

World Literature in Arabic.

Translations and Transformations of *Barlaam and Josaphat*

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**Forschungskolloquium
des Orientalischen
Instituts**

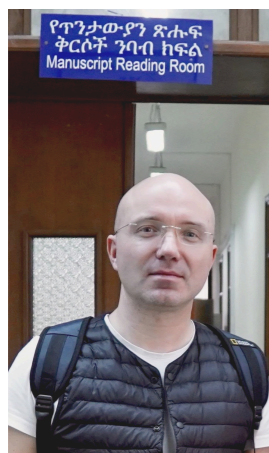
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[Online Veranstaltung via Zoom](#)

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His research interests include early and classical Arabic poetry, Arab cultural history, and the historical semantics of the Arabic language. He is a founding member of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (www.agya.info).



Barlaam and Josaphat is an outstanding work of world literature with an extraordinary history of transcultural dissemination. Based on the life of Buddha, the work retells the story of a pious prince and his search for true knowledge and spiritual salvation. The legend was translated into many languages from late antiquity until the nineteenth century and circulated widely across Eurasia. Different versions and adaptations reflect the story's complex origins, which have been associated variously with India, Central Asia, Nubia, and Egypt. They document the process of appropriation and transformation of the text of the legend in different cultural milieus. Studying the textual history of *Barlaam and Josaphat* opens promising avenues for research on literary, religious and intellectual history in a transcultural context. In his talk, Kirill Dmitriev will present new findings related to the Arabic sources of *Barlaam and Josaphat* and discuss the transmission of the legend in Arabic-speaking Muslim and Christian communities in the context of world literature.

<https://barlaamandjosaphat.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk>