



The Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, promotes interdisciplinary research, curricular development, and programming in the histories and cultures of Western Europe, the Mediterranean, and Western Asia from late antiquity through the Renaissance. With an active, accomplished faculty spread across eight different academic departments, Marco offers a range of disciplinary specializations in, and methodological approaches to the humanities, social sciences, languages, and arts.

The Marco Institute grew out of the university's successful Medieval Studies Interdisciplinary Program and built on its longstanding record of attracting accomplished scholars in these fields. The institute was catalyzed by a 2003 National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant that helped secure, with substantial fundraising efforts, a \$3-million endowment. Housed in Greve Hall, the institute provides space for classes and meetings, as well as an expanding reference library. Marco hosts internationally recognized scholars for its yearly symposium and for annual lectures, sponsors faculty and graduate research seminars, and provides a range of fellowships for visiting scholars and graduate students. Marco is also the home of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Interdisciplinary Program and offers an undergraduate major and minor, as well as a graduate certificate in Medieval Studies. With its rich programming and interdisciplinary curriculum, the institute maintains a vibrant scholarly profile and commitment to academic distinction.

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**Co-sponsors:** The SARIF Scholarly Projects Fund (Office of Research); the Departments of English, History, Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, Religious Studies, Art History, and Philosophy; the Middle East Studies Program; and the UT Humanities Center.

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Marco Symposium



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American Numismatic Society,  
Silver dirham of Bishr b. Marwan  
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THE MARCO INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES 2018 SYMPOSIUM

### Navigating Language in the Early Islamic World

April 6-7, 2018

Great Room  
UT International House  
1623 Melrose Avenue

## Friday

- 8:45-9:30** Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 9:30-9:45** Welcome and Opening Remarks by Jay Rubenstein, Riggsby Director of Marco
- 9:45-12:15** SESSION I (Moderator: Tina Shepardson)
- 9:45-10:30 **Muriel Debié:** “The Languages of Diplomacy and Religion in the Late Antique Near East: the Arab Tribes and Surrounding Official Languages”
- 10:30-11:15 **Khodadad Rezakhani:** “Pidginisation, Creolisation, and Hybridity: the Interaction of Languages in the Early Islamic East Iran and Transoxiana”
- 11:15-11:30 *Morning Break*
- 11:30-12:15 **Petra Sijpesteijn:** “A Policy of Multilingualism in the Early Muslim Empire”
- 12:15-1:45** *Lunch at Black Cultural Center*
- 1:45-3:15** SESSION II (Moderator: Ryan Lynch)
- 1:45-2:30 **Phillip Stokes:** “New Perspectives on the Linguistic Landscape of Arabic in the Early Islamic Period”
- 2:30-3:15 **Fred Astren:** “‘Abbāsīd Book Culture and Ninth-Century Jewish Sectarianism”
- 3:15-3:30 *Afternoon Break*
- 3:30-4:15 **Judith A. Lerner:** “From Bactrian to Arabic: Seals and Sealing Practices Observed in the Pre-Islamic and Early Islamic Documents from Bactria”
- 4:15-5:00 **Alison Vacca:** “Language, Power, and Storytelling: Arabic in Caliphal Armenia”

## Saturday

- 10:00-10:30** Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 10:30-12:00** CONVERSATIONS
- 10:30-11:00 Group 1 – Pamela Klasova
- 11:00-11:30 Group 2 – Abby Kulisz
- 11:30-12:00 Group 3 – Kader Smail
- 12:00-1:30** *Lunch in I-House Community Room*
- 1:30-4:00** SESSION III (Moderator: Matthew Gordon)
- 1:30-2:15 **Aaron Butts:** “Intersections between Arabic and Aramaic: The Case of Syriac Christians”
- 2:15-3:00 **Marie Legendre:** “State Representation vs. Practical Use: the Administrative Languages of the Umayyads”
- 3:00-3:15 *Afternoon Break*
- 3:15-4:00 **Antoine Borrut:** “Towards an Arabic Cosmopolis: Culture and Power in Early Islam”
- 4:00-5:00** ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION