



### **About the Author**

**Dženita Karić** is a postdoctoral researcher at the Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology (Humboldt University of Berlin). She received her PhD from SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) in 2018. Her book "Bosnian Hajj Literature: Multiple Paths to the Holy" was published by Edinburgh University Press in December 2022. Dženita Karić's work is set at the intersection of Islamic, religious, and area studies. Dženita Karić is currently conducting research on devotional piety in the early modern Ottoman empire.

### **About the Presenters**

**Björn Bentlage** joined the Institute for the Near and Middle East at LMU Munich in April 2023 where he heads the research group Arab Mass Media and (trans)regional Network Cultures. Previously, he substituted professorships in Islamic Studies in Leipzig and Münster, completed a fellowship at the IAS in Princeton, and worked for many years as a research associate in Arabic Studies/Islamic Studies in Halle (Saale) since 2010. His ongoing habilitation project, "Pilgrimage and visitation in Arabic travelogues from the Ottoman Mashreq," focuses on the increasing emphasis on shrine visits and pilgrimage episodes in the Arabic travel literature of the early modern Mashreq (1480-1730s); other research interests include mediatization processes, interconnected and global historical perspectives on the Middle East, and Islamic and Arab law in the present.

**Undine Ott** is currently part of a Freigeist Junior Research Group on late medieval climate and epidemic history in Europe and the Middle East at GWZO Leipzig (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe). She received her PhD in Arabic and Islamic studies from the University of Göttingen in 2023 for a thesis on the role of tombs and mausolea in the memory culture of Central Asian political elites in the pre-Mongol and early Mongol periods. The study dealt with, inter alia, practices of tomb visitation among Muslim elites in Central Asia in the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the past, Undine Ott has worked in Leipzig, Göttingen, Bonn, and Jerusalem. Her current work focuses on late medieval climate change and the plague and their impact on the social and economic history of the Mamluk Middle East.