

Dr Beatrice Bottomley

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History of Science, Department of Philosophy
University of Bologna

Appointments

2024–	Postdoctoral Researcher, History of Science, Department of Philosophy, University of Bologna
2024–	Teaching Fellow, Department of Philosophy, University of Bologna
2021–2023	Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, King's College London

Education

2019–2023	PhD in the History of Knowledge, The Warburg Institute, University of London, under the supervision of Prof. Charles Burnett and Dr Kazuyo Murata
2016–2018	MRes in the Hamito-semitic, Muslim and Arab World (mention Très Bien), l'Institut de Recherches et d'Etudes sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman, CNRS/Aix-Marseille Université
2013–2014	Visiting Student, An-Najah National University, Nablus
2011–2015	BA in Arabic (first class), School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Awards & Grants

2019–2023	London Arts and Humanities Partnership Doctoral Studentship (fees, maintenance, and research expenses)
2022	John Coffin Memorial Trust (public engagement grant)
2018	CNRS Research Grant

Publications

Monographs

How to Be Things with Words: From Theories to Practices of Language in the Premodern Islamicate World. In progress, expression of interest from editors of Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization, manuscript to be submitted September 2026.

Editions & Translations

Ibn Zuhr's *Book of Occult Properties*, edited, translated, and annotated by Lucia Raggetti, Marco Baschetti, Beatrice Bottomley, Sara Fani, Andrea Negri, Alessandra Scimone, and Amine Xhakoni. In progress, under contract with Brill, manuscript to be submitted June 2026. This edition and translation is a collective output of the ERC project *UseFool*.

Journal Articles

‘Being Things with Words: From Ibn ‘Arabī’s Theory of Language to Practice.’ *Micrologus: Nature, Sciences, and Medieval Societies*, guest edited by Godefroid De Callatay and Sebastian Moreau. Reviewed, accepted, and in press, forthcoming Winter 2025/2026.

Beatrice Bottomley and Marianna Marchini, ‘From Text to Technique: Recipes for Writing Tricks and Magical Inks in al-Iraqī’s ‘Uyūn al-ḥaqā’iq.’ *Nuncius: Studies and Sources in the Material and Visual History of Science*, guest edited by Miriam Blanco Cesteros. Reviewed, accepted, and in press, forthcoming Winter 2025/2026.

Book Chapters

Beatrice Bottomley and Arianna Dalla Costa, ‘*Ars combinatoria*: Deciphering the Earthly and Divine in the Medieval World and Beyond.’ 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, 80-95.

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): 437-440.

‘*Translation Movement and Acculturation in the Mediaeval Islamic World* by Labeeb Bsoul.’ *The Oxford Critical Comparative and Translation Review* ([March 2021](#)).

Selected Media

Interview with Federico Campagna for podcast [*Overmorrow's Library*](#), Centre d’Art Contemporain Genève, June 2022.

Essay ‘GPT-3, Divine Writing and Other Realities.’ [*Warburg Institute Blog*](#), 18 May 2021.

Teaching Experience

2025	Tutor, 'Public Engagement', doctoral skills seminar, Department of Philosophy, University of Bologna
2024	Tutor, 'Interdisciplinary Methods', doctoral skills seminar, Department of Philosophy, University of Bologna
2023	Lecturer, 'From Theories of Language to Practical Techniques in the Premodern Islamic World', on course 'History of Arabic Science', Department of Philosophy, University of Bologna
2021–2023	Graduate Teaching Assistant, 'History of Philosophy in the Islamic World', Department of Philosophy, King's College London
2021–2022	Co-convenor of Arabic Philosophy Reading Group, The Warburg Institute
2021	Co-convenor and course designer, 'Reading and Observing the Lunar Mansions', seminar series, The Warburg Institute
2018	Tutor, Department of Anglophone Cultures, Aix-Marseille Université

Related Experience

2024	Periodic Programme Review Committee, School of Advanced Studies, University of London
2023–2024	Managing Editor, <i>postmedieval: a journal of cultural medieval studies</i>
2023	Library Assistant, The Warburg Institute
2022–2023	Events Committee, The Warburg Institute

Invited Lectures, Papers & Workshops

April 2025	Online Workshop 'Stones III', Writing Technologies Network, organised by Marie Thébaud-Sorger and Jennifer Oliver
May 2023	Roundtable 'Ritual Tech: Alphanumeric Prayer between Religion and Science I', The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo

January 2023	Conference ‘Science and Craft: the relations between the theoretical and practical sides of the occult and esoteric sciences in the Islamic World’ organised by <i>ERC PhilAnd</i> , The Warburg Institute, London
March 2022	Workshop ‘Misurare il Mondo I’, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz and Museo Galilei, Florence
November 2021	Online Workshop ‘Text as Image’, Perlego Research Network. University of Oxford and Freie Universität Berlin
October 2021	Online Workshop ‘Writing Technologies: works-in-progress’, Writing Technologies Research Network, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities

Organised Events

November 2025	Panel ‘Making and Shaping Humans, Animals, Plants, and Minerals in the Medieval and Early Modern World’, History of Science Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans
February 2022	Online Workshop ‘Circling Around the Truth: Rotating Symbols in the Mechanisation of Thought’, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities
November 2020	Roundtable ‘Technic and Magic’ with John Tresch, Liana Saif, and Federico Campagna, The Warburg Institute, London

Selected Conferences

November 2025	Paper ‘Contraceptive Recipes and the Making of Human Difference, from <i>Materia Medica</i> to Sexual Manuals in the Premodern Islamicate World’, History of Science Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans
November 2024	Paper ‘Seeing is Transforming: Aesthetic Approaches to the Manipulation of the Natural World in the Premodern Islamic Tradition’, La Fondazione Cini, Venice
May 2024	Paper ‘Writing the World: Letters, Natures, and Properties in the Premodern Islamic Tradition’, Convegno Società di Storia della Scienza, Bari
September 2022	Paper ‘ <i>Combinatoria</i> , from Ontological Framework to Practical Technique’, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

Selected Public Engagement

March 2022

Reading and Conversation 'Agitated Air: Poems After Ibn Arabi' with Marina Warner, Yasmine Seale, and Robin Moger, The Warburg Institute, London

November 2011

Workshop and Lecture with calligrapher Soraya Syed, The Warburg Institute, London

Relevant Skills

Languages

English (native)
French (advanced—reading, writing, and speaking)
Classical Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic (advanced—reading and writing)
Italian (proficient—reading, writing, and speaking)
Levantine Arabic (basic—speaking)
Persian and Latin (basic—reading)

Programming Languages

Python (basic)