



### **Call for application**

**PhD Scholarship** at Aix-Marseille University, **ERC project HornEast**

DEADLINE for application: **15 June 2018**

Period: 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2021 (36 months)

Address for submission: [mellal@mmsch.univ-aix.fr](mailto:mellal@mmsch.univ-aix.fr)

The ERC project **HornEast**. Horn & Crescent. Connections, Mobility and Exchange between the Horn of Africa and the Middle East in the Middle Ages (P.I. Julien Loiseau) offers a three-years PhD scholarship.

Thesis topic: **The slavery of Ethiopians in the Medieval Islamic World**

Trade and use of slaves (both female, male and eunuchs) of Ethiopian origin are well-documented in the Middle East in Late Antiquity. The development of long-distance slave trade in connection with the Islamic World gave them an unprecedented magnitude during the Middle Ages. Ethiopian origin was highly valued for certain tasks assigned to slaves, sometimes very close to the sovereign, leading some Ethiopian freedmen to reach powerful positions. But the domestic slavery of Ethiopians on a more ordinary level was also very common in the Medieval Islamic World.

Under the supervision of Julien Loiseau (Aix-Marseille Université, IREMAM), the PhD will aim at evidencing the history of Ethiopian slaves and freedmen in the Medieval Islamic World in its various dimensions. Primary sources in Arabic, written in the Mamluk period (13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Centuries) either in Egypt, Syria or Hijaz, will represent the main corpus of the PhD's documentation.

The ERC project HornEast aims at evidencing local and global connections between the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Nubia) and its Islamic environment (in Egypt, Palestine and Arabian Peninsula) in the Middle Ages (7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Century), for a better understanding of the Islamisation process in the whole area and of African Christianities' resiliency and reconfiguration at the same time.

Graduated with a MA in History and/or Arabic studies, the PhD candidate will have a command of Arabic good enough to begin with the study of primary sources already published. He/she could also strengthen his/her learning of Arabic during the scholarship.

Based in the research team at Aix-Marseille University, he/she will actively participate in the project meetings and in its research blog (<https://horneast.hypotheses.org/>). He/she will be supported to travel on mission if needed and to participate to any relevant scholarly meetings.

The monthly scholarship is about **2 000 euros gross** (for information, about **1 500 euros net**).

**AMU – Institut de recherches et d'études sur les monde arabes et musulmans (IREMAM – UMR 7310)**  
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*This project has received funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement n° 726206*



### **How to apply?**

Please send us

- your CV
- a cover letter with a short motivation and a statement of interest
- your MA thesis
- a reference letter

Applications have to be submitted by email to [mellal@mmsch.univ-aix.fr](mailto:mellal@mmsch.univ-aix.fr). The four components of the application (CV, letter, MA thesis, reference letter) should be combined in one PDF file.

**DEADLINE: 15 June 2018.**

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an **interview** before the end of June 2018.

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