



Dear Colleagues,

We were sorry that this year's Seminar for Arabian Studies, organised by the International Association for the Study of Arabia (IASA), scheduled to take place at the Casa Arabe, Cordoba, Spain, from 15th to 18th July 2020, had to be postponed due to the global pandemic.

However, we are pleased to announce that the 54th Seminar will be going ahead in the summer of 2021, though we will be switching to a virtual format. Dates and further details will be announced soon.

The Seminar for Arabian Studies is the only international forum that meets annually for the presentation of the latest academic research in the humanities on the Arabian Peninsula from the earliest times to the present day or, in the case of political and social history, to the end of the Ottoman Empire (1922). The Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies are published the following year in time for the next Seminar.

Although we are not able to convene the Seminar physically in Spain we hope to explore the cultural links that connect the Iberian and Arabian peninsulas in two special sessions.

### **Call for Papers**

If you wish to offer a paper, please send an abstract to [seminar.arab@theiasa.com](mailto:seminar.arab@theiasa.com) on or before the 28 February 2021 for consideration by the Steering Committee. Do not send abstracts to any other e-mail address.

Abstracts should include what the proposed paper intends to cover, an outline of the approach it will take and an indication of the significance of the topic. Abstracts can include up to three relevant bibliographical references. All abstracts must also include **1) the title of the proposed paper; 2) name(s) and affiliation(s) of the contributor(s); 3) five keywords**. Abstracts are limited to 200 words maximum (not including bibliographic references) and abstracts that are significantly over the word limit may be rejected. Please submit your abstracts as Word documents only.

Presentations are limited to 20 minutes, with an additional 5 minutes for discussion. They can be delivered in English, French or Spanish; however, submissions for publication in PSAS must be made in English. Due to programme time constraints, and the ever-increasing number of abstracts received, there is no guarantee that all papers will be accepted. The Steering Committee will select those abstracts that are most scholarly, with a focused statement of thesis or importance, clear aims and methodology, well-organised research data, specified sources, and coherent conclusions. As in previous years, the Committee will normally only accept one abstract from any given project.

Only those papers that are actually presented at the Seminar will be considered for publication in the Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies, and they will be subject to editorial and peer review.

### **Special Sessions: 2021**

The 2021 Seminar for Arabian Studies will include two special sessions. We invite abstract submissions to these sessions. Please submit your abstract to [seminar.arab@theiasa.com](mailto:seminar.arab@theiasa.com) on or before 28 February 2021 for consideration by the Steering Committee. Your abstract must include all the details listed above in the call for papers.

#### **Special Session 1: Intellectual links: language, law, theology and culture in Jazirat al-‘Arab and Jazirat al-Andalus.**

Al-Andalus was an integral part of the Islamic civilization that originated in the Hijaz in Arabia. There were of course important continuities from previous autochthonous and Mediterranean cultures in the Andalusian world, but Arabian cultural influence is probably one of its most important, and yet at the same time the one most ignored by scholars. In this Special Session we invite papers which discuss the intellectual and cultural links between Arabia and Al-Andalus, in law, literature, and culture in its widest sense.

#### **Special Session 2: Comparison of cultural environmental adaptations in the Arabian and Iberian peninsulas.**

In this session we aim at discussing diversity in human adaptations to arid environments in the Arabian and Iberian Peninsulas. These two peninsulas are both large land masses with a range of geographies and with rich cultural histories. Although they came closely into contact only from the Islamic period onwards, they shared similarities in climate, land, and connectivity long before that. This session is intended to allow scholars to present on behavioural strategies developed to cope with the specifics of arid landscapes in both Arabia and Iberia from the early prehistory to modern times. There is particular interest in settlement dynamics, subsistence strategies as well as water control and management from an archaeological point of view, but contributions from other perspectives are also welcome.

### **Focus Session Proposals**

The Committee is happy to consider possible Focus Session Proposals. A Focus Session Proposal must include a minimum of four papers and have a clear scholarly focus with the explicit purpose to promote discussion and debate on work currently in progress, the current state of scholarship, issues involved in the application of new approaches and models, etc. A proposal for a Focus Session should include a summary of up to 200 words outlining the purpose of the Session, along with abstracts formatted as outlined above for individual abstracts. The Committee will still consider each focus session abstract individually. A Focus Session chair may be nominated by the proposer but a final decision on this will remain with the Committee.