



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT

FAROUK JABRE CENTER
FOR ARABIC & ISLAMIC
SCIENCE & PHILOSOPHY



EDITING ARABIC TEXTS
IN MANUSCRIPTS WORKSHOP

DISPERSAL AND PRESERVATION Traces of Palestinian Manuscript Cultures

BY **Konrad Hirschler**
University of Hamburg

**TUESDAY, MAY 6,
2025 | 5:00 PM**

Basile A. Meguerdiche
Conference Hall, IFI Auditorium,
Level B

Palestinian manuscript cultures have low visibility today and are severely endangered. Yet, pre-Ottoman and Ottoman history saw the production and circulation of manuscripts, reflecting a vivid writerly world. This lecture highlights a significant moment in the early 20th century, when a distinct movement emerged to establish libraries in Palestinian towns. It will then provide a more detailed account of the post-Ottoman development of Palestinian manuscript collections and libraries throughout the 20th century, including the dispersal and destruction that occurred in 1948.



Konrad Hirschler is a professor of Middle Eastern history and the director of the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at the University of Hamburg. His research focuses on North Africa and Southwest Asia between circa 1200 and 1500, with a particular emphasis on social and cultural history, including the history of reading, books, and libraries, with a strong focus on material culture.