

# Beatrice Bottomley

beatrice.bottomley@unibo.it

Storia della scienza e delle tecniche, Dipartimento di Filosofia, Via Zamboni 38, Bologna

Beatrice's research examines connected histories of knowledge across the premodern and early modern Mediterranean. Her research focuses on the production and transmission of ideas, techniques, and texts and what these processes reveal about moments of epistemic continuity and change across geographies, periods, disciplines, and social spheres. Beatrice is currently a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Bologna as part of the ERC project *UseFool: Knowledge and manipulation of nature between usefulness and deception in the Arabo-Islamic tradition (9th–15th century)*. As part of the project, she is examining the production and transmission of knowledge about the properties of plants, animals, and stones in premodern Arabic handbooks for remedies, wonders, and illusions. Her doctoral dissertation explored premodern theories of language and their reception in the development of practical techniques for healing and political forecasting by elite and unnamed scholars in the premodern and early modern Islamic world.

## Education

- **PhD in Cultural, Intellectual, and Visual History at the Warburg Institute – University of London, October 2019 to November 2023.** Under the supervision of Professor Charles Burnett and Doctor Kazuyo Murata. Examined by Doctor Liana Saif and Professor Peter Adamson.
- **MRes in the Hamito-semitic, Muslim and Arab World (mention Très Bien) at l'Institut de Recherches et d'Etudes sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman (IREMAM) – CNRS/Aix-Marseille Université, 2016-2018.** Under the supervision of Professor Richard Jacquemond.
- **BA Arabic (first class) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) – University of London, 2011-2015.** Visiting Student at An-Najah University, Nablus, 2013-2014.

## Academic Employment

- Post-doctoral Researcher on ERC Project '**UseFool: Knowledge and manipulation of nature between usefulness and deception in the Arabo-Islamic tradition (9th–15th century)**' at the University of Bologna – from May 2024 to present.
- Teaching Fellow on postgraduate modules '**Interdisciplinary Methods in the Humanities**' and '**Public Engagement with Humanities Research**' at the University of Bologna – from May 2024 to present.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant on undergraduate module '**Philosophy in the Islamic World**' at King's College London - September 2021 to May 2023.

## Academic Publications

### Articles

- [forthcoming] **'From Ibn 'Arabī's Theory to Practice of Language.'** *Micrologus: Science and Craft: The relations between the theoretical and practical sides of the occult and esoteric sciences in the Islamic World*, guest edited by Godefroid De Callatay, Sebastian Moreau, and Liana Saif.
- [forthcoming] **'From Text to Technique: Recipes for Writing Tricks and Magical Inks in al-Īrāqī's 'Uyūn al-ḥaqā'iq.'** co-written with Marianna Marchini. *Nunciūs: Studies and Sources in the Material and Visual History of Science*, guest edited by Miriam Blanco Cesteros.

### Book Chapters

- **'Ars combinatoria: Deciphering the Earthly and Divine in the Mediaeval World and Beyond,'** co-written with Arianna Dalla Costa, in *Media Technologies and the Digital Humanities in Mediaeval and Early Modern Studies*, edited by Katharine Scherff and Lane Sobehrad. London: Taylor and Francis, 2023.

### Book Reviews

- **'Sorcery or Science? Contesting Knowledge and Practice in West African Sufi Texts by Ariela Marcus-Sells.'** *Journal of Islamic Studies*, 34 (September 2023).
- **'Translation Movement and Acculturation in the Mediaeval Islamic World by Labeeb Bsoul.'** *The Oxford Critical Comparative and Translation Review* (March 2021).

### Awards & Grants

- **London Arts and Humanities Partnership doctoral studentship**, 2019-23, fees, maintenance, and research expenses.
- **John Coffin Memorial Trust**, March 2022, £500 for organisation of event **Agitated Air: Poems After Ibn Arabī**.
- **IREMAM research grant**, 2018, €600 awarded by Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS).

### Selected Conferences, Seminars & Workshops

- Paper **'Seeing is Transforming: Aesthetic Approaches to the Manipulation of the Natural World in the Premodern Islamic Tradition'** at La Fondazione Cini, Venice, 13 November 2024.
- Paper **'Writing the World: Letters, Natures, and Properties in the Premodern Islamic Tradition'** at Convegno Società di Storia della Scienza, 31 May 2024.

- Lecture '**How to Be Things with Words: From Theories of Language to Practical Techniques in the Premodern Islamic World**' at the University of Bologna, 25 March 2024.
- Invited speaker on panel '**Ritual Tech: Alphanumeric Prayer between Religion and Science I**' at *The International Congress on Medieval Studies* at Western Michigan University, 11-13 May 2023.
- Invited speaker at conference '**Science and Craft: the relations between the theoretical and practical sides of the occult and esoteric sciences in the Islamic World**' organised by *ERC PhilAnd* at the Warburg Institute, 10-13 January 2023.
- Paper '**Combinatoria, from Ontological Framework to Practical Technique,**' with Arianna Dalla Costa for *Philosophical Perspectives on Medieval Theories of Science* at Max-Planck-Institut, 27-29 September 2022.
- Paper '**Ars combinatoria: Deciphering the Earthly and Divine in the Mediaeval World and Beyond,**' invited speaker with Arianna Dalla Costa for *Annual Symposium on Mediaeval and Renaissance Studies* at St Louis University, 21 June 2022.
- Invited speaker at '**Giornata di Studi: Misurare il Mondo I**' at Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Max-Planck-Institut in cooperation with Museo Galilei, 4 March 2022.
- Workshop '**Circling Around the Truth: Rotating Symbols in the Mechanisation of Thought and Reality**' with Arianna Dalla Costa for *Writing Technologies Research Network* at The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), University of Oxford, 4 February 2022.
- Invited speaker at seminar '**Writing Technologies: works-in-progress**' at The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), University of Oxford, 22 October 2021.

## **Administrative Roles**

- **Periodic Programme Review Committee for School of Advanced Studies, University of London** – April 2024.
- **Events Committee of The Warburg Institute** – September 2022 to October 2023.
- **Convenor of Arabic Philosophy Reading Group at The Warburg Institute** – October 2021 to July 2022.

## Selected Employment

- **Managing Editor at *postmedieval***, an award-winning journal that publishes theoretically driven scholarship on premodernity and its ongoing reverberations – February 2023 to July 2024.
- **Library Assistant at The Warburg Institute** – February to July 2023.

## Selected Arts & Public Engagement Events

- Organiser of '**Agitated Air: Poems After Ibn Arabi**' Reading and Conversation with Yasmine Seale, Robin Moger, and Marina Warner at the Warburg Institute, 24 March 2022.
- Organiser of Seminar Series '**Reading and Observing the Lunar Mansions**' at The Warburg Institute, various dates in October and November 2021.

## Selected Other Publications

- [forthcoming] Archive reviews '**Beyazit Library**' and '**Türk ve İslam Eserleri Müzesi**' for *Hazine Blog*.
- Interview with Federico Campagna for podcast **Overmorrow's Library**, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, June 2022.
- Essay '**GPT-3. Divine Writing and Other Realities**' for *Warburg Institute Blog*, July 2021.

## Relevant Skills

- **Languages** – English (native)
  - French (fluent)
  - Classical Arabic, Modern Standard Arabic (advanced - reading and writing)
  - Italian (proficient – reading, speaking, and writing)
  - Levantine Arabic (basic - speaking)
  - Modern Turkish, Persian, Classical Greek, Latin (basic - reading)
- **Arabic Palaeography** – Completed *Arabic Manuscripts Summer School* co-organised by Luke Yarbrough (UCLA) and Marina Rustow (Princeton).
- **Digital humanities** – Python (basic)