

List of Contributors

Michaëlle Biddle is Collections Conservator and Head of Preservation Services at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, USA. Since 2008 she has been consulting conservator for northern Nigerian manuscript collections. In addition to paper and book conservation she is particularly interested in material cultural analysis of West African bookmaking and manuscript production, inks, pigments, dyes and paper watermarks.

Dmitry Bondarev is a linguist and a specialist in manuscript studies affiliated with the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC), University of Hamburg, and a Principal Investigator on a number of collaborative research projects at CSMC, such as a comparative study of Islamic manuscripts in the Lake Chad area and the Senegambia funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), a Malian-German project on the manuscripts of Timbuktu co-funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and Gerda Henkel Foundation, and a project on Ajami manuscripts in Mali (Gerda Henkel Foundation). In the past he worked at SOAS, University of London, researching annotations in early Nigerian Quranic manuscripts. His research interests cover African linguistics, literacy studies, the history of writing in Ajami, and the palaeography and codicology of West African manuscripts. He has published extensively on these topics which he also develops in his teaching at the University of Hamburg.

Andrea Brigaglia is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town and the director of the Centre for Contemporary Islam. He received his PhD from the Università degli Studi di Napoli 'L'Orientale', with a dissertation on Quranic exegesis (*tafsīr*) in northern Nigeria. He has published several articles on various aspects of the Islamic religious culture of northern Nigeria, including Quranic exegesis, Hausa and Arabic religious poetry, and Arabic calligraphy.

Mahmoud Mohamed Dédéou dit Hamou, is a traditional Islamic scholar, calligrapher and manuscript expert from Timbuktu, Mali. He specializes in the sciences of hadith and *fiqh* as well as on the manuscripts of the region. Currently, Cheick Hamou is a Pedagogical Advisor in the Pedagogical Animation Centre of Timbuktu (CAP) and in charge of the ISESCO-AMAI library. He has recently published two works with ISESCO under the title of 'Quelques héritage de Tombouctou et du Sahel', an article entitled 'The works of Shaykh Sidi al-Mukhtar al-Kunti' in *The Meanings of Timbuktu* (Cape Town: HSRC Press, 2008) as well as several other works in Arabic.

Adrien Delmas (Ph.D. (2010) in History, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris), is currently researcher at the Institut des mondes africains (CNRS UMR 8171). From 2012 to 2016, he was the scientific director of the French Institute of South Africa. He has published on travel writing in the early modern world, including *Written Culture in a Colonial Context. Africa and the Americas 1500-1900* (Brill, 2012) and *Les voyages de l'écrit. Culture écrite et expansion européenne à l'époque moderne, essais sur la Compagnie Hollandaise des Indes Orientales* (Honoré Champion, 2013). He is also the principal investigator of GlobAfrica, a research programme on African medieval history (11th–17th c.).

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Shamil Jeppie is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town and the director of the Tombouctou Manuscripts Project. He received his PhD from Princeton University and has worked on aspects of the social history of Cape Town and Durban, South Africa, as well as nineteenth-century Sudan and on Timbuktu. He has contributed with several articles and book chapters and co-edited the influential *The Meanings of Timbuktu* (Cape Town: HSRC Press, 2008).

Xavier Luffin teaches Arabic Language and Literature at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and he is a member of the Royal Academy of Belgium. His research focuses on the relations between Africa and the Arab and Islamic world, he has published several articles regarding the use of Arabic in nineteenth-century Congo. His books include *Les fils d'Antara: Représentations de l'Afrique et des Africains dans la littérature arabe contemporaine* (2012).

Susana Molins Llitéras is a joint Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Historical Studies Department and the Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative at the University of Cape Town. For the last decade, she has been a researcher with the Tombouctou Manuscripts Project (www.tombouctoumanuscripts.org), and has been an integral part of the Project's events and output. Her doctoral dissertation (2015) presents an archival biography the Fondo Kati, a private family manuscript collection in Timbuktu and its links with medieval al-Andalus and present-day Spain. She has published articles on the archives of Timbuktu and on the social history of a West African Sufi movement in South Africa.

Maimadu Barma Mutai holds a PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria). His doctoral thesis looks at the calligraphers of Borno, exploring their writing techniques, material and religious culture, transmission of knowledge. He has participated in several international workshops (Hamburg, Cape Town, etc.) and is currently the deputy director, Centre for Research and Documentation in Trans-Saharan Studies (University of Maiduguri).

Mauro Nobili is Assistant Professor in African History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is also Honorary Research Associate at the Tombouctou Manuscripts Project, Huma, University of Cape Town. He is a specialist of West African History and his research focuses on Arabic manuscript culture and Islam in Africa. He published the *Catalogue des manuscrits arabes du fonds de Gironcourt (Afrique de l'Ouest) de l'Institut de France* (Rome: Istituto per L'Oriente

C.A. Nallino, 2013) as well as several articles on the Arabic script styles in West African manuscripts and on the Timbuktu chronicles. He is currently working on a book on the *Tārīkh al-Fattāsh* and the Caliphate of Ḥamdallāhi.

Tal Tamari is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (Paris), and has taught at the Université de Paris X-Nanterre and the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Trained in history, anthropology and linguistics, she has conducted fieldwork in Mali, Guinea, The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Egypt, and India. Her ongoing research focuses on ‘castes’ (endogamous artisan and musician groups), Islam and traditional religions in West Africa.

