

The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)
announces a Lecture

by

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Writing Women Scholars in the Western Sahara (since 18th century)

The western Sahara region is well known for its manuscript tradition that developed during 17th century. Today, only very few texts and authors are known from its beginnings, however, the golden age of 19th century intellectual production is still very much existent and stored in mostly private manuscript collections. In this presentation, we will trace women scholars and reflect about their contribution to and their role within this intellectual production. Does it make sense to en-gender the Western Saharan manuscript tradition or is it more like Shaykhani (1907-1986, Mauritania) stated during the early 20th century that piety and achievement of knowledge makes all believers becoming a man (*rajul*)?

[...] along the well- trodden path of the messenger proceeds to being a master
of the truth and the appetitive soul
this is the man [*rajul*], female or male
and the secret is for changing harm and danger
and the virtue of perfectness among men has been made plentiful
and among women perfectness as well has been remembered
and the obligatory condition for having the secrets is [to be] God- fearing

(cited from Aḥmaddū, *Wamaḍāt al-munīra*, 257. Nouackchott, 2007. Translated from Arabic into English)

Thursday, 2 November 2017 at 6 pm
Room 0001, CSMC