

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

by

**Prof. Dr. Scott Reese**  
**Northern Arizona University**

**Underappreciated Print: Textual Production and Globalized  
Contexts in 20th Century African Islam**

Scholars of Islam in Africa have regularly used early print to explore the religious, social and political lives of Muslims in the colonial and post-colonial eras. Until now, however, little attempt has been made to understand the significance of print on a more abstract level and its overarching impact as a new medium of discourse. Drawing on hagiographies, theological texts and legal sources produced in East Africa, the Horn as well as the wider Red Sea region—along with relevant examples from the broader African context—this presentation seeks to develop a framework for understanding the impact of print on Muslim societies from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth. By looking at a range of texts, produced in various locales for diverse audiences, this presentation explores how print began to create new sets of discursive webs that entangled Muslims across various physical and conceptual spaces. From local and global discourses of reform to engagement with the European imperial state, print served to connect Muslims in new ways with transformative effect. A new medium for a new era, print as we shall see, played a key role in creating the modern *umma* we know today.

**Wednesday, 6 June 2018 at 6 pm**

Room 0001, CSMC