

WINTER SCHOOL

STUDIES IN SUFISM

1ST EDITION

FOUNDATIONS OF ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY

8-15 JANUARY 2018, TAMACINE (ALGERIA)



PERENNIA VERBA



Zâwiya Tijâniyya
TAMACINE



UNIMORE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA



Introduction

The first edition of the Winter School “Foundations of Islamic Spirituality”, organized by the association Perennia Verba (Parma, IT) in collaboration with the Istituto per l’Oriente Carlo Alfonso Nallino (Rome, IT), the Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia (IT), the Officina di Studi Medievali (Palermo, IT), the Istituto di Scienze dell’Uomo (Rimini, IT) and the Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine, in the heart of the Algerian desert, where the School will be hosted.

The aim of the school is to bring together senior scholars and young researchers in order to analyze the basic tenets of *taṣawwuf* and contextualize new issues coming from later developments in Islamic spirituality. The choice of a traditional Islamic milieu as a location for the school has been made with this very perspective in mind.

The topic chosen for the present year will be Early Sufism between Baghdad and Khorasan and Later Developments in *taṣawwuf*. The activities of the school will explore the foundations of core ideas and fundamental principles in Islamic Spirituality, as originally conceived within the schools of Baghdad and Khorasan, and their relevance for the understanding of subsequent conceptual developments throughout the history of Sufism.

There will be three kinds of activities:

- Frontal lectures on the key topics of this year's edition;
- Workshops based on readings and discussions of primary sources on different aspects of early Sufism. A selection of these texts will be forwarded to the participants in due time.
- Presentations and discussions of students' research projects.

Organization

The Winter School's organization is a joint effort of:

- the association Perennia Verba (Parma, IT);
- the Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine (DZ);
- the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (IT);
- the Istituto per l'Oriente Carlo Alfonso Nallino (Rome, IT);
- the Officina di Studi Medievali (Palermo, IT);
- the Istituto di Scienze dell'Uomo (Rimini, IT).

Winter School Venue and Accommodation

All lectures, workshops, and activities will take place within the premises of the Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine from the 9th to the 15th of January 2018.

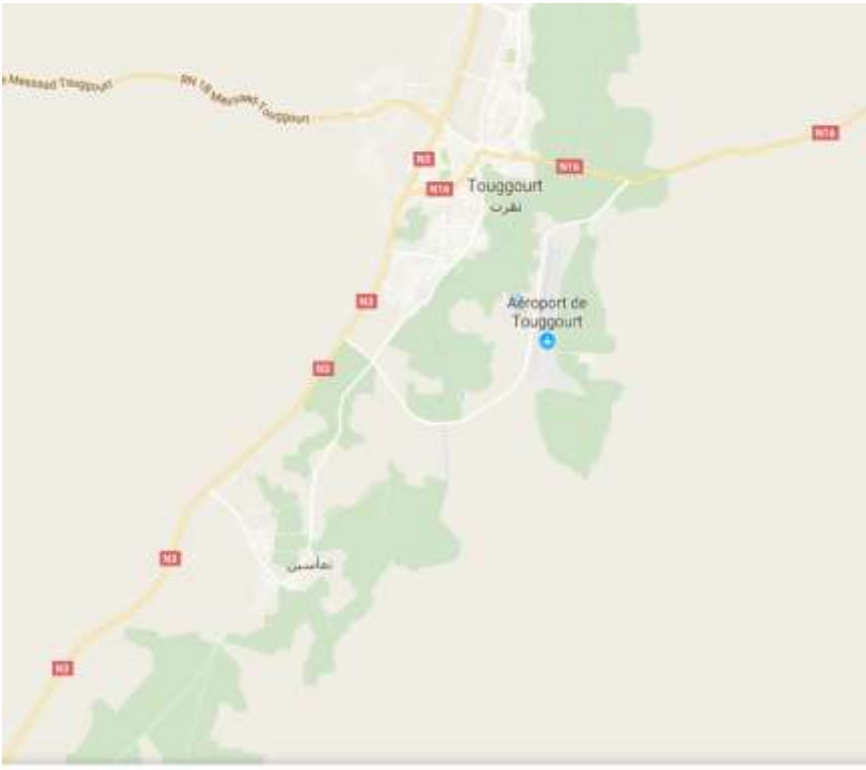
This will represent a unique opportunity for young researchers in Islamic Studies to take part for one week to a stimulating academic environment while plunging into a genuine Sufi atmosphere and interacting with authentic representatives of contemporary Islamic Spirituality. It will also constitute a rare occasion to discover an enchanting region off the beaten track.



Tijani Zawiya of Tamacine

The town of Tamacine is situated in South-East Algeria, about 20 km from Touggourt. Founded around 782 A.D. by the Righa families of the Berber tribes of Zenata, it developed around a *ksar* fortified around a palm grove of several hectares and – uniquely – on a bed of palm trees reaching a height of eight metres in places. The Zawiya was founded at the end of the 19th century, under the leadership of Sidi Hadj Ali Tamacini. Today the Zawiya, held by Sidi Muhammed Laid Tidjani Tamacini, is considered to be one of the great spiritual centres of the Tijaniyya brotherhood. Thousands of pilgrims converge here every year.

Ariport and Zawiya



Accommodation

There are two possibilities of accommodation:

1. Free rooms near the Zawiya Tijaniyya in Tamacine.
2. Hotel Oasis in Touggourt: Single Room: 4000 DZD = 30 Euro / night

Please explicitly state your preference in the application form. The cost of the accommodation is not included the course fee. If you would like to receive free accommodation, please specify if you prefer a single or a double room with another student (same sex): that would allow us to provide free accommodation for more students (please note that we only have a limited number of free rooms).

Lunch will be provided for free by the Zawiya Tijaniyya in Tamacine. Please state in your application if you have any specific need / allergy / intolerance.

The transport from Algiers to Touggourt / Tamacine will be by a direct bus (5000 DZD – 38 Euro / one way). All transport expenses are also not included in the course fee.

Flights from/to Algiers have to be booked by the participants. The organization would anyway like to know your arrival and departure time, in order to organize the transfer to/from Touggourt. Flight fare is not included in course fee.

A letter of invitation by the Zawiya Tijaniyya will be send to all the participants in due time, in order to facilitate the procedures for a Turistic Visa.

Hotel Oasis

Mail: hoteloasistggt@yahoo.fr



Program¹

Tuesday 9 January

Arrival in Touggourt/Tamacine (late evening, by bus from Algiers – 10 hours of travel approximately)

Wednesday 10 January

Morning session

- 9.00-9.30: Registration
- 9.30-10.00: **Opening and introduction of the Winter School:**
Shaykh Sidi Muhammed Laïd Tidjani (Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine, DZ)
Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, IT)
Prof. Demetrio Giordani (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT)
- 10.00-11.00: Prof. Eric Geoffroy (University of Strasbourg, FR):
"General introduction to Sufism"
- 11.00-11.15: Coffee and tea break
- 11.15-12.00: Dr. Michele Petrone (University of Copenhagen, DK):
"Historical and geographical overview of seminal sufism"
- 12.00-12.30: Questions and discussions
- 12.30-14.30: Lunch Break

1 The program may undergo minor modifications (due to delays in transportation or other exigencies)

Afternoon session

- 14.30-15.15: Prof. Demetrio Giordani (Univ. of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT):
"The Schools of Baghdad and Khorasan"
- 15.15-15.30: Questions and discussions
- 15.30-16.30: Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, Parma, IT):
"Sufi Vision of Tawhid" with Readings from Junayd
- 16.30-16.45: Coffee and tea break
- 16.45-17.45: Prof. Eric Geoffroy (University of Strasbourg, FR):
"Theopathic Experience" with Readings from al-Hallaj
- 17.45-18.00: Questions and discussions

Thursday 11 January

Morning session

- 9.30-10.15: Prof. Eric Geoffroy (University of Strasbourg, FR):
"Supreme Identity" with Readings from Bistami
- 10.15-11.00: Dr. Michele Petrone (University of Copenhagen, DK):
"Qur'anic hermeneutics: Sarraj and Tustari"
- 11.00-11.15: Coffee and tea break
- 11.15-12.00: Dr. Michele Petrone (University of Copenhagen, DK):
"Muhammadan Light in Tustari and Imam Ja'far"
- 12.00-12.30: Questions and discussion
- 12.30-14.30: Lunch break

Afternoon session

- 14.30-15.15: Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, Parma, IT):
“Tirmidhi and the two kinds of Sainthood”
- 15.15-16.00: Prof. Demetrio Giordani (Univ. of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT):
“The Malamatiyya of Khorasan”
- 16.00-16.15: Questions and discussion
- 16.15-16.30: Coffee and tea break
- 16.30-18.00: Students' presentations Group 1

Friday 12 January

Morning session

- 9.00-09.45: Prof. Eric Geoffroy (University of Strasbourg, FR):
“The Idea of Tawhid in Ibn ‘Arabi”
- 09.45-11.30: Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, Parma, IT):
“The Malami spirituality in Ibn ‘Arabi”
- 11.30-11.45: Questions and discussion
- 11.45-16.00: Lunch break

Afternoon

- 16.00 -19.00: **Visit to the Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine** to attend Friday *dhikr*



Saturday 13 January

Morning session

- 9.30-10.15: Prof. Demetrio Giordani:
“The emergence and establishment of Sufi ṭuruq”
- 10.15-11.00: Michele Petrone (University of Copenhagen, DK):
“The rise of the Tariqa Muhammadiyya”
- 11.00-11.15: Questions and discussion
- 11.15-11.30: Coffee and tea break
- 11:30-12.30 Students' presentation group 2
- 12.30-14.30 Lunch break

Afternoon session

- 14.30-15.15: Prof. Demetrio Giordani (Univ. of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT):
“The Tariqa Naqshbandiyya Mujaddidiyya”
- 15.15-16.00: Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, Parma, IT):
“The Tariqa Tijaniyya”
- 16.00-16:30: A Tijani Authority (Muqaddam)
“The Tijaniyya from a Tijani viewpoint”
- 16.30-17.00: Questions and discussions
- 17.00-17.15: Coffee and tea break
- 17.15-18.00: Students' presentation group 3

Sunday 14 January

- 9.30-18.00: ***Guided tour to the Saharan oasis town of Guemar***
and encounter with the local Tijani community



Monday 15 January

- 9.30-18.00: ***Visit to the University and the city of El Oued***

Encounter with Algerian scholars, researchers, and students

Prof. Muhammed Benbrika (University of Alger, DZ),

and Prof. Sa'id al-Khamissi (University of Constantine, DZ)

will take part to the event.

Concluding session of the Winter School

Shaykh Sidi Muhammed Laïd Tidjani (Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine, DZ)

Paolo Urizzi (Director of Perennia Verba, IT)

Prof. Eric Geoffroy (Université de Strasbourg, FR)

Prof. Demetrio Giordani (Univ. of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT)

Awarding of certificates of attendance

Comments and feedback of participants

Discussion of proposals for future editions

Tuesday 16 January

**Departure from Touggourt/Tamacine
(early morning bus to Algiers – 10 hours of travel approximately)**



Application

The Winter School is primarily conceived for post-graduate students engaged in research projects on Sufism. Applications from other interested subjects will also be considered. Knowledge of Arabic and French are an advantage for postgraduate students engaged in advanced research projects. However, these are not prerequisites as language of instruction of the Winter School will be English.

If you wish to join the Winter School please fill in the application form below and provide us with a motivation letter in which you explain your background in Islamic Studies and your current research field (if you have one) as well as your expectations regarding the Winter School. You may include a personal CV and a list of publications if you wish to do so.

The course fee is **350 EUR**. This includes all classes, workshops, and activities as well as the organized visits to the region. Please submit your application form together with your motivation letter to the e-mail address winterschooltamacine2018@gmail.com and please note that the deadline for the application is the **25th of October 2017**. Upon notification of acceptance you will be asked to pay the course fee in full by bank transfer or PayPal and to provide us with a copy of a valid passport in order to prepare an invitation letter for visa purposes (NB: you need to cover visa and transport expenses: to/from Algiers and from Algiers to Touggourt/Tamacine and back). Further details about the organization will be provided to successful applicants.

A minimum number of participants is required for the activation of the School. In case the School will not be activated, the course fee will be fully refunded. No flight ticket or accommodation expense will be reimbursed.

The organization strongly recommends to wait for official communications from the Organizing Committee and Algerian authorities (about visas) before booking flights and accommodations.

Organizing Committee:

Paolo Urizzi (Association Perennia Verba, IT)

Sidi Laïd Tidjani (Tijani Zawiya in Tamacine, DZ)

Demetrio Giordani (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT)

Michele Petrone (University of Copenhagen, DK)

For further information please contact: winterschooltamacine2018@gmail.com