

**Prof. Dr. Birgit Schäbler**  
**Chair of History of West Asia**  
**Erfurt University**  
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<https://www.uni-erfurt.de/philosophische-fakultaet/seminare-professuren/historisches-seminar/professuren/geschichte-westasiens/unsere-team/prof-dr-birgit-schaebler>

## **CV**

Studies of History, Islamic Science, Political Science/Studium der Geschichts-, Islam- und Politikwissenschaft, Universities of Würzburg, University of California, Berkeley, CA und University of Erlangen-Nürnberg

Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin am Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Moderner Naher Osten (1989-1995), Promotion (1994)

Visiting Professor, Duke University, North Carolina, USA (1997)

Visiting Fellow, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, USA, (1997-1999)

Professor for Middle East History, Georgia College, Georgia's Liberal Arts University, USA (1999 -2002)

Professor/Professurinhaberin for History of West Asia, University of Erfurt (since 2002, on leave from 2017-2022 to be director of Orient Institut Beirut)

Director of Orient Institut Beirut, Lebanon (2017-2022)

## **Research interests**

History and anthropology/sociology of the Middle East, 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries  
Relations between Area History and Global History/Historiography  
Relations between the Middle East/Islam and Europe/Germany  
History of Orientalism and Oriental/Islamic Studies  
Alterities in Middle Eastern/Muslim societies  
Middle East and Global South

## **Fellowships**

DAAD one-year-student fellowship, UC Berkeley, CA, USA,

DFG-Graduiertenkolleg "Gegenwartsbezogene Orientforschung" (1992-1994),

DFG-Research cluster/Forschungsschwerpunkt "Transformations of European Expansion/Transformationen der außereuropäischen Expansion" (1995-1997),

Visiting Fellowship Harvard University, USA, Center for Middle East Studies (1997-1999),

Liberty Fund fellowship (1 month) (2000),

Fellowship Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem (2005/2006),

Fellowship Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt (2007-2008)

Visiting professor at IREMAM, Aix-en-Provence, summer 2015

### **Service to the Field and the University**

President of Syrian Studies Association within MESA/Präsidentin der Syrian Studies Association (SSA), USA (1999-2001)

Chairperson of scientific board of Orient Institut Beirut, Lebanon/Vorsitzende des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats des Orient-Instituts Beirut/ Istanbul der Stiftung German Humanities Institutes Abroad/Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland (2005-2011, member of the board since 2003)

Member of steering committee/Stiftungsrat of Max Weber Stiftung - Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland (2010-2011)

Chairperson of Working Group Non-Western History within the Association of Historians in Germany/Vorsitzende des Arbeitskreises Außereuropäische Geschichte im VHHD (2002 - 2004),

Member of Jury for the Prize for the best history book of the year/ Vergabe des Buchpreises „Das Historische Buch des Jahres“, H-Soz-Kult (2004-2009),

Member of Board of DAVO/German Association of Middle Eastern Studies/Mitglied des Vorstands der Deutschen Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient (DAVO) (2007-2012),

Member of Academic Board of Center for Oriental Studies, Martin Luther University Halle/ Beirätin im Wissenschaftlichen Beirat des Orientalwissenschaftlichen Zentrums der Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (2005-2012),

Founding speaker of research platform „World Regions and Interactions: Area Studies, Transregionally“/Gründungssprecherin der Forschungs-Plattform „Weltregionen und Interaktionen: Area Studies Transregional“ (2008-2009), EPPP,

Elected member of Academic Senate of University of Erfurt/gewähltes Mitglied im Akademischen Senat der Universität Erfurt (2006-2011)

Founder and head of double-degree MA-program “Middle East Sociology and History in Global Perspective” MESH, funded by the DAAD, with universities in Lebanon (2010-2024, ca. 900 000 Euro).

Organizer of summer school at Erfurt University together with Haifa University on “Multiculturalism and Co-existence”, organizing an exhibit “Unknown Jewish Metal Handicrafts from Damascus, Syria” - “Unbekanntes jüdisches Kunsthandwerk aus Damaskus, Syrien”, Erfurt, 2015

Head of the Refugee Educational Program, organizing joint discussions and workshops with Syrian refugees, supported by the government of Thuringia (2015-2017), Erfurt University

Member of the International Advisory Council of WOCMES (World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies) (since 2017)

## **Gutachtertätigkeiten/Evaluations**

for Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG,

Deutscher Akademischen Austauschdienst DAAD,

German-Israeli-Foundation GIF,

Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung AvH,

Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung ZIF, Bielefeld,

Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF,

Danish Council for Independent Research,

Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften,

Thyssen Stiftung,

Acquin e.V., u.a. als Mitglied von Gutachtergruppen für Forschungszentren (evaluation of research centers),

EVALAG (evaluation/accreditation of universities abroad/im Ausland).

## **Conferences and Panels**

International Conference on **Labors of Love, Trials of Friendship**, Orient Institut Beirut, American University of Beirut (AUB), Max Weber Kolleg MWK, 28.9.-1.10.2022 (convenor)

International workshop **“Relations in the Ideospace: Middle Eastern Students in the Eastern Bloc”**, of Research Group BMBF/OIB and History Department at CEU (co-convenor Prof. Balaz Trencsenyi), Central European University CEU, Budapest, 23.-26.2.2022

International conference on **“Neighborliness in Global Perspective”**, Kairo 2019 and Erfurt 2020 (convenor)

International conference on **“Reconstructing Neighborhoods of War”**, Orient Institut, Beirut, Dezember 2018 (convenor)

Lecture Series on **“Refugees in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries”**, (with Prof. Christiane Kuller), Erfurt, 2015/2016

Workshop on **„Area Histories, Transregionally”**, mit Joseph Prestel, Robert Fischer, Kevin Anding, Dani Kranz, Shelley Harten, Diana Hitzke, Yahya Kouroshi, Nils Riecken, Gunther Mai, 28.2. - 1.3.2014 at Erfurt University (convenor)

Workshop on **“Area Histories between Area Studies and Historiography”**- „Area Histories im Spannungsfeld zwischen Area Studies und Geschichtswissenschaft“, Plattform Weltregionen und Interaktionen, Erfurt und Netzwerk Area Histories, 14.10.2011, FU Berlin

International Young Scholars Conference on Middle East and Islamic Studies, together with Center for Middle East Studies, Lund University, 25. - 26. 3. 2011 (Leif Stenberg, Eric Hoodlund, Jonas Otterbeck) at Erfurt University

Panel **“Contextualizing Bedouin History in the 21st Century: Anthropological and Historical Perspectives“** at Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, 18.-21.11.2010, UC San Diego, USA (Chair)

Panel **“Late Ottoman/Post Ottoman Heterodoxies“**, World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, 19.-24. 7. 2010, Barcelona (Co-Organisation)

Workshop **Everyday Life in Transnational Perspective: Alltagsgeschichte Revisited**, in honor of Alf Luedtke (with S. Jobs, C. Kraft, R. Prass and J. Martschukat), October 2008, Erfurt

**Visions of a World Region/Visionen einer Weltregion**, 15th Congress of Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient (DAVO), 2.- 4.10.2008, Erfurt (organizer)

Europäischer Kongress für Welt- und Globalgeschichte, 23. - 25.9.2005, Leipzig (panel organisation, conference volume published)

„**Europe and the Orient“** - "Europa und der Orient", 29. Deutscher Orientalistentag, 20.-24.9.2004, Halle (Co-Organisation of panel)

Workshop **„Der palästinensisch-israelische Konflikt als Erbe kolonialer Grenzziehungen? Experience of Borders and Boundaries: Grenzerfahrungen und Grenzüberschreitungen in Palestine and Israel“**, 22.- 23.1.2004, Erfurt (with Prof. Gadi Algazi, Tel Aviv University, and Prof. Issam Nassar, al-Quds University, Jerusalem)

Panel **“Muslim Heterodoxies“** at First World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), 8. - 13.9.2002 (organisation, publication in academic journal)

Conference **Muslims and Islam(s) in the Age of Postmodernity and Globalization**, 7. - 9.4.1999, Harvard University, USA (co-organisation, conference volume published),

Second International Conference on **the Syrian Land: Infrastructures and Communication. Processes of Integration and Separation in Bilad al-Sham from the 18th Century to the Mandate Period**, July 1995, Erlangen (co-organisation with Thomas Philipp, conference volume published)

### **Internationale Vorträge**

Ca. 60 internationale (und nationale) Vortragseinladungen, u.a. OIB Beirut (1996), Universität Haifa (1996), Tufts University, Massachusetts (1997), Oxford University (1996), New York University, NY (1997), Princeton University, NJ (1997), University of North Carolina, Chapelhill, NC (1997), Duke University (1998), Columbia University, NY (1998), Harvard University, MA (1999), University of California, Los Angeles, CA (1999), Pasadena, CA (2000), San Francisco, CA (2001), Universität Zürich (2004), DHI London (2006), Universität Lund, Schweden (2007), Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria (2009), Aarhus University, Denmark (2010), Universität Graz (2010), IFPO Aleppo/Syrien

2011, Duhok and Erbil universities, Kurdistan/Irak 2011, Universität Wien (2015), (OIB, Beirut, Lebanon 2013, 2016, 2017) CISH Byblos, Lebanon 2021, La Sapienza, Rome, (2023)

## **Medienbeiträge**

Interviews und Kommentare auf Bayern3-TV (1993), MDR-TV (2003), Deutsche Welle (2004), Deutschland Radio Kultur (2005), Sachsenspiegel-TV (2009), Deutschlandfunk (2015, 2020), WDR (2015, 2020), NDR (2020), SWR (2020), STERN online (2020)

sowie in Zeitungen und Zeitschriften (Die ZEIT, FAZ, SZ, TA, TLZ, Gewerkschaftliche Monatshefte, Nürnberger Stadtmagazin u.a.).

## **Publikationen**

**Siehe website: <https://www.uni-erfurt.de/philosophische-fakultaet/seminare-professuren/historisches-seminar/professuren/geschichte-westasiens/unsere-team/prof-dr-birgit-schaebler>**