

# Jakub Sypiański

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## Education

**Johannes-Gutenberg Universität Mainz: doctorate**

2015-ongoing

**Thesis title:** "Social and political contexts of scientific exchanges between the Eastern Roman Empire and Islamic countries (750 – 1100 AD)", **supervisor:** prof. Johannes Pahlitzsch

**Université Paris 1 "Panthéon-Sorbonne": master's degree in history**

2010-2012

**Specialisation:** "Le monde méditerranéen médiéval. Byzance, le monde arabe, l'occident latin"; Diploma with high honours (mention très bien), **supervisor:** prof. Michel Kaplan

**1<sup>st</sup> dissertation:** « Les mouvements des érudits et des manuscrits entre Byzance et le monde arabe au IX<sup>e</sup> siècle et l'hypothèse des influences du mouvement de traduction gréco-arabe au califat abbasside sur la première renaissance byzantine »

**2<sup>nd</sup> dissertation:** « La découverte de l'Islam à Constantinople au IX<sup>e</sup> siècle »

**Uniwersytet Warszawski: licencjat (bachelor degree) in Mediterranean Culture**

2007-2010

*Degree obtained as a major within Inter-Area Individual Studies In the Humanities and Social Sciences.*

## Translation languages

**Native language: Polish**

**French – fluent written and spoken (C2)**

four years of studies and academic work in Paris and Marseilles; numerous conference papers, one publication and two master dissertations

**Italian – fluent written and spoken (C1/C2)**

two-year course in Warsaw, six months of studies in Rome, self-study and a lot of practice abroad

**Arabic – advanced (B2/C1)**

reading and writing in classical and standard Arabic, upper-intermediate conversational skills in Syrian and Egyptian dialects

2013, French Institute in Cairo: six-month course

2010-2013: courses in Warsaw, Paris and Rome

2012-2014: in total 13 months passed in Arabic-speaking countries

**Classical Greek and Latin – upper-intermediate**

## Other languages

**English – fluent written and spoken (C1)**

numerous conference papers delivered and two published in English; IELTS (2014): 7,5

**German – conversational B2, reading B2**

language course at the Goethe Institut in Mannheim (Aug.-Sept. 2015), then self-study

**Catalan – conversational B2, reading C1**

self-study

**Russian – conversational B1, reading B2**

one year course at the Sorbonne, then self-study

**Turkish – conversational B1, reading B1**

one month course at Dilmer school, then self-study

**Greek – conversational B1, reading B1/B2**

language course at the University of Athens (June-July 2015, B1 level)

**Spanish – conversational A2, reading B2**

self-study

## Experience in written translations

Arabic → Polish	<b>Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs</b> (translation of press article, May 2016)
French → Polish	<b>Le monde diplomatique Polska</b> (ten translations between July 2016 and March 2017)
Italian → Polish	<b>One Hour Translation</b> (four translations since July 2016)
French → Polish	<b>One Hour Translation</b> (fourteen translations since July 2016)
Italian → Polish	<b>Greenpeace</b> (Oct. 2016)
French → Polish	<b>Navimor</b> (Polish naval company, April 2016)
Polish → Arabic	<b>PressClub Foundation</b> (two translations, July and Dec. 2015)

## CAT software

**Familiarity:** OmegaT, CafeTrans

**Basic familiarity:** SDL Trados, MemoQ, Swordfish

## Publications

**“Photios entre l’Assyrie et al-Andalus,”** to be published by Brill in the proceedings of the panel “Les relations diplomatiques byzantines (IVe-XVe siècles): permanence et/ou changements“ at the 22th International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Sofia (2016) in a volume edited by Nicolas Drocourt.

**“Comprendre les «Sarrasins» à Byzance dans la première moitié du IX<sup>e</sup> siècle,”** in: From Constantinople to the Frontier: The City and the Cities. Proceedings of the Oxford University Byzantine Society’s XVIth International Graduate Conference, éd. N. S. M. Matheou, Th. Kampianaki, L. M. Bondioli, Brill, 2016, pp. 277-293.

**“Arabo-Byzantine relations in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries as an area of cultural rivalry,”** in: Proceedings of the international Symposium “Byzantium and The Arab World: Encounter of Civilizations” (Thessaloniki, 16-18 Dec. 2011), eds. A. Kralides, A. Gkoutzioukostas, Thessaloniki 2013, pp. 465-478.

**“Arabo-Byzantine traffic of manuscripts and the connections between the Graeco-Arabic translation movement and the first Byzantine 'renaissance' (9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> centuries),”** in: Byzantium and Renaissances. Dialogue of Cultures, Heritage of Antiquity. Tradition and Modernity, eds. M. Janocha, A. Sulikowska, I. Tatarova, Warsaw 2012, pp. 177-194.

## Invited speaker

**“De la paideia à l’adab : une tentative d’analyse”**, at the conference “L’adab, toujours recommencé : « Origines », transmission et métamorphoses” (Paris, December 2016)

**“Une mention de l’ambassade « assyrienne » de Photios dans al-Muqtabis ?,”** at the round table “Les relations diplomatiques byzantines (IVe-XVe siècles): permanence et/ou changements“ at the 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies (Belgrade, August 2016).

**“The appropriation of Arabic knowledge in the Eastern Roman Empire before 1100,”** at the Interuniversitäres Kolloquium (Köln – Mainz – Münster) „Geschichte, Literatur und Kultur des byzantinischen Reiches“ (Münster, July 2016).

**“Les lectures et les goûts littéraires à Constantinople et à Bagdad au 9ème siècle,”** at the conference “Greek and Arabic in the Middle Ages: Projections and reflections” (Athens, June 2016).

**“Les autres intellectuels du Moyen Âge. Des interactions entre les systèmes éducatifs méditerranéens avant 1100,”** at the workshop “Jacques Le Goff et Byzance” at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (Paris, December 2014).

**“Le contexte politique des traductions gréco-arabes. Les missions scientifiques abbassides à Constantinople,”** at the workshop “Pensées grecques, pensées arabes : des philosophes grecs au Nouveau Testament, dans leurs traductions arabes” at the Université de Lausanne (October 2014).

**“Paideia and adab. Models of knowledge production in Byzantium and Islam and their interaction,”** at the workshop “Byzantium and the Islamic world” at Johannes-Gutenberg Universität Mainz (June 2014).

**“Byzance et la traduction du Coran,”** in the Institut dominicain d'études orientales (Cairo, Jan. 2014).

**“The Arabic cultural challenge, the scientific revival and the rediscovery of Hellenism under the Byzantine emperor Theophilus (829-842),”** at the conference “Inter-cultural Transmission of Intellectual Traditions in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period. A comparative perspective” in the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw, September 2012).

**“Arabo-Byzantine relations as an area of intellectual rivalry. Did the Arabs provoke the First Byzantine ‘Renaissance’?,”** at the conference “Byzantium and the Arab world: Encounter of Civilisations” at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (December 2011).

**“Arabo-Byzantine Traffic of Manuscripts and the Connections between the Graeco-Arabic Translation Movement and the First Byzantine ‘Renaissance’ (9th–10th c.),”** at the conference “Byzantium and Renaissances” at the Uniwersytet Warszawski (Warsaw, November 2011).

## Conference papers

**“I contatti tra Costantinopoli e Cordova e le loro risemantizzazioni,”** at the summer school for doctoral students “Circolazione, connessioni e dinamiche sociali nel Mediterraneo centrale e occidentale tra mondi sociali islamici e cristiani (VII-XV secolo)” organised by the École française de Rome (Catania, July 2016).

**“Les enjeux idéologiques des échanges du savoir ancien et nouveau entre les Byzantins et les musulmans (750-1100 apr. J.-C.),”** at the conference “(Ré)appropriation des savoirs. Acteurs, territoires, processus, enjeux” (Paris, May 2016).

**“Traduire le savoir des Sarracins dans l’Empire des Romains (avant 1100),”** at the Oxford University Byzantine Society’s 17th International Graduate Conference “Cross-Cultural Exchanges in the Byzantine world, c. 300-1500” (February 2014).

**“Rola polityczna wymian naukowych między Bizancjum i Arabami”** (Political role of scientific exchanges between the Byzantines and the Arabs), at symposium “Arabowie i Bizancjum” (part of the conference “Continuity and change in Islamic world”) at the Uniwersytet Łódzki (May 2014).

**“From the frontier to the Capital. Understanding and reacting to Islam in Constantinople in the first half of the 9th century,”** at the Oxford University Byzantine Society’s XVI International Graduate Conference “The City and the Cities: From Constantinople to the Frontier” (March 2014).

“Movements of manuscripts between Byzantium and the Arabic world and the hypothesis of the role of the Graeco-Arabic translation movement in the revival of literary production in Byzantium,” at the Oxford University Byzantine Society’s XIII International Graduate Conference “Between Constantines” (March 2011).

“Hipodrom w Konstantynopolu – sfera graniczna między przestrzenią władzy i przestrzenią codzienną” (Hippodrome of Constantinople as a space of transition between the imperial zone of power and the ordinary zone of population), at the Sixth Under- and Postgraduate Conference in Classics “Centre, Peripheries, Borders” at the Jagiellonian University (Cracow, May 2010).

“Dwunastowieczna Sycylia między światem bizantyjskim, arabskim i normańskim” (12th-century Sicily between Arabic, Byzantine and Latin worlds), at conference “Frontiers - domains of research” at the Uniwersytet Warszawski (Warsaw, March 2009)

## Teaching experience

### Single lectures at universities (*in Polish, unless stated otherwise*)

June 2017	<i>Coran as a historical text</i> (Jagiellonian University)
June 2017	<i>Hypatia and the last (?) pagans</i> (Jagiellonian University)
June 2017	<i>Muhammad in the late antique context</i> (Jagiellonian University)
May 2017	<i>Introduction to Islam</i> (University of Silesia)
May 2017	<i>Arabs and Byzantium before 1100</i> (University of Silesia)
April 2017	<i>Islam in the Context of Late Antiquity</i> (Jagiellonian University)
January 2017	<i>Byzantine-Arab relations</i> (in English, Jagiellonian University)

### Seminar (*in Polish*)

June 2017	<i>Jews and Christians as depicted in the Coran</i> (Jagiellonian University, two meetings)
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## Summer schools and workshops

### Princeton University

Aug. – Sept. 2016 (5 days)

*Intensive Course on the Greco-Arabic Tradition* with professor Dimitri Gutas

### École française de Rome

July 2016 (9 days)

Summer school for doctoral students “*Circolazione, connessioni e dinamiche sociali nel Mediterraneo centrale e occidentale tra mondi sociali islamici e cristiani*” in Catania.

### École des hautes études en sciences sociales

July 2012 (13 days)

Summer school “*Outils à Byzance. Outils pour Byzance*” organised by the in Thessaloniki.

### University of Pisa & Centro di studi interuniversitario GRAL (Greco Arabo Latino)

April 2010 (3 days)

Training week in Pisa, „*Il Timeo Esegesi greche, arabe, latine*”.

# Scholarships

- Johannes-Gutenberg Universität Mainz** 2015 - 2016  
Associate member of the Research Training Group 1874 "Early Concepts of Man and Nature: Universal, Local, Borrowed".
- DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst)** 2015 - 2016  
Scholarship for doctoral studies.
- Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l'homme, Aix-Marseille Université** 2012 - 2015  
Research allocation at the laboratory of excellence „LabexMed”.
- Regional Council of Île-de-France** 2010 - 2012  
Hosting scholarship "master Île-de-France" for studies in Paris.
- Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland** 2009 - 2010  
Scholarship for academic excellence.
- Università di Roma "La Sapienza"** 2009 - 2010  
Erasmus scholarship

# Work experience

- School Complex no. 4, Żyrardów, Poland** March 2015 - present  
*Intercultural assistant.* Using my knowledge of Arabic, I assist to refugees children from Aleppo, Syria. I help them with understanding the lessons, in learning Polish and in better integrating into the new environment. I also advise teachers and parents on cultural differences or of the lack thereof.
- Asylos (NGO based in Brussels)** March 2015 - Apr. 2016  
*Researcher.* As a member of the Middle East section I searched for and compiled information on the political and social context in the countries of origin of asylum seekers, so that the Belgian and French lawyers we collaborated with were able to better argue the asylum cases in court. Studied cases included shias in Tunisia, forced labour in Ukraine, female genital mutilation in Ethiopia and Chechen community in Poland.
- Center for refugees in Mainz, Germany** November 2015 - March 2016  
*Volunteer.* Weekly visits to the resort, translations for other volunteers, activities with children.
- Doctors without borders (MSF) and Doctors of the world (MdM)** September 2015  
*Arabic interpreter.* Oral translations into Greek and French.
- Kultura Liberalna (Polish weekly)** September 2014 - March 2016  
*Member of the editorial board.* Contributing with articles on Middle Eastern and Mediterranean politics, participation in editorial meetings.
- Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l'homme (Aix-Marseille Université)** 2012 - 2015  
*Researcher.* Research in the domain of Arabo-Byzantine relations.

# Public engagement

## Talks and discussions in schools (*in Polish*)

2017 *Arab culture and the Muslim religion in practice; Civil War in Syria and Refugees* (nine double lectures and discussion in the School Complex No. 4 in Żyrardów and in the Secondary School No. 2: one for teachers, two for parents, six for High School pupils)

## International debates

May 2017 *Sobirania popular i Autodeterminació. Canvi polític a la regió Euro-Mediterrània*, Barcelona, organised by the Catalan party „Candidatura d’Unitat Popular”.

May 2016 *Cinq ans après le printemps 2011, défis, tâches et stratégies des moyens des gauches arabes*, Tunis, organised by Le monde diplomatique – édition arabe and the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.

## Talks and lectures (*in Polish*)

May 2017 *The Syrian War in ten questions* (Razem Party – Katowice)

April 2017 *France chooses the future for Europe. The 2017 presidential election* (organised by the Razem Party and Le monde diplomatique Polska)

March 2017 *Civil War in Syria in seven questions* (cooperative Ogniwo in Cracow)

January 2017 *"War in Syria and Yemen in Twelve Questions* (Razem Party – Warsaw)

October 2017 *Jihad, dhimmi, tolerance – place of non-Muslims in Islam* (Municipal Library in Starachowice)

March 2017 *How can Europe defend itself against terrorism?* (Youth Cultural Center in Puławy)

## Selected press articles (*in Polish*)

May 2017 *New post-leftis left* (on Jean-Luc Mélenchon), Le Monde Diplomatique Polska.

April 2017 *Will Europe play to the French tune?* (analysis of programs of candidates in French presidential elections in the light of foreign policy), think-tank Global.Lab ([link](#)), co-authored with Katarzyna Mierzejewska; reprinted in Krytyka Polityczna.

January 2016 *Are you a man or a beast?* (on the transformations of sexuality in the Middle East), Kultura Liberalna (henceforth: „KL”).

July 2015 *Coranic terrorism?* (on the absence of links between Islam and terrorism), KL.

January 2015 *Muslim Brothers? "Charlie Hebdo" in Arab press* (Arabic press review), KL.

July 2015 *State of minde before in Greece before the referendum* (reportage from Athens), KL.

June 2015 *Christian refugees – filtered mercy* (feuilleton), KL.