

# Department of Middle Eastern Studies

## Seminar Series

Easter Term, 2023

Umberto Bongianino

*University of Oxford*

### “Fabrics of Sainthood: Making and Experiencing Inscribed Tomb Covers in Nineteenth-Century Morocco”



This talk will focus on a little-studied corpus of epigraphic textiles woven and embroidered for the shrines of various Moroccan saints, and particularly for the *zāwiya* of Idrīs II in Fes. By considering their materiality as objects of devotion, the socio-economic aspects of their production, and the manifold messages conveyed by their inscriptions, we shall explore the notion of Muslim sanctity and its deep connection with the charisma of Muḥammad and the performance of the *Ḥajj*.

Fragment of the *maḥmil* of Idrīs II. Gold thread and black silk lampas weave, 1273/1856–7.

Thursday, 4 May 2023, 17.15

Room 10 (the old common room) at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.  
Refreshments will be served from 17.00.