

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

by

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Audience Certificates in Arabic Manuscripts - the Genre and a Case Study

Certificates of audition (sama' notes) are among the most important types of paratexts to be found in Arabic manuscripts. They can be discovered from the 10th century onwards until the mid-20th century, or even later. Usually, they list the participants of a lecture session, the attending authority, the reader, the person who registered the participants' names, and the time and place of the session.

The genre of these paratexts and the results of recent research in this field will be presented. A copy of al-Hara'iti's (died 938 CE) book on passionate love and the ways in which pious Muslims should encounter it, which is kept in the Forschungsbibliothek Gotha, contains twelve such certificates.

As many other sama' notes, they are difficult to decipher and also raise a lot of questions as to their date and the changing circles of participants. The lecture will give some tentative answers to these questions.

January 31, 2013 at 6 pm, Room 0003

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