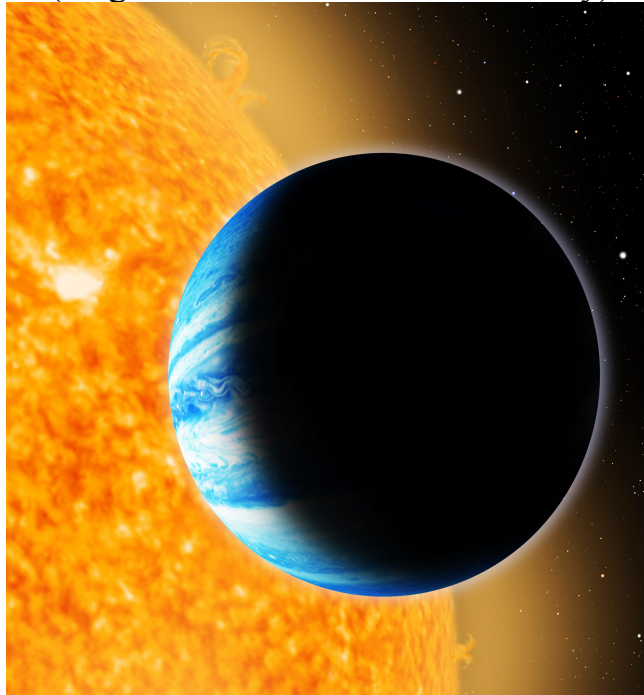


Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences

cordially invites you to a talk by

Jörg Matthias Determann

(Virginia Commonwealth University)



Qatar-led International Team Finds Their First Alien World.
Credit: David Aguilar, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Crossing the Cosmos: Modern Arab Space Scientists

Middle Eastern cosmopolitanism and astronomical discoveries are often considered features of past eras. The ‘golden age’ of Arabic and Islamic science is usually located in the Middle Ages, and twentieth-century nationalism and Islamism are blamed for the end of diversity and tolerance in the region. In contrast, I argue that Arab governments and scientists were important contributors to modern and contemporary space exploration and cosmopolitanism. Although partly motivated by national interests, space exploration was also transnational, depending on the circulation of people, knowledge and technologies across borders. Arab and Muslim space scientists were proud of their region and religion, but also developed strong commitments to a global community and the earth as one planet.

Jörg Matthias Determann (PhD SOAS) is a faculty member in the Liberal Arts & Sciences Program at Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar. Previously, he was working at Zentrum Moderner Orient, Freie Universität Berlin, SOAS, University of London, and King Saud University. He was also a visiting scholar at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh. His research interests lie in global history, the history of science and scholarship, and the history of the Middle East. His first book is entitled *Historiography in Saudi Arabia: Globalization and the State in the Middle East* (London: I.B.Tauris, 2014). Currently, he is writing a book with the working title "The Arab World's Final Frontier: Cosmopolitanism and Transnational Space Science."

When: Monday, 23 May, 2016, 17:00-18:30

Where: Charles University, Celetna 20, Prague 1, room no. 238
(Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies)



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