

III INTENSIVE SUMMER COURSE

# The scholars of Al-Andalus: the politics of knowledge

CASA ÁRABE, CÓRDOBA

23-28 JULY 2017

Scientific Directors:

Maribel Fierro (ILC-CCHS, CSIC)

Luis Molina (EEA, CSIC)







## INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Great Mosque of Córdoba, a glimpse of which appears in the image above, is not only an extraordinary example of medieval Arab architecture and a desired tourist destination; it is at the same time an embodiment of the civilization of al-Andalus, of the power and cultural hegemony it exercised over centuries, of its fall and fragmentation, and of its persisting image and legacy in our days.

This **III Intensive Summer Course** organized by Casa Árabe and the CSIC and held in Córdoba –as those that preceded it- is meant to introduce English speakers to the fascinating history of al-Andalus. Specialists will guide a selected group of students in a series of seminar-style intensive classes throughout a week-long course. We will explore together the political, social and economic aspects of this history, examine the intellectual developments and achievements that the civilization of al-Andalus reached, and look at its various contemporary meanings and legacies. Students will be acquainted with various types of sources, with textual and material remains, and with the scholarly work done in order to unearth the treasures of al-Andalus.

The course – this year – focuses on the scholars of al-Andalus, most especially the religious scholars (*'ulama'*) but also those involved in the 'sciences of the ancients'. Both continuities and changes will be explored from the Umayyad to the Nasrid period, dealing also with the specific features of the Mudejar and Morisco scholarly context. Special attention will be paid to the scholarly and social practices that allowed them to relate different groups in society, from the ruling elites to the common people. The main aim of the course is to assess the state of the art and to identify which areas need to be studied or to be further explored.

## VENUE

The choice of the Casa Árabe in Córdoba as the venue for the course hardly needs any explanation. It is housed in the beautiful **Casa Mudéjar**, a 14-16<sup>th</sup> century building whose restoration received the World Heritage City Award 2011 from the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. (<http://www.casaarabe.es/sedes/show/casa-arabe-cordoba>). The Casa is located at a three-minute walk from the Mosque-Cathedral.

## THE STUDENTS AND COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is directed at **university students and scholars** who – regardless of their specialization - want to become familiar with the most relevant issues related to the history of al-Andalus. Taught in English, it aims at guiding the participants to the wide range of scholarly research on al-Andalus. **Thirty students** will be selected from among the applicants (for the application procedure see below).

Students are not required to have knowledge of Arabic or any other **language** except English; for those who are proficient in Arabic, guidance in the Arabic sources will be provided as a complement.



A basic **bibliography** of studies in English will be provided once the selection of students has been made and registration has been finalized. The students selected are expected to become familiar with that bibliography before the beginning of the course. A more comprehensive bibliography, including the most relevant studies in a variety of languages, will be provided during the course.

As the course is **intensive and text-oriented**, students are required to be present at each class. An attendance certificate will correspondingly be provided. For those interested in producing a research paper, assignments will be given and upon submission (within six months) an examination certificate can be obtained.

## TEACHERS

- Esperanza ALFONSO, ILC-CSIC, Madrid
- María Luisa ÁVILA, EEA-CSIC, Granada
- Xavier BALLESTÍN, University of Barcelona
- José BELLVER, Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Munich
- Rafael BLANCO, University of Córdoba
- Maribel FIERRO, ILC-CSIC, Madrid
- Miquel FORCADA, University of Barcelona
- Alejandro GARCÍA-SANJUÁN, University of Huelva
- Luis MOLINA, EEA-CSIC, Granada
- Juan Pedro MONFERRER, University of Córdoba
- Mayte PENELAS, EEA-CSIC, Granada
- Teresa SOTO, University of Salamanca
- Jan THIELE, ILC-CSIC, Madrid
- Antonio VALLEJO, Fine Arts Museum, Córdoba

## SCHEDULE

The course will take place during the forth week of July, from Monday 23 to Saturday 28, with a total of **37 hours**. On Saturday morning, class will be held in the Umayyad palatine town of Madinat al-Zahra'. The course will be completed by two archeological workshops on Tuesday and Thursday morning, and a visit to the Archaeological Museum in Córdoba on Wednesday.

# PROGRAM

## Monday **23** Casa Árabe, Córdoba

08:30 - 09:00 Introduction

09:00 - 11:00 **M. Fierro**, *The emergence of the religious scholars ('ulama'): a comparative view (Ifriqiya, the Maghreb and al-Andalus).*

11:00 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 13:30 **M. L. Ávila** and **M. Penelas**, *Travelling in search of knowledge: the rihla of the Andalusis.*

13:30 - 17:00 Break

17:00 - 19:00 **L. Molina** and **M. Penelas**, *Network analysis of the Andalusí scholarly establishment.*

20:00 Reception

## Tuesday **24** Casa Árabe, Córdoba

08:30 - 11:00 **R. Blanco**, *Religious scholars in Umayyad Cordova. (archaeological workshop).*

11:00 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 13:30 **X. Ballestín**, *From the Cordova Caliphate to the Party Kingdoms (929-1085). Learning, Islamic sciences and power exercise in al-Andalus.*

13:30 - 17:00 Break

17:00 - 19:00 **M. Forcada**, *Science and scientists in al-Andalus. I: from the Umayyads to the Party Kingdoms.*

19:00 Reception

## Wednesday **25** Casa Árabe, Córdoba

09:00 - 11:00 **M. Forcada**, *Science and scientists in al-Andalus. II: from the North African dynasties to the Nasrids.*

11:00 - 11:30 Break

Archaeological Museum, Córdoba

11:45 - 13:45 **J. P. Monferrer**, *Christian scholars.*

13:45 - 17:00 Break

17:00 - 19:00 **E. Alfonso**, *Jewish scholars.*

## Thursday **26** Casa Árabe, Córdoba

08:30 - 11:00 **R. Blanco**, *Law (fiqh) and urban development in Islamic Cordova. (archaeological workshop).*

11:00 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 13:30 **J. Bellver**, *New trends in the study of the mystics of al-Andalus.*

13:30 - 17:00 Break

17:00 - 19:00 **J. Thiele**, *The theologians.*

20:00 Dinner

## Friday 27 Casa Árabe, Córdoba

09:00 - 11:00 **M. Fierro**, *The Almohad scholars: change and continuity*.

11:00 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 13:30 **T. Soto**, *Preserving knowledge in "corrupted times": networks of Islamic learning in Early Modern Spain*.

13:30 - 17:00 Break

17:00 - 19:00 **A. García Sanjuán**, *How did scholars earn their lives?*

## Saturday 28 Madinat al-Zahra', Córdoba

09:30 - 13:30 **A. Vallejo**, *Religion, knowledge and politics in Madinat al-Zahra'*.

## LODGING AND MEALS

Coffee will be provided in the morning breaks and the fee includes as well a welcome reception and a dinner on Thursday. Students should arrange for the rest of their meals and lodging. Córdoba has many hotels and restaurants. A selection of the different options available around Casa Árabe will be provided upon registration.

## APPLICATION AND FEE

Those interested are requested to send an e-mail message to [infocordoba@casaarabe.es](mailto:infocordoba@casaarabe.es), indicating in the message subject line: **Intensive Summer Course Al-Andalus III**. They need to provide a brief introduction about the candidate's profile, including first and last names (maximum 300 words), and a letter expressing their interest in the course. The deadline is **April 1<sup>th</sup> 2018**. Those 30 selected will be contacted by April 30<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Once confirmation of admittance is received, registration must be completed using the application form that will be sent. The fee for the course is **300 €**.

**Further information:** Calle Samuel de los Santos Gener, 9.

From Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 14:00 p.m. ([infocordoba@casaarabe.es](mailto:infocordoba@casaarabe.es))

Cover photo: Imaginary conversation between Ibn Rushd (12th century) and the Neoplatonic philosopher Porphyrius (3rd-4th century). (cc) Monfredo de Monte Imperiali "Liber de herbis", 14th century a.d. Reproduction in "Inventions et decouvertes au Moyen-Age", Samuel Sadaune.

Organized by:



With the collaboration of:



Redes de ulemas andalusíes: Estructuras de transmisión del saber y relaciones interpersonales, IP: L. Molina (EEA-CSIC) FFI2016-75295-P

Contextos locales y dinámicas globales: al-Andalus y el Magreb en el Oriente islámico, IPs: M. Fierro y M. Penelas (ILC y EEA-CSIC) FFI2016-78878-R