

The CNRS Scientific Interest Group of the «Middle East and Muslim Worlds»,

was created on January 1, 2013 to bring together French research teams who work in this field regardless of their discipline (history, geography, political science, sociology, anthropology, archeology, law, art history, literature, Islamology, and philosophy).

While GIS focuses primarily on the Middle East and the Maghreb, it also explores «the Muslim Worlds». This refers to the common shared history and culture established through a vast geographical region spreading from its heartland in the Middle East westwards to Morocco and eastwards through Central Asia to India and South-East Asia.

The director of GIS is named by the I'InSHS (The Institute of Human and Social Sciences) of the CNRS for a term of four years and is assisted by one or two co-directors.



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Our Mission

- To break down the existing barriers and divisions inherited from the colonial period between North Africa and the Middle East or between the Arab world and the Turkish or Iranian societies,
- To promote research on the common themes that bring historians and scholars of the contemporary era together,
- To give priority to an interdisciplinary approach in human and social sciences,
- To develop research in Islamology and religious history for modern and contemporary Islam
- To respond to the challenges posed by the current upheavals unfolding in the Maghreb and the Middle East.

What We Do

White Papers

The White Paper of French studies of the Middle East and Muslim Worlds of September 2014 (Le Livre blanc des études françaises sur le Moyen-Orient et les mondes musulmans) summarizes the affiliations presented by members of the GIS team. Its objective is to give an overview of our field of research in order to promote an informed policy of research and training (new edition to appear in September 2016). Documentary sources are given special attention: the White Paper of Oriental Libraries (Livre blanc des bibliothèques orientalistes), is a current work in progress being made in association with GIS Asian studies and GIS African Studies as well as an inventory of funding of French researches on the Orient et Muslim Worlds. A Library Guide of the Muslim Worlds was published in 2016.

Conventions

GIS organized its first convention in July of 2015 to update and assess the state of French research in this field. After an initial meeting, researchers presented their on-going research at half and whole day workshops, encouraging debates between researchers. Round table conversations stimulated discussions with journalists specializing in the Middle East, librarians specializing in the Orient, and representatives of Parisian institutions who spread knowledge of the Muslim worlds. Throughout the convention, several editors presented their works. Other events included a concert, a poetry recitation night, and a related film.



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Journals

During the convention, journals pertaining to this field were distributed. Several of these journals received funding from GIS to publish one of the workshops from the convention.

File of Completed and In-Progress Theses

GIS establishes and updates a list of doctorates and thesis defenses over a period of 10 years (2005-2015) as to best identify the directions of French research and the various orientations to support.

Research Directory

The objective of this directory is to bring together all the researchers, professors, doctorates and post-doctorates who study the Middle East and the Muslim worlds. This cross-discipline research is informed by geographical areas, disciplines, and key words.

The Thesis Prize of the Middle East and Muslim Worlds

The 2016 Thesis Prize of the Middle East and Muslim Worlds brought together several prizes that were awarded to young doctorates in the human and social sciences. It was organized by the Institute of Islamic Studies and Societies of the Muslim World (l'Institut d'études de l'Islam et des sociétés du monde musulman (IISMM-EHESS)) and GIS Middle East and Muslim Worlds. This event allows the scientific community to recognize and spread knowledge about new French and Francophone research.

The Middle East department of the l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) was also responsible for awarding a prize.

The Mohammed Arkoun Prize for Islamology was supported by the Bureau central des cultes (DLPAJ), The Minister of the Interior, and the Minister of National Education and Higher Teaching and Research



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Forum: Teach the Muslim Worlds: Languages, histories, societies took place in Lyon from November 3-5th, 2016. It was organized by three of GIS's teams: (CIHAM, LARHRA, Triangle).

The Forum put in place preparatory workshops created conjointly by professors and primary and secondary educators.

Associations

The AGIS Association - Friends of the Scientific Interest Group for the Middle East and Muslim Worlds

Created on July 12th, 2014 (official date of the Journal's publication), this association aims to support academic studies on the Middle East and Muslim worlds. The association is an immense support for GIS, specifically in organizing its biennial convention in bringing together all the researchers working in France on the Middle East and Muslim worlds.

The yearly subscription fee :

- 20 euros for researchers, professors, secondary education instructors, doctorats and contractual post-doctorats.
- Free for doctorates and post-doctorates without a contract.

To find out more : <http://www.association-agis.org>

GIS seeks to unite and support associations tied to the Middle East and Muslim Worlds. It specifically supports associations of doctorates in organizations within doctorate programs and philological workshops :

- **Association française des arabisants (AFDA)**

<http://afdarabisants.blogspot.fr/>

- The research group **ARVIMM** studies modern and contemporary visual arts in the Arab and Muslim World.

<http://arvimm.hypotheses.org/>

- **The Circle of Middle East Researchers (CCMO)**

<https://cerclechercheursmoyenorient.wordpress.com/>

- The **Diwan** Association brings together French doctorates who study Medieval Islam in organizing scientific meetings each year.

<http://diwan.hypotheses.org/>

- The **Halqa** Association seeks to bring together doctorates who have completed a dissertation with a French university on historical or contemporary Muslim worlds.

<http://halqa.hypotheses.org/>

- The directory of **Samah** (The Sorbonne Association of the Arab and Hebrew Worlds) is fueled by members of the association.

<http://samah.hypotheses.org/a-propos>

- The **Society of Jewish Studies** encourages the development of studies related to religion, history, literature, and Jewish societies.

<http://societedesetudesjuives.org/>

Our Partners

The Scientific Interest Group of the Middle East and Muslim Worlds brings together more than forty institutions (universities, schools, institutes of political studies, research teams).

The Institute of Islamic Studies and Societies in the Muslim World, mixed unit of service (UMS) is the structure of support for GIS Middle East and Muslim Worlds «Moyen-Orient et mondes musulmans» and is a privileged partner.



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Moyen-Orient et Mondes Musulmans

Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique

Uniting the researchers of the Middle East and Muslim Worlds

