

## Turning Arab: Identity and Islam in the Middle Eastern countryside,

1000 – 1500

Professor Yossef Rapoport<sup>1</sup>

**When:** Monday 27 June 2022 at 16:00-17:30

**Where:** Hybrid<sup>2</sup> via zoom (pre-registration through this link)

<https://uni-bonn.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Ysce2grjluHdCINvBHfr5i92EAONuPfcEn>

And in presence at the Islamic Archaeology Research Unit, University of Bonn,  
Brühler Str. 7, 2 O.G., 53119, Bonn



Bodleian-Ms-Marsh-458, copied in 738/1337, probably in Egypt, fol. 45a (27th\_maqama\_finding lost camel)

By 1500, most village communities in Egypt and Greater Syria identified with Arab clans. This was the culmination of a process that began with the Fatimid appointment of Arab tribal protectors over Christian villages, followed by the mass adoption of Arab identities among the peasantry during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. This Arab identity was expressed by cultural markers of dialect and dress, propagated through the new medium of Arab popular epics, and mobilised for a series of rural revolts against the Mamluk state. This talk will seek to align this transformation of the cultural landscape with the radical changes that took place in the material landscape: the re-occupation of sites, the spread of hand-made wares with geometric patterns, and the Islamization of shrines.

<sup>1</sup>- Professor Yossef Rapoport is a professor of Islamic history at Queen Mary University London.

<sup>2</sup>- This lecture is co-sponsored by the Department of Islamic Studies and Middle Eastern Languages.