Public Lecture

The Frame Tale: Potentials and Limitations
Ulrich Marzolph

Keynote
Wednesday
25 November 2020
18:15

Series of Events
Framing Narratives: New Perspectives on Premodern Textual Production in Arabic

From antiquity to modernity, the frame tale has served as a powerful literary device. The frame tale by definition invites the embedding of other tales, thus potentially serving as a unifying factor that generates complex compilations of embedded narratives. Also, the frame tale is linked to certain conditions as well as inherent limitations. Embedding and embedded tales should harmonize in terms of argument in order to create a meaningful relation. To prove their worth, frame tales need to domesticate and fence their embedded tales, which might break free and either join other frame tales or begin a life of their own. A variety of frame tales predominantly from Middle Eastern traditions will illustrate these features.

Ulrich Marzolph served as a member of the *Enzyklopädie des Märchens* and as a professor of Islamic Studies at the Georg-August-Universität in Göttingen. He has published widely on popular Arabic and Persian literature, lithography, and folklore and their interconnections with Western literature, most recently his *101 Middle Eastern Tales and Their Impact on Western Oral Traditions*.

Convened by Johannes Stephan and Beatrice Gruendler

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This series of events invites discussions on how to theoretically engage with the concept of narrative framing in premodern Arabic literature and adjacent literary traditions. Our aim is to develop a comprehensive definition of «framing narratives» beyond a merely descriptive perspective, and to interrogate its function within textual production. The events will be held in English.

The lecture and subsequent discussion will be streamed online via Webex. For more information concerning the event, please consult www.temporal-communities.de/events/event-series_framing-narratives.html

www.temporal-communities.de
www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/en/e/kalila-wa-dimna