

Program 24 April 2026

(Venue: Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo, Piazza dei Cavalieri di Malta, 5, 00153 Rome)

9:00-10:40 Armenian and Georgian (chair: Alfio Catalano)

Anna Ohanjanyan and **Garnik Harutyunyan** (Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts "Matenadaran", Yerevan), *Modes of Mobility in the Seventeenth Century: Two Initiatives of Armenian Manuscript Bible Production*

Anush Sargsyan (Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts "Matenadaran", Yerevan), *Visualising History: A Case Study of Armenian Bibles Donated to the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem in the 1620s-1630s*

Narine Vardanyan (Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts "Matenadaran", Yerevan), *The "Book of Readings" (Girk' Ĕnt'erts'owatsots') in Armenian Literary Sources*

Eka Kvirkvelia (Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC), University of Hamburg), *Palimpsested Gospel Texts in Georgian Gospel and Lectionary Manuscripts*

10:40-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:20 Coptic (chair: Agostino Soldati)

So Miyagawa (University of Tsukuba), *On the Margins of the Canon: The Diverse Material Transmission of the Coptic Apocalypse of Elijah*

Maxime Maleux (KU Leuven), *Parallel texts, entangled traditions: Coptic-Arabic bilingual manuscripts, their translation practice, and textual interaction*

Mark Sheridan (Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo), *Late Antiquity in Upper Egypt: Rufus of Shotep, a sixth century bilingual bishop in Upper Egypt, learned in both the Alexandrian exegetical tradition and the Greek rhetorical tradition* [Teams]

12:20-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:10 Geez II and Arabic IV (chair: Valentina Sagaria Rossi)

Giulio Mariotti (Istituto Superiore di Scienze Religiose "Romano Guardini", Trento), *The 'Mystery' of Translation: Mystēriōn between Greek and Gə'əz in the Textual Transmission of 1 Enoch*

Varsányi Orsolya (Oriental Collection, Hungarian Academy of Sciences), *Tracing Christian Psalms and Prayers: An Examination of the Undated Manuscript 'Arab O. 144 [Kitāb al-Ṣalāt al-Masīḥīya]' in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences' Oriental Collection*

Rachel Abdoler (University of Chicago Divinity School), *Textual and Material Boundary Crossing: Glimpses of Ibn al-Tayyib's Biblical Exegesis in Other Confessional Communities* [Teams]

Seyma Benli (Medeniyet University, Istanbul), *Custodians of a Sister Tradition: The Psalms in Ottoman Muslim Hands*

15:10-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 The Diatessaron in the Eastern Manuscript Tradition (chair: Riccardo Contini)

Giuliano Lancioni and **Raoul Villano** (Roma Tre University), *Electronic editions of the Arabic texts and investigations on the lexicon thereof, the "Muslim Diatessaron" and its relations to tafsīr and ḥadīth*

Valentina Sagaria Rossi and **Valentina B. Lanza** (Tor Vergata University of Rome), *Reassessing the Oldest Extant Arabic Diatessaron: Evidence from MS Vat. ar. 14*

Shabo Talay and **Vasiliki Chamourgiotaki** (Freie Universität Berlin), *The Syriac tradition and its relations to other Syriac versions of the Gospels*

George Kiraz (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton) and **Katherine Painter** (Oxford University), *The role of the Diatessaron in the history of the Syriac-speaking communities*

Mina Monier (MF Norwegian School of Theology), *The Arabic Diatessaron and other Gospel harmonies*

17:00-17:30 Final Discussion



The Bible in Middle Eastern Manuscript Traditions

22-24 April 2026

Tor Vergata University of Rome,
Department of History, Humanities and Society
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ
Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo, Rome

Convened by

George A. Kiraz (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ)
Valentina Sagaria Rossi (Tor Vergata University of Rome)
Sabine Schmidtke (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ)

To join the Workshop:



Program 22 April 2026

(Venue: University of Rome Tor Vergata, Faculty of Humanities, Via Columbia 1, Building B, 1st floor, Sabatino Moscati Hall)

8:45-9:00 Welcome by Nathan Leviaidi Ghiron (Rector of Tor Vergata University of Rome)

9:00-10:20 Hebrew and Aramaic I (chair: Camilla Adang)

Alessandro Campus (University of Rome Tor Vergata),

What Jesus Read in the Synagogue: Reflections on Luke 4:14-20

Uri Melammed (The Hebrew University, The Hebrew Language Academy), *Transmission of the Biblical Traditional Version in Yemen: Deviations from the (Tiberian) Masoretic Text*

Yoram Bitton (African and Middle Eastern Division, Library of Congress), *Text, Tradition, and Identity: A 10th-Century Torah Scroll Sheet at the Library of Congress*

10:20-10:40 Coffee Break

10:40-12:20 Hebrew and Aramaic II (chair: Delio Vania Proverbio)

Marc Michaels (Cambridge University), *Unlocking the Vat. ebr. 1 Torah* (Teams)

Mordechai Weintraub (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), *A Babylonian "Model Scroll": A Paleographical and Textual Reconstruction of an Early Torah Scroll (7th-8th Century CE)*

Agostino Soldati (Sapienza Università di Roma), *Ἀργύριον τῷ ἀργυρίῳ μὴ φθάσαι. On the renderings of To 5:19 in the Eastern versions*

Yehoshua Granat (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), *Stychographic Arrangements in Medieval Manuscript Traditions of the Hebrew Bible, as Models of the Mise-en-page of Hebrew Liturgical Poetry Handwritten Texts*

12:20-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:20 Arabic I (chair: Alessandro Campus)

Aïda El Khiari (University of Vienna), *Illustrating the Gospels in Arabic: Visual Models and Artistic Practice in a Coptic Family Milieu in Ottoman Cairo*

Manuel Capomaccio (Roma Tre University), *Bible-Centered Arabic Grammar in Ġirmānūs Farḥā'īs Baḥṭ al-maṭālib wa-ḥaṭṭ al-ṭālib ('The Pursuit of the Answers and the Encouragement of the Student')*

Elie Dannaoui (University of Balamand, Lebanon), *The Living Codex: The Arabic Gospel Lectionary as an Ecosystem in Sinai Manuscripts*

15:20-15:40 Coffee Break

15:40-17:00 Persian (chair: Sabine Schmidtke)

Ali B. Langroudi (Leibniz-Institut für jüdische Geschichte und Kultur – Simon Dubnow, Leipzig), *Who Read the Bible in Persian? An Overview of the 10th to 16th Centuries*

Shiva Mihan (The British Museum), *The Story of Christ: Persian Bible Manuscripts and the First Persian Printed Book*

Natia Dundua (Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts), *Persian Gospel Written in the Georgian Script: A Paleographic, Textological, Linguistic, and Religious Study*

Program 23 April 2026

(Venue: University of Rome Tor Vergata, Faculty of Humanities, Via Columbia 1, Building B, 1st floor, Sabatino Moscati Hall)

9:00-10:20 Syriac I and Geez I (chair: George A. Kiraz)

Jacob Lollar (Durham University), *Illuminating Bibles in Syriac: The Importance of Syriac Illuminated Manuscripts in the West Asian Milieu* (Teams)

Jonathan Loopstra (Redeemer University, Ontario, Canada), *Orthography as Identity: Biblical Glosses in Two West Syriac Collections*

Daniele Minisini (Universität Zürich – Sapienza Università di Roma), *The Chapter Division of the Book of Jubilees*

10:20-10:40 Coffee Break

10:40-12:00 Arabic II (chair: Giuliano Lancioni)

Habib Ibrahim (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen), *Antiochian Echoes and Egyptian Frames: Tracing an Arabic Version of the Gospels of Mark and Luke*

Mina Monier (MF Norwegian School of Theology), *The Use of Eusebian Canons in Arabic Gospels Manuscripts*

Camilla Adang (Tel Aviv University), *Al-Bāḥī's polemic against the Pentateuch and its importance for the study of the Arabic Bible*

12:00-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:50 Arabic III (chair: Meira Polliack)

Arik Sadan (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), *Reading and analyzing grammatical discussions in the Arabic translation and commentary on the book of Job by Yefet ben 'Eli ha-Levi*

Robert Turnbull (University of Melbourne), *Unravelling Related Arabic Families of the Gospels*

Rami Wakim (Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth), *Manuscript to Print in the 18th-Century Melkite Church: Syriac Influence and Greek Revision in Dabbās's 1706 Arabic Gospel*

14:50-15:10 Coffee Break

15:10-16:30 Syriac II (chair: Alessandro Campus)

Brett LaPrad (Westminster Theological Seminary), *Counting Scripture: Stichometry and the Shape of the Syriac Bible*

Andy Hilken (University of Oxford), *Late medieval Harklean biblical-exegetical compendia from Tur Abdin*

Anna-Liisa Rafael (University of Helsinki), *The mother and her seven sons in the First Millennium CE: what makes a biblical story?*