Büssow (eds), *From the Household to the Wider World*, Tübingen University Press.