

CHOSTIS Newsletter

Volume 16 (2022)



**Commission on the
History of Science
and Technology
In Islamic Societies**

IUHPST

International Union of History and
Philosophy of Science and Technology

islamsci.org

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through 2025*

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Past Presidents

2017–2021: Robert G. Morrison, USA

2013–2017: J. Lennart Berggren, Canada

2011–2013: Jan P. Hogendijk, The Netherlands

2009–2010: Mercè Comes, Spain

2005–2009: F. Jamil Ragep, USA/Canada

2001–2005: Gül Russell, USA

1997–2001: Julio Samsó, Spain

1993–1997: S.M.R. Ansari, India

1989–1993: E. S. Kennedy, USA

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2 CHOSTIS NEWS

Message from the President

Dear colleagues,

This issue of the CHOSTIS *Newsletter* was supposed to be prepared earlier, but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and other factors. For the same reasons, academic activities, including those of history of science, suffered from restrictions and cancellations. On the other hand, these impeding obstacles accelerated the development of digital/virtual facilities. For the first time in history, the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST, of which CHOSTIS is a sub-organization) held its 26th International Congress for the History of Science and Technology (Prague, July 2021) virtually. The progress in digital

facilities has promoted communications among scholars and the dissemination of publications digitally. This is especially important for easy access to manuscript copies from libraries and collections all across the world.

In recent years, we suffered the loss of some colleagues, among whom I want to mention the recent death of my dear colleague and close friend, Dr. Hamid-Reza Giahi-Yazdi (born 1973) who was a brilliant and hard-working historian of mathematical astronomy in Islamic societies (for more names, see the relevant section in this *Newsletter*). We will keep their dear memories in our minds and our love for them in our hearts.

UNESCO has announced the years 2022 and 2023 as the millennium of Abū Rayḥān Bīrūnī, connected with Iran, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. He is regarded by some as the greatest scholar of the Islamic civilization and one of the greatest thinkers of the whole history of mankind. We believe that he belongs not only to the people from the above mentioned countries, but to all human beings. In a more specific and unbiased significance, he belongs to all those who edit, translate, comment, publish and read his works. For this reason, the new Governing Council of CHOSTIS decided to organize webinars in which historians of science from different institutions delivered short talks on different aspects of Biruni's achievements. Up to now, over a dozen lectures have been given by CHOSTIS members in which scores of interested people have attended.

The new GC of CHOSTIS has also decided to update the members' directory. We hope that with these undertakings, the cooperation and scientific exchange among the CHOSTIS members will be enhanced.

I finish my words with expressing my great desire to meet our colleagues during actual (not virtual) gatherings in a more safe and peaceful global condition.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Bagheri

Message from the Secretary

Dear members,

We are very happy to bring this newsletter to you. Many thanks to all those who submitted their information to make this a reality. The Newsletter

has always been a good way for all of us to connect and learn more about each other's work, and I hope this edition will bring you much joy.

Over the last year, we have been collecting information from colleagues about their respective areas of specialization, linguistic expertise, etc. Towards the end of the Newsletter, you will find a brief analysis based on the information we received from our members. We have also begun a new webinar series, in which many colleagues have already participated. We hope to use them as a way to both connect and promote our colleagues' works in the future.

Sincerely,

Nahyan Fancy

The Revised CHOSTIS Website

In spring 2018 the new CHOSTIS webpage went online, designed by Thor Berggren and supervised by Robert Morrison (islamsci.org). Over the last year, the GC decided to update the member information on the website. Thanks to all those who filled out the form for updating the website. If you did not do so earlier, you can still provide the information by [clicking here](#). We have collected information on members' subfields and linguistic expertise too. We are hoping to launch a new search engine that will allow people to connect with our members using their specific research fields, time periods, geographical regions and linguistic expertise.

The CHOSTIS Webinar Series

In March of 2022, CHOSTIS started a new webinar series. The first set of five webinars was dedicated to the life and works of Abū Rayḥān Bīrūnī to coincide with UNESCO's acknowledgment of 2022–2023 as the 1050th birth anniversary of this polymath. The following presenters gave short talks on some aspect of Bīrūnī's works: Jan Hogendijk, Michio Yano, Pouyan Rezvani, Claudio Cecotti, Taro Mimura, Sonja Brentjes, Elaheh Kheirandish, Mahan Mirza, Mohammad-Javad Nategh, Amir-Mohammad Gamini, Zeinab Karimian, Benno van Dalen and Sara Farzpourmachiani. Thank you to all our presenters and attendees for participating in these very lively and informative sessions. The webinars will be uploaded to the website in the near future. We also plan on hosting more webinars on other topic.

If you are interested in presenting, please get in touch with one of the council members.

3 NEWS IN THE FIELD

Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic Sciences, Frankfurt, Germany

For the previous edition of this newsletter Klaus Zimmermann in his capacity as interim manager of the Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic Sciences at Frankfurt, Germany, informed CHOSTIS about the situation at the Institute after the passing of its former director Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin. To follow this up, Mr. Zimmermann informs us briefly about the present situation at the Institute:

The Institute's personnel successfully continued the scientific work at the Institute. To accentuate is the edition of Vol. XXII of the Journal for the History of the Arabic-Islamic Sciences which was realized with the kind support of former scientific employees and other friends of the Institute among the scientific community. At present, inter alia, the Institute is preparing the edition of the next volume of the Journal. A list of the Institute's publications which are presently available can be found under https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/58603005/Publicationen_Publications

Furthermore, the Institute in Westendstrasse 89 in Frankfurt is still open to all interested students or scholars, who would like to make use of the library or who are interested in the Institute's rich collection of books and technical devices. A phone call in advance is recommended because of the limited opening hours (Tel. +49-69-7560090).

The corona pandemic affected adversely the length of the process of appointing a new director, but now there is reason for being confident that the Institute will be again in the hands of a qualified scholar in the foreseeable future.

Deceased

Paul Kunitzsch (b. July 14, 1930 in the province of Brandenburg, Germany) passed away peacefully in Munich on May 7, 2020. His major interests were in astronomy, particularly star names and star tables. Two memoria, one by Benno van Dalen and the other by Richard Lorch, along with a list of his publications can be found in *Suhayl* 18 (2020-2021) ([click here](#)).

Richard Lorch (b. June 13, 1942 in the county of Kent, England) passed away peacefully in Warwick on February 17, 2021. His publications attest to his strong interest in mathematics and astronomy. A memorium along with a list of his publications can be found in *Historia Mathematica* 58 (2021) ([click here](#))

Hamid-Reza Ghihi-Yazdi (b. 1973, Iran) passed away in Tehran on June 4, 2022. He received his PhD from the University of Lille (France) under the supervision of Ahmed Djebbar. He was a historian of mathematical astronomy and most recently had served as the Director of the History of Science Department at the Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation (Tehran). His articles were published in many top journals, including *Suhayl*, *Journal for the History of Astronomy* and the *Archives for the History of Exact Sciences*. His short book (in Persian) on the history of astronomy in Iran is a masterpiece on presenting scholarly discussions to a wider, non-specialist audience. He will be dearly missed.

4 CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

From 2019–2022

Scientiae 2019

CHOSTIS sponsored a panel at the meeting held in Belfast, June 12–15.

International Academy of the History of Science 2019

CHOSTIS sponsored a panel at the meeting held in Athens, September 12–15.

ICHST 2021

CHOSTIS sponsored one panel at the virtually held meeting in Prague, July 25–31.

Upcoming Conferences

Scientific Instrument Symposium 2023

The 42nd symposium of the Scientific Instrument Commission will take place in Palermo, Italy from September 18–22.

ICHST 2025

The 27th International Congress on the History of Science and Technology will take place in Dunedin, New Zealand.

5 NEW MEMBERS

A **kasoy, Anna Ayşe**
aakasoy@gc.cuny.edu

Professor of Islamic Intellectual History at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She specializes in the history of veterinary medicine and hunting, but also has an interest in the relationship between the history of philosophy and science and Middle Eastern literature as well as in cultural contacts and the transmission of knowledge.

“The ‘Founding Fathers’ of Falconry according to Medieval Arabic Literature,” in Charles Burnett and Baudouin van den Abeele (eds), *Falconry in the Mediterranean Context during the Pre-Modern Era* (Geneva, 2021), 9–37.

“Falconry in Arabic Literature: from its Beginnings to the Mid-9th Century,” in Karl-Heinz Gersmann and Oliver Grimm (eds), *Raptor and Human: Falconry and Bird Symbolism throughout the Millennia on a Global Scale* (Schleswig, 2018), 1769–1791.

“Seeing and Recognition in the Arabian Nights and Islamic Alexander Legends,” in Chris Meyns (ed.), *Information and the History of Philosophy* (London, 2021), 107–122.

D **etermann, Jörg Matthias**
jmdetermann@vcu.edu

Associate Professor of History at Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar. He also serves as an associate editor of the *Review of Middle East Studies*. Previously, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Zentrum Moderner Orient and the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies. He holds a doctorate from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and two

master’s degrees from the University of Vienna.

Islam, Science Fiction and Extraterrestrial Life: The Culture of Astrobiology in the Muslim World (London: I.B. Tauris, 2021).

Space Science and the Arab World: Astronauts, Observatories and Nationalism in the Middle East (London: I.B. Tauris, 2018).

K **arimian, Zeinab**
karimian.zeinab@gmail.com

Independent Researcher. Karimian received her PhD in History and Philosophy of Science from Université Paris Cité in 2019. Her thesis was entitled, “The *Recension of the Conics of Apollonius by Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī*.” She was briefly a postdoctoral fellow at the Sharif University of Technology in 2020.

“Traditional and Modern Science in an Age of Transition: ‘Alī Muḥammad Iṣfahānī and the Logarithm of Numbers”, *Mathematics and Physics in Classical Islam: Comparative Perspectives in the History and the Philosophy of Science*, [Crossroad- History of Interactions across the Silk Routes, vol. 5], ed. Giovanna Lelli, Brill, Leiden-Boston, 2022, pp. 67-85.

M **irza, Mahan**
mmirza@nd.edu

Executive Director of the Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion, part of the University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs, where he is appointed as a teaching professor. Mirza is also a concurrent faculty member at Notre Dame’s John. J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values. He previously was dean of faculty at Zaytuna College in Berkeley, California. He completed his doctoral work in religious studies at Yale University on al-Biruni’s method of inquiry.

“Al-Biruni’s Thought and Legacy,” *Wiley Religion Compass*, Blackwell Publishing, Vol. 5, Issue 10, October, 2011, pp. 609-623.

“Believing is Seeing: The Universe in the Eyes of al-Biruni and Ibn Sina,” in *Light Upon Light:*

Essays in Islamic Thought and History in Honor of Gerhard Bowering. Leiden: Brill, 2019, pp. 366-382.

Qidwai, Sarah
sarahqidwai@gmail.com

Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Regensburg. Her dissertation and initial book project focus on the Muslim polymath Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan (1817-1898). Through an interdisciplinary approach, she investigates the development and implementation of Sayyid Ahmad's scientific popularization efforts and how he dealt with science's role in its historical context. Her current project is titled "Scientism and Empire." She will examine how disciplines such as astronomy, geology, and evolutionary biology operated within the confines of Empire in the long 19th century.

"Darwin or Design: Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan's Views on Human Evolution" in *The Cambridge Companion to Sayyid Ahmad Khan*. Edited by Yasmin Saikia and Raisur Rahim. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), 214-232.

"Darwinism and Historiography: What is Excluded?" in *Imagining the Darwinian Revolution: Historical Narratives of Evolution from the Nineteenth Century to the Present*, ed. Ian Hesketh, 137-150 (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022).

Savadi, Fateme
fateme.savadi@mail.mcgill.ca

Postdoctoral researcher at McGill University, working with Professor Robert Wisnovsky on the John Templeton Foundation project "Muhammad 'Abduh's Supercommentary on al-Dawānī's Commentary on al-Ījī's Creed: A New Source for the Renewal of Islamic Analytical Theology." Savadi is a historian of theoretical astronomy, geography and cosmographical traditions in the pre-modern Islamic world. She received her Ph.D. from the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill University in October 2019. Her dissertation,

entitled "The Historical and Cosmographical Context of Hay'at al-arḍ with a Focus on Qūṭb al-Dīn Shīrāzī's Nihāyat al-Idrāk," received the 2021 Dissertation prize from the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology-Division of History of Science and Technology and the İhsanoğlu Prize from the Istanbul Foundation for Research and Education.

Şen, A. Tunç
ats2171@columbia.edu

Assistant Professor of History at Columbia University. He specializes in the history of the Ottoman world from its beginnings in the 14th century through the early 20th century, focusing on the history of sciences and divination, manuscript culture, and the social history of scholarship. He is currently finishing his first monograph, *Forgotten Experts: Astrologers and Scientific Expertise in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire*.

"Reading the Stars at the Ottoman Court: Bayezid II (r. 886/1481-918/1512) and his Celestial Interests", *Arabica* 64 (2017): 557-608.

"Practicing Astral Magic in Sixteenth-Century Ottoman Istanbul", *Journal of Magic, Ritual and Witchcraft* 12 (2017): 66-88.

Trigg, Scott
scott.trigg@gmail.com

Postdoctoral researcher with the project EIDA at the Observatoire de Paris. Trigg is a historian of theoretical astronomy from the 12-16th c., with interests in the circulation of scientific knowledge within the Islamicate world and around the Mediterranean. In his current position he is applying artificial intelligence to a cross-cultural study of astronomical diagrams.

"Optics and Geography in the Astronomical Commentaries of Faṭḥallāh al-Shirwānī," in *Islamic Literature and Intellectual Life in Fourteenth- and Fifteenth-Century Anatolia*, ed. A.C.S. Peacock and Sara Nur Yıldız, (Würzburg: Ergon Verlag, 2016), 361-382.

“Commentaries, Creativity, and the Transmission of Science within Islamic Societies,” in Roundtable “Current Debates and Emerging Trends in the History of Science in Pre-modern Islamic Societies,” eds. Justin Stearns and Nahyan Fancy, *History of Science*, (forthcoming, 2023).

Umut, Hasan

hasanumut@gmail.com

Historian of astronomy in Islamic and Ottoman contexts. He received his PhD in Islamic Studies at McGill University, Montreal, in 2020. His dissertation is titled as “Theoretical Astronomy in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire: ‘Alī al-Qūshjī’s *al-Risāla al-Faṭḥiyya*,” which he is currently turning into a book manuscript. He has recently done research on early modern Ottoman cosmologies, as a postdoctoral fellow at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.

(with David Pantalony) “From the Ottoman Empire to Canada: George Petrovic’s Metrological Instruments in the Canada Science and Technology Museum,” in *Scientific Instruments between East and West*, eds. Neil Brown, Silke Ackermann, and Feza Günergun, 187-205 (Leiden: Brill, 2019).

(with F. Jamil Ragep, Sally P. Ragep, Sajjad Nikfahm-Khubravan, and Fateme Savadi) “Astronomical and Other Mathematical Sciences,” in *Treasures of Knowledge: An Inventory of the Ottoman Palace Library (1502/3-1503/4) (2 vols)*, eds. Gülru Necipoğlu, Cemal Kafadar, and Cornell H. Fleischer, 823-55 (Leiden: Brill, 2019).

6 NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Akasoy, Anna Ayşe

aakasoy@gc.cuny.edu

Publications (listed under New Members)

Conference Presentations

“Patient Animal: Science and Care in Medieval Arabic Literature,” Conference: *From Morning Hunt to Beloved Gazelle: Literary and Visual Representations of Animals from Central Asia to the Maghreb*, Cambridge, UK, December 2021.

Professional Service

Editorial and Advisory Board: *Isis*; Islamic Philosophy, Theology and Science (Brill).

Bagheri, Mohammad

mohammad.bagheri2006@gmail.com

Career Information

President, CHOSTIS (since summer 2021)

Publications

I have recently published an edition of a Persian astronomical work *Zīj-i Yamīnī* jointly with my student Maedeh Hosseinzadeh. It is a zīj composed in 511 A.H./1117-8 CE. The work is published by the Written Heritage Research Institute (Tehran) in 2021.

I have done some minor contributions to Dr. Benno van Dalen’s publication: *Ptolemaic Tradition and Islamic Innovation: The Astronomical Tables of Kūshyār ibn Labbān*, Turnhout: Brepolis, 2021 (see his introduction).

Presentations and Invited Lectures

“History of Astronomy in Iran: An Overview”, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Tokyo, 2019.

“Bīrūnī’s Didactic Work on Astrology”, International Symposium on Astral Sciences in Asia, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay, January 24-26, 2019.

“Ancient Iranian Calendars”, webinar organized by National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, 2021.

“Ulugh Beg’s Scientific school in Samarkand”, Marcel Grossman Symposium, Pescara (Italy), 5 July 2021.

Professional Service

Chief Editor of the Persian journal *Miras-e Elmi* (Scientific Heritage), Written Heritage Research Institute (Iran)

Website

www.mb-kushyar.com

Other

Lecture for the Oriental Studies students in the University of Hamburg on "Manuscripts as Major Sources of Information about the Past", 9 June 2021.

Berggren, J. Lennart
berggren@sfu.ca

Publications

Since 2018 I have published the following articles for the *Encyclopædia of Islam*: Banū Munajjim, Abū Naṣr Maṣṣūr ibn ʿIrāq, Kushyār ibn Labbān, Abū Sahl al-Kūhī, Al-handasa wa'l-misāḥa.

My review of *Ptolemy's Science of the Stars in the Middle Ages* will appear in the May 2022 issue of *Journal for the History of Astronomy*.

Professional Service

Associate Editor of *Suhayl*

Past-president of CHOSTIS (2018–2021)

Website

people.math.sfu.ca/~berggren/

Brentjes, Sonja
sbrentjes@yahoo.de

Career Information

Retired

Publications

"The Stars on the Sky and the Globe: ʿAbd al-Raḥmān ibn ʿUmar al-Sūfī (291–376/903–86)," *Aestimatio*, 2.2. (2022).

"Nicomachean Number Theory in Arabic and Persian Scholarly Literature." In I. Caiazzo, C. Macris, & A. Robert (Eds.), *Companion to the Reception of Pythagoras and Pythagoreanism in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance* (pp. 111-140). Leiden: Brill, 2021. doi:10.1163/9789004499461_005.

(with A. Fidora, eds.). *Premodern Translation: Comparative Approaches to Cross-Cultural Transformations*. Turnhout: Brepols, 2021.

"MS Paris, Bibliothèque des Missions étrangères 1069: The French-Arabic Dictionary of François Pétis de la Croix (1653–1713)?" *Mediterranea*, 6, 57-84.
doi:10.21071/mijtk.v6i.12861.

"The Mathematical Sciences and Medicine in Safavid Iran. In R. Matthee (Ed.), *The Safavid World*, 428-446. London: Routledge, 2021.
doi:10.4324/9781003170822-27.

(with D. Schäfer, eds.) *Imagining the Heavens: Historiographical Challenges and Eurasian Perspectives* [Special Issue]. *NTM*, 28, 3 (2020).

(with D. Schäfer). *Visualizations of the Heavens before 1700 as a Concern of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology*. *NTM*, 28, 3 (2020): 295-304. doi:10.1007/s00048-020-00266-4.

Teaching Mathematical and Astronomical Knowledge in Classical and Post-Classical Islamic Societies. In S. Günther (Ed.), *Knowledge and Education in Classical Islam: Religious Learning between Continuity and Change*. Vol. 2 (pp. 610-634). Leiden: Brill, 2020.

Mathematical Commentaries in Arabic and Persian – Purposes, Forms, and Styles. *Historia Mathematica*, 47 (2019): 54-66.

MS Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Codex Arab. 2967 and its Properties, *Micrologus* XXVII (2019): 443-466

(with H. Bohloul) *The Moon in the Sciences*. In C. Gruber (Ed.), *The Moon: A Voyage through Time* (pp. 22-28). Toronto, ON: Aga Khan Museum, 2019.

Teaching and Learning the Sciences in Islamic Societies (800–1700). Turnhout: Brepols, 2018.

Who Translated Euclid's 'Elements' into Arabic? In J. Hämeen-Anttila, & I. Lindstedt (Eds.), *Translation and Transmission: Collection of Articles* (pp. 21-54). Münster: Ugarit Verlag, 2018.

Visualization and Material Cultures of the Heavens in Eurasia and North Africa. In S. Schmidtke (Ed.), *Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, 1935–2018* (pp. 134-153). Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2018.

Presentations and Invited Lectures

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxSvSojNiAc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Iq734Qebuc>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lw0ye_UuKgU

Professional Service

NTM, Qantara, Suhayl, Osmanlı Bilim Araştırmaları; The Global Epistemics Book Series, Rowman & Littlefield

Website

<http://independent.academia.edu/SBrentjes>

<http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/users/brentjes>

Other

Kenneth O' May Medal 2021

Brummelen, Glen Robert Van
glen.vanbrummelen@twu.ca

Career Information

In 2020, I accepted a position as Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences at Trinity Western University.

Publications

“The tables of planetary latitudes in Jamshīd al-Kāshī’s Khāqānī Zij”, in *Editing and Analyzing Historical Astronomical Tables*, eds. Matthieu Husson, Clemency Montelle and Benno van Dalen, Turnhout: Brepols, 2022, pp. 287-329.

Determann, Jörg Matthias
jmdetermann@vcu.edu

Publications (also see under New Members)

(with Shireen Hamza), “Islam and Science Fiction.” Ottoman History Podcast, 2022.
<https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2022/02/scifi.html>.

“Teaching with Podcasts.” Newsletter of the History of Science Society 49, no. 4 (2020): 10–11.

“Islamophobia & Civilization: Surveying European History from the Middle East.” *Communiqué* 102 (2020): 35–36.

“Bringing art to the teaching of science, technology and society.” *Backchannels*, 2020.
<https://www.4sonline.org/bringing-art-to-the-teaching-of-science-technology-and-society/>.

“Transcending Middle East conflict in the space race,” *Nature Middle East*, 2020.
<https://www.natureasia.com/en/nmiddleeast/article/10.1038/nmiddleeast.2020.69>

(with Taylan Güngör), “The Arab Conquest of Space.” Ottoman History Podcast, 2019.
<http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2019/10/arabconquestofspace.html>.

“History of Astronomy and Space Science in the Islamic World.” In *Oxford Bibliographies in Islamic Studies*, edited by Natana DeLong-Bas (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019).

Presentations and Invited Lectures

“Futurisms in the Muslim World,” Department of English Language and Literature, Cappadocia University, Turkey, 2021.

“Muslim Futurisms: Science and the Imagination Across Asia,” Royal Society for Asian Affairs, London, United Kingdom, 2021.

“Islam and the Imagination of Life beyond Earth,” Habitability Global Research Priorities Webinar, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom, 2020.

“Arabische Astronaut*innen,” Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg, Germany, 2020.

“The History of Astrobiology and the Muslim World.” Global Digital History of Science Festival, British Society for the History of Science, 2020.

“A Space Race in the Gulf?” Brookings Doha Center, Brookings Institution, Qatar, 2019.

“Space Politics and the Gulf States,” Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University, 2019.

“Space Science and the Modern Arab World,” Council on Middle East Studies Colloquium, Yale University, New Haven, United States of America, 2019.

“Islam and the Imagination of Alien Life,” School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco, 2019.

“Space Exploration and the Arab States,” School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco, 2019.

“How Muslims Have Imagined Life in the Universe.” Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, United States of America, 2018.

Website

<http://vcu.academia.edu/Determann>

<http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Joerg-Determann-2>

<http://www.orcid.org/0000-0002-9463-9408>

Fancy, Nahyan

nahyanfancy@depauw.edu

Career Information

Promoted to Full Professor (2019)

Publications

- “Knowing the Signs of Disease: Plague in the Arabic Medical Commentaries Between the First and Second Pandemics,” in *Death and Disease in the Long Middle Ages*, eds Lori Jones and Nükhet Varlık (York: York Medieval Press, 2022), 35–66.
- “Plague and the Fall of Baghdad (1258)” (with Monica H. Green), *Medical History* 65 (2021): 157–177.
- “Verification and Utility in the Arabic Commentaries on the Canon of Medicine: Examples from the Works of Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī (d. 1210) and Ibn al-Nafīs (d. 1288),” *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 75 (2020): 361–382.
- “Galen and Ibn al-Nafīs,” in *Brill’s Companion to the Reception of Galen*, eds Petros Bouras-Vallianatos and Barbara Zipser (Leiden: Brill, 2019), 263–278.
- “Generation in Medieval Islamic Medicine,” in *Reproduction: Antiquity to the Present Day*, eds Nick Hopwood, Rebecca Flemming and Lauren Kassell (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), 129–140.

Website

<http://sites.google.com/a/depauw.edu/nahyan-fancy-personal-webpage/>

Other

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Fellowship, 2021–2022.

Al-Qasimi Visiting Professorship in Islamic Studies, Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, UK, Fall 2021.

American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), Project Development Grant, Summer 2020.

Edwin L. Minar, Jr. Award for Scholarship (DePauw), May 2020.

(with Justin Stearns, NYU-Abu Dhabi), Grant for Workshop, New York University-Abu Dhabi Institute, 2019–2020. Workshop Title: “Current Trends in the History of Science in Muslim Societies: Debates, Approaches and Stakes.” Workshop Dates: December 11–12, 2019.

Hehmeyer, Ingrid

ihehme@ryerson.ca

Career Information

Promotion to full professor, effective July 2021.

Publications

A History of Water Engineering and Management in Yemen: Material Remains and Textual Foundations. (Handbook of Oriental Studies, Section 1: The Near and Middle East 129). Leiden: Brill, 2019.

Presentations and Invited Lectures

- 12/2021: Mathematics and its applications: An example from Rasulid Zabid, Yemen – Middle East Studies Association, 55th Annual Meeting (online).
- 9/2021: Lokale Kompetenz oder Techniktransfer? Die unterirdischen Kanalsysteme im Jemen (Local competence or technology transfer? The underground canal systems of Yemen) – Frontinus-Gesellschaft: Internationale Gesellschaft für die Geschichte der Wasser-, Energie- und Rohrleitungstechnik (Frontinus Society: International Society for the History of Water, Energy and Piping Technology) (online)
- 5/2021: Wasserbau und Wassermanagement im Jemen: Fallbeispiele aus Antike und Mittelalter (Water Engineering and Management in Yemen: Case Studies from Antiquity and the Middle Ages) – Deutsche Wasserhistorische Gesellschaft (German Society for Water history) (online)
- 5/2021: Water and urban life in medieval Zabid, Yemen: Archaeological remains, textual foundations and religious implications (online workshop) – Source of Life Project team, Institute for Culture and History, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
- 5/2020: What do we learn from the history of medicine? – The Curiosity Series, Science Discovery Zone, Ryerson University (online).

- 10/2019: The transmission of knowledge: Examples from classical Arabic medicine – Department of History, University of Western Ontario.
- 10/2019: Why is the history of water engineering and management important? The example of Zabid, Yemen, and Its irrigated farmland – Institute for Islamic Studies, University of Toronto.
- 9/2019: Customary versus Islamic law: Sharing water in Yemen from the 14th to the 18th century – Contesting Water Management and Water Rights between 600 and the 19th Century, Technical University Darmstadt, Germany.
- 6/2019: The madrasa and the natural sciences: Some practical aspects as observed in medieval Zabid, Yemen – 1st International Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin Symposium for the History of Science in Islam, Istanbul University, Turkey.
- 3/2019: Continuity and change: Water engineering and management in Zabid under the Rasulids and Mamluks – Interdisciplinary Approaches to Rasulid Entanglement in the Medieval Islamic World, Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, University of Bonn, Germany.

Professional Service

Since 6/2022: Director, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Studies Centre, Ryerson University

King, David A.
davidkingfrankfurt@gmail.com

Publications

- The Wind-Catchers of medieval Cairo and their secrets – 1001 years of renewable energy*, in 2 pts., 2020, www.academia.edu/43996180
- Historical mosque orientations – How to interpret & how not – A preliminary study*, 2 volumes, www.academia.edu/87024335/.
- “The Culmination of Islamic Sacred Geography – I: The World about the Kaaba (folk astronomy), and II: The World about Mecca (mathematical geography)”, in Christoph Mauntel, ed., *Geography and religious knowledge in the medieval world*, (*Das Mittelalter. Perspektiven mediävistischer Forschung*. Beihefte), Berlin: De Gruyter,

2021, pp. 179-188,
www.academia.edu/49481046/.

- “A quatrefoil astrolabe made by Ahmad ibn Abu ‘Abdallah al-Qurtubi al-Yamani in Tudela in 1336”, for the catalogue of an auction “Islamic Art” at Sotheby’s of London, 31.03.2011,
<http://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2021/arts-of-the-islamic-world-india-including-fine-rugs-and-carpets/a-gilt-brass-astrolabe-signed-by-ahmad-ibn-abu>, with illustrations available on the internet at {astrolabe qurtubi // images}.
- “The enigmatic orientation of the Grand Mosque of Córdoba”, *Suhayl – International Journal for the History of the Exact and Natural Sciences in Islamic Civilisation* (Barcelona) 16-17 (2018-2019): 33-111,
www.academia.edu/39160124/.
- (with François Charette) “A Scientific Instrument for the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet II, ‘The Conqueror’: The universal ‘spiral’ sundial made in 881 Hijra = 1477”
- “The Petra fallacy – Early mosques do face the Sacred Kaaba in Mecca but Dan Gibson doesn’t know how”,
www.academia.edu/37957366/.
- “The Ottoman mosques fallacy – Places of worship facing the Kaaba or ‘Monuments of Jihad’? A. J. Deus has got it all hopelessly wrong”, www.academia.edu/37957500/.
- “Bibliography of books, articles and websites on historical *qibla* determinations”,
www.academia.edu/37957276/.

McVaugh, Michael
mcvaugh@live.unc.edu

Publications

- (with G. Bos and J. Shatzmiller) *The Regimen sanitatis of “Avenzoar”*: Stages in the Production of a Medieval Translation (Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2019).
- Maimonides, On the Regimen of Health: A New Parallel Arabic-English Translation*, by Gerrit Bos, with Latin Translations by Michael R. McVaugh (Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2019).

Website

<http://history.unc.edu/emeritus/michael-mcvaugh/>

Mimura, Taro
mimurataro@gmail.com

Career Information

Associate Professor (the University of Tokyo)

Publications

“Greek Scientific and Philosophical Knowledge as a Survival Tool for a Religious Minority at the Abbasid Court: The Case of Thābit ibn Qurra,” *Sophia Journal of Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Studies* 39 (2021), 33-47.

“Ghulāms (Slave Boys) and Scientific Research in the Abbasid Period: The Example of the Amājūr Family,” *Historia Scientiarum* 29 (2020), 182-197.

Presentations and Invited Lectures

“Mu’ayyad al-Dīn al-‘Urḏī’s Impact on Quṭb al-Dīn al-Shīrāzī concerning Planetary Order”, International Quṭb Al-Dīn Al-Shīrāzī Symposium at Faculty of Theology, Sivas Cumhuriyet University and Faculty of Humanities, Istanbul Medeniyet University (online), 14th October, 2021.

“Fazārī’s Role in the Formation of the Genre of the Arabic Zijes,” ICHST Prague, 30 July, 2021.

“Evolution of the Kitab al-Ustutas Tradition in Sakkaki’s Magical Book,” The Sorcerer’s Handbook Workshop, 12-14 July, 2021.

“Arabic Translation Contests in the Abbasid Courts – The Process of Publicizing Greek Scientific Knowledge in the Abbasid Period,” Workshop "Constructing the ‘Public Intellectual’ in the Premodern World", at Chancellors Hotel, Manchester, 5th-6th September 2019.

“Thabit ibn Qurra’s Handling of Indian Trigonometry”, The Second International Conference on History of Mathematics and Astronomy, at Northwestern University, Xi’an, 2-8 December 2018.

“Jewish Physicians in the Service of Muslim Patrons: Dunash Ibn Tamim's Scholarly Career at the Fatimid Court in Kairouan”, the Explanatory Workshop “Interconnections Between Jewish and Islamic Rationalistic Forms of Thought During the Tenth Century”, at the Université catholique de

Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, 17 September 2018.

“Naturalization of Greek Science Education in the Post-Avicennian Period”, Science Teaching in Pre-Modern Societies Workshop, McGill University, Montreal, 24-26 May 2018.

Oaks, Jeffrey A.
oaks@uindy.edu

Publications

“Proofs and algebra in al-Fārisī’s commentary” *Historia Mathematica* 47 (2019), 106-121.
with Mahdi Abdeljaouad: *Al-Hawārī’s Essential Commentary: Arabic Arithmetic in the Fourteenth Century*. Berlin: Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, 2021.

Presentations and Invited Lectures

“Al-Fārisī’s commentary: Fitting practical Arabic calculation into a classical Greek mold”, May 31, 2021. International workshop “Mathematics and its Ancient Classics Worldwide: Translations, Appropriations, Reconstructions, Roles”, held at Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach.

“François Viète’s revolution in algebra”, Chapman University, November 8, 2019. OCIE research workshop in History and Philosophy of Science and Logic, held at Chapman University, Orange, CA.

Professional Service

Associate editor of *Historia Mathematica*

Website

<http://www.uindy.edu/cas/mathematics/oaks/index>

<http://www.orcid.org/0000-0001-7528-9759>

Rezvani, Pouyan
prezvani@ptolemaeus.badw.de

Career Information

Postdoctoral researcher at the project Ptolemaeus Arabus et Latinus (PAL), hosted by the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Munich, Germany, since 2019.

Publications

Two Treatises on the Astrolabe by Abū Rayḥān Bīrūnī (d. ca. 1050). Editions, Translations and Commentary, Frankfurt am Main: Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic Science at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, 2020, 496 pp. (Islamic Mathematics and Astronomy 115).

Presentations and Invited Lectures

“Between education and patronage: a classification of Arabic astrolabe texts in the 10th and 11th centuries”, Text and Transmission Joint Research Seminar (TeTra Online), 9 August 2021.

“Traces of unrevised translation of the *Almagest* by Ishāq ibn Ḥunayn”, 26th International congress of history of science and technology (virtual congress), Prague, Czech Republic, 25-31 July 2021.

“Al-Bīrūnī’s treatise on the applications of standard and some non-standard astrolabes”, 39th Scientific Instrument Symposium (virtual conference), London, United Kingdom, 15 September 2020.

“Two treatises on the astrolabe by Abū Rayḥān Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad Bīrūnī (973 – 1048 A.D.)”, Institut für den Nahen und Mittleren Osten, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany, 12 November 2019.

Website

<http://ptolemaeus.badw.de/team/46>

<http://badw.academia.edu/PouyanRezvani>

Other

Three-month fellowship at the project Ptolemaeus Arabus et Latinus (PAL) hosted by the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Munich, Germany, June-August, 2018.

Sarma, Sreeramula Rajeswara
sr@sarma.de

Publications

The Dravyaparīkṣā of Ṭhakkura Pherū: An Assayer’s Manual from the Khaljī Court of Delhi, 2021, accessible online at <http://srsarma.in/catalogue.php>.

A Descriptive Catalogue of Indian Astronomical Instruments – third and final revised edition;

4498 pages, containing a comprehensive description of some 550 instruments produced in India and preserved in various museums in India, Pakistan, Europe and North America; accessible online at <http://srsarma.in/catalogue.php>.

Astronomical Instruments in the Sri Pratap Singh Museum, Srinagar, with Photographs by Nazir Ahmad Doshab, Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K, 2020.

A Descriptive Catalogue of Indian Astronomical Instruments – Abridged Version; 2019, accessible online at <http://srsarma.in/catalogue.php>.

“Who is the Native of the Sarvasiddhāntatattvacūdāmaṇi?”, *History of Science in South Asia*, 9 (2021) 167-208.

(with Takanori Kusuba) “Loans and Interest in Sanskrit Legal and Mathematical Texts” in: Cécile Michel and Karine Chemla (ed), *Mathematics, Administrative and Economic Activities in Ancient Worlds*, Springer 2020, ch. 12, pp. 463-501.

“The growing Influence of ‘Vāstuśāstra’ in India,” review article on Felix Otter, *Die Revitalisierung von Vāstuvidyā in kolonialen und nachkolonialen Indien*, CrossAsia-Books, Berlin 2016, in: *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung*, 2020 (115-2) 97-102.

(with Maryam Zamani) “On the Persian translation of Bhāskara’s *Līlāvātī* by Abu’l Faiz Faizī at the Court of Akbar,” *Indian Journal of History of Science*, 54.3 (2019) 269-85.

“Gaṇeśa Daivajña on Multiplication Tables,” *Indian Journal of History of Science*, 54.1 (2019) 90-92.

“Ashadar, The Tibetan Priest’s Time-Stick: A Comedy of Errors in Nomenclature,” *Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society*, No. 140 (March 2019) 20-23.

“Astronomical Instruments in Bhāskarācārya’s *Siddhāntaśiromaṇi*” in: K. Ramasubramanian et al (ed), *Bhāskara-prabhā*, New Delhi 2019, pp. 320-358.

“The Legend of *Līlāvātī*” in: K. Ramasubramanian et al (ed), *Bhāskara-prabhā*, New Delhi 2019, pp. 23-39.

“Water Clock and Steelyard in the *Jyotiṣkaraṇḍaka*,” *International Journal of Jaina Studies*, 14.2 (2018) 1- 49 (<https://www.soas.ac.uk/ijjs/file136765.pdf>).

Website

<http://www.srsarma.in>

Schmidl, Petra G.
petra.schmidl@fau.de

Publications

[For copies please ask the author.]

- “Introductory Surveys. Medieval traditions of prognostication in the Islamic world” in Heiduk, Matthias; Herbers, Klaus; Lehner, Hans-Christian (eds.): *Prognostication in the Medieval World. A Handbook*. Berlin 2021, 189-242.
- “Astral Sciences. Traditions and practices in the Medieval Islamic world” in Heiduk, Herbers & Lehner, *Prognostication*, 2021, 532-550.
- (with Glen M. Cooper) “Geomantic Artefacts in the Medieval Islamic World” in Heiduk, Herbers & Lehner, *Prognostication*, 2021, 794-797.
- “Das Astrolabium des Ahmad Ibn Muhammad al-Naqqash. The astrolabe of Ahmad Ibn Muhammad al-Naqqash” in Feist, Marie-Therese (ed.): *Zeichen der Zukunft. Wahrsagen in Ostasien und Europa*. Nürnberg 2021, 180-184.
- “al-Ashraf ‘Umar’s Tabṣira: The Preface. Announcing an introductory text?”. *Zeitschrift für Geschichte der arabisch-islamischen Wissenschaften* 22 (2020), 163-196.
- “al-Ashraf ‘Umar’s Tabṣira: The table of contents. Supporting sovereign decision-making in 13th century Yemen?” in Grünbart, Michael (ed.): *Unterstützung bei herrscherlichem Entscheiden. Experten und ihr Wissen in transkultureller und komparativer Perspektive (Kulturen des Entscheidens 5)*. Göttingen 2020, 216-232.
- “al-Ashraf ‘Umar’s Tabṣira: Chapter xxvii.1. Numbers in the service of religion in an example from 13th century Yemen” in Schimmelpfennig, Laura V.; Kratz, Reinhard Gregor (eds.): *Zahlen- und Buchstabensysteme im Dienste religiöser Bildung (Studies in education and religion in ancient and pre-modern history in the Mediterranean and Its environs 5)*. Tübingen 2019, 75-111.

*Other*Recent project

“The Sultan and the Stars”.

The project aims at the edition, English translation, and study of the *Kitāb al-Tabṣira fī ‘ilm al-nujūm* by the future Rasūlid sultan al-Ashraf ‘Umar (Yemen, d. 1296). Chapter by chapter, the results will be pre-published on the project's page

Project page

<https://tabsira.hypotheses.org/>

Related publications

[see above]

Related podcasts

<https://theastraproject.org/a-thirteenth-century-yemeni-manuscript-with-petra-g-schmidl/>

<https://theastraproject.org/a-book-of-knowledge-from-13th-century-yemen-with-petra-schmidl/>

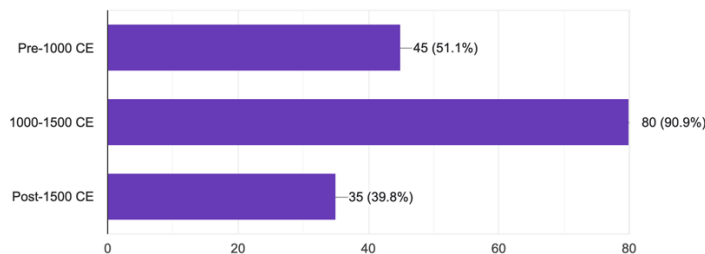
<https://tellmeahistory.net/tmah041-die-sterne-deuten/>

7 MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

Thank you to all members who responded to our request for more and updated information. Based on the survey, we can now visualize several aspects about our membership demographics that are presented here. The demographics will certainly help the current Governing Council in targeting membership outreach in the future.

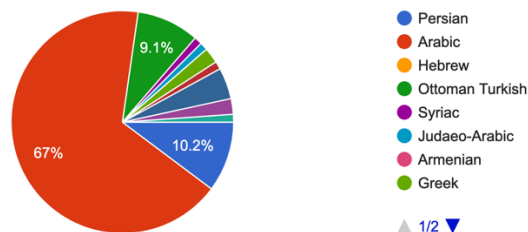
We received 88 responses though we have far more members (and some of those responses were duplicates too). Amongst those who responded, we can see that most of our colleagues focus on the period between 1000–1500 CE though the pre-1000 CE and post-1500 CE periods are also well represented (the percentages add up to more than 100 for many questions since many of our members work on more than one time period, and in more than one secondary language, region and/or research area).

Major Time Period(s) Studied (check all that apply)
88 responses



Similarly, if we look at the primary language expertise of our colleagues, we find that the majority work on Arabic as their primary language, though Persian and Ottoman Turkish are also well represented. The numbers go up for Persian when we include those who indicated it as their secondary language: 41 (53.2%). The next language that is most well-represented amongst members as a secondary language is Latin, with 32 (41.6%) indicating it as a language they use for their scholarship.

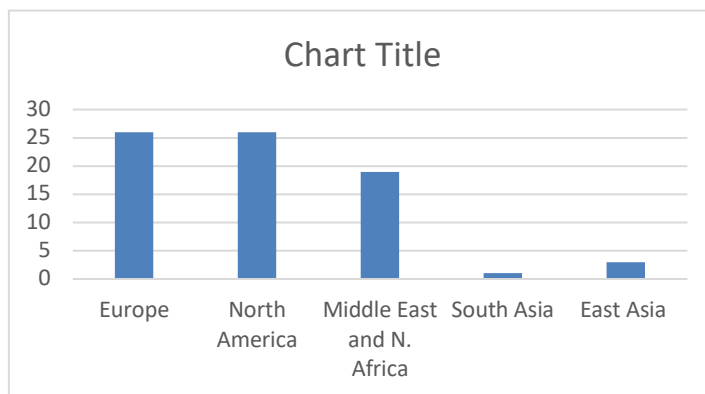
Main Primary Source Language (select only one)
88 responses



In terms of geographical regions studied, all regions bordering the Mediterranean, from Anatolia to the Maghrib, along with Iraq, Iran and Central Asia are well-represented with over 40% colleagues stating they work on those areas. The only exception is Sicily which is far less represented (13.6%). Arabia and Yemen (17%), South Asia (18.2%), East and Southeast Asia (11.4%), as well as Western and Eastern Africa (5.7%) are also less often studied by our members.

In terms of research areas, astronomy (52.3%) and mathematics (42%) are the most represented, followed by physics/natural science (29.5%), astrology (28.4%) and medicine (28.4%). Alchemy (9.1%), optics (10.2%) and life sciences (11.4%) are not as well-represented, while the occult sciences (20.5%), scientific instruments (21.6%) and technology (19.3%) are better represented amongst the specializations of our colleagues.

Finally, in terms where our colleagues reside, this chart displays the distribution of our colleagues across the world. Again, this is based on only those who responded, but it shows that we have a lot more work to do to recruit folks working on history of science and technology in Islamic societies in many other parts of the world, like Africa, South America, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia and Australia.



8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Minutes of CHOSTIS General Meeting Prague, July 30th, 2021 (held virtually)

President's welcome (by Robert Morrison)

Robert Morrison called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.

Homage to deceased members of the Commission (by Lennart Berggren)

Lennart Berggren read out obituaries for our departed colleagues and CHOSTIS members: Paul Kunitzsch and Richard Lorch.

Paul Kunitzsch was born on July 14, 1930 and died very shortly before his 90th birthday May 7, 1990. He was born in time to experience the Great Depression, Hitler's rise to power, the Second World War and the establishment of the DDR. It could not have been an easy childhood!

Paul Kunitzsch was interested in the stars from an early age, and an introductory course in Hebrew at the local gymnasium showed an early interest in Semitic languages. In 1958 at the Free University in Berlin he combined his two interests with a Ph.D. thesis which became his first book, *Arabic Star Names in Europe* (1959), and an English summary of that was published jointly with Tim Smart in 1986.

Due to the job situation in Germany in the late 50s and throughout the sixties Kunitzsch had to support himself by such employment as teaching German in Cairo, Arabic in the Goethe Institute, and consulting on Arabic matters with the German Broadcasting Company . However, late in the 60s he received a fellowship that allowed him to write his second doctoral thesis on the Arabic/Latin tradition of Ptolemy's *Almagest*, and In 1971 he got his first academic posting, at the University of Munich where. In 1978, he became a Professor in the Department of Semitic Languages.

A much more complete account of his life and work, together with a list of publications, may be found in the fine obituary written by Benno van Dalen published in Vol. 18 of *Suhayl*. I would like to end this tribute by acknowledging his kindness to me personally. I had the pleasure of meeting Prof. Kunitzsch for the first time at a conference in North Africa and I had a chance to get to know him sufficiently that some months later, I felt I could write to him with a question about the forms of the numerals used in al-Andalus and the Maghreb. I had expected a reply but not the page and a half of single-spaced typing, with carefully pointed Arabic words written in blue ink. Some years later I sent him a copy of the edition and translation of the Arabic version of Ptolemy's *Planispherium* that Nathan Sidoli and I published in *SCIAMVS*. Since we had used Kunitzsch's collation of the two available MSS of that work we made full use of it in our publication. In his reply, after a page of single-spaced typewritten comments there was another page (in his characteristic blue ink) of suggested alternate readings of the Arabic text.

I know that I am not the only one who could tell such stories about Paul Kunitzsch's generosity in sharing his time and unequalled learning. And since Prof. Kunitzsch did a diploma in classical philology I might be allowed to close with a Greek wish appropriate for such occasions: *Aiōnia tou ē mnēmē* (May his memory be forever.)

Richard Lorch It is sad, but – perhaps – appropriate I should follow an account of Paul Kunitzsch's career and his contributions to our field with a eulogy for Richard Lorch, who worked closely with Paul Kunitzsch in Munich for almost 35 years, from 1985 to 20. (Anyone who has not seen it should read Richard's "Memories of Paul Kunitzsch" in Vol. 18 of *Suhayl*, which gives a very good sense of what that scholarly partnership was like.) Richard Lorch was born in 1942 in England and studied at St. John's College, Oxford, where he took his BA in mathematics in 1964 and his MA in the history and philosophy of science in 1965. He then went on to Manchester University where he earned in PhD in 1971 with his thesis on Jābir ibn Aflaḥ and the influence of his work on the West Richard then spent a year teaching at Bir Zeit university in Palestine and two years at the Institute for the History of Arabic Science in Aleppo, where he worked with E.S. Kennedy and the historian of Arab technology A.Y. Al-Hassan. These years put him in an environment where Arabic was encountered not only in books and manuscripts but all around him, an experience that can only help when one also meets it in literary sources.

In 1975 he published some of the results of this work on Jābir in *Centaurus*, and a noteworthy addition to that study of Jābir appears as Appendix II in the *Variorum* volume of Richard's papers – an "Appendix" that is a fair bit longer than the original paper! Richard maintained a strong interest in Arabic scientific instruments throughout his scholarly career, and I believe his work first came to my attention with his publication in 1980 of "Al-Khāzinī's "Sphere that Rotates by Itself." In fact, 7 of the 18 of his papers republished in the *Variorum* volume concern scientific instruments, and 2 of the 4 monographs singled out for special mention in the obituary written by Menso Folkerts and Benno van Dalen deal with scientific instruments.

I met Richard at a number of conferences, both in Europe and North Africa, where I learned much from his presentations (and enjoyed his quiet humor). Even as his Parkinson's progressed he was always willing to answer my questions sent by email.

He will be much missed.

Financial report (Robert Morrison)

Robert Morrison provided a detailed financial report concerning CHOSTIS. He also provided information on the website hack CHOSTIS experienced. Since the website does not have any member's sensitive personal data, no such information was compromised due to the hack. Here is the table recording all financial transactions over the last four years from the CHOSTIS account.

Date	Deposit/Withdrawal	Reason	Ending Balance
9/1/17			\$2,007.29
	(\$2,000)	Website design	
	\$0.26	Interest received	
9/14/18			\$7.55
11/23/18	\$1,747.72	Incoming Wire Transfer	\$1,755.27
	(\$16)	Wire Transfer Fee	\$1,739.27
12/13/18	\$0.01	Interest received	\$1,739.28
3/14/19	\$0.04	Interest received	\$1,739.32
6/13/19	(\$750)	Withdrawal	\$989.32
6/13/19	\$0.04	Interest received	\$989.36
9/13/19	\$0.03	Interest received	\$989.39
10/23/19	\$972.38	Incoming Wire Transfer	\$1,961.77
	(\$16)	Wire Transfer Fee	\$1,945.77
11/13/19	\$0.02	Interest received	\$1,945.79
2/12/20	\$0.06	Interest received	\$1,945.85
6/16/20	\$0.06	Interest received	\$1,945.91
9/16/20	\$0.06	Interest received	\$1,945.97
12/16/20	\$0.06	Interest received	\$1,946.03
3/16/21	\$0.06	Interest received	\$1,946.09
6/16/21	\$0.06	Interest received	\$1,946.15
		Conference Registration	
	(\$350.71)	(€295)	\$1,595.44
	(\$20)		\$1,575.44
8/31/21			\$1,575.44

Reports about Interim Meetings

At the previous meeting four years ago in Rio, the members present had felt it would be a good idea to hold an interim meeting when possible. As it turned out, in 2019 we ended up with CHOSTIS panels and meetings at two different conferences in two different cities.

Robert Morrison was part of a CHOSTIS panel that he organized for the *Scientiae* meeting in Belfast (12–15 June, 2019). The title of the panel was “Scientific Exchange with Europe in the Ottoman Empire and Iran,” and the presenters included Robert Morrison, Salim Ayduz,

Amir-Mohammad Gamini (paper read in absentia by Robert Morrison). Petra Schmidl was part of another panel she helped organize with Miquel Forcada at the *International Academy of the History of Science* meeting in Athens (12–15 September, 2019). The panel was entitled, “Above and Below the Moon: Islamic Science Across the Mediterranean,” and the presenters included the following members: Petra Schmidl, Emilia Calvo, Rosa Comes, Miquel Forcada, Montse Díaz-Fajardo and Julio Samsó.

After their reports on these conferences, the attending members discussed the possibilities and advantages of such interim meetings of the commission in the future. Important points were raised about accessibility through Zoom or other online platforms for those who do not have travel funds, and also for continuing interactions during the current pandemic. Members also discussed the importance of being visible at major international conferences. The incoming governing council will look to identify an international conference for a CHOSTIS panel(s) and think of ways to convene an interim meeting that could potentially bring in those physically present at such an international conference as well as virtual participants.

New Governing Council elections

Robert Morrison explained that the results were conducted electronically which helped cut the costs of mailing paper ballots to all members. The results are provided in the table below. There was only one candidate for each position but members had the right to “write-in” an alternate candidate while voting. A total of 42 votes were received. The numbers indicate those who approved, those who wrote in another candidate, and those who abstained.

Mohammad Bagheri	president	38	2	2
Petra Schmidl	vice-president	40	1	1
Nahyan Fancy	secretary	40	1	1
Emilia Calvo	counsellor	42	0	0
Taro Mimura	counsellor	41	1	0

New Business

There was some interest expressed in using existing virtual platforms to connect CHOSTIS members during the course of the year through either work-in-progress or masterclass workshops. A newsletter was put out in 2018 and there were plans originally to have one in 2020 but the pandemic played havoc with those plans. There was strong interest in putting out a newsletter in 2022. The outgoing members of the governing council were thanked for all their work over the past four years.