

Tilman Kulke

Associate Professor of Islamic and Global History

Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Ilia State University · Tbilisi, Georgia

tilmann.kulke@iliauni.edu.ge · faculty.iliauni.edu.ge/en/sas_faculty/tilmann-kulke/

ACADEMIC PROFILE

I am a historian of global intellectual history, knowledge circulation, and transcultural exchange in the early modern world, with particular interests in Islamic intellectual traditions and the connected histories of Georgia, the Caucasus, and the Mughal Empire. My current research examines Enlightenment thought, intellectual exchange, and structural reform in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Georgia, placing the Caucasus more fully within the global history of the Enlightenment.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Global intellectual history; global and connected history; histories of knowledge circulation and translation
- Islamic history and intellectual traditions; Indo-Persian historiography; Mughal political and cultural history
- Early modern Georgia and the Caucasus; Enlightenment thought and reform beyond Western Europe
- Narratology, historical textuality, and the political uses of historiographical writing
- International history of the Middle East since 1800; Global South perspectives on international relations

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2022 - present	Associate Professor, Islamic History and Global History - Ilia State University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Tbilisi
2017 - 2022	Assistant Professor, Islamic History and Global History - Ilia State University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Tbilisi

EDUCATION & ACADEMIC TRAINING

2012 - 2016	PhD in History and Civilization - European University Institute, Florence Dissertation: A Mughal Munshī at Work: Conflicts and Emotions in Musta'idd Hān's Ma'āsir-i 'Ālamgīrī: A Narratological Investigation. Examining board included Jorge Flores, Luca Molà, Stephan Conermann (external supervisor), and Jos Gommans (external supervisor).
2010 - 2011	Master of Research (MRes), History and Civilization - European University Institute, Florence
2003 - 2010	University studies in Islamic Studies, Early Modern and Modern History, and Anglo-American Studies - University of Cologne and University of Bonn Magister Artium awarded by the University of Cologne in 2010.
September 2009	Summer School, Department of History and Civilization - European University Institute (EUI), Florence Participant in the EUI History and Civilization Summer School.
September 2007 - August 2008	Academic exchange - Doğuş University, Istanbul Erasmus-funded study year; member of the T.C. Doğuş Üniversitesi men's basketball programme.

2003 - 2007

Arabic-language study stays - Syria, including Damascus University
Repeated intensive Arabic-language and study stays.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, PROJECTS & ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2023 - present

Collaborative research on Enlightenment and reform in Georgia - Ilia State University

Research on Enlightenment thought, intellectual exchange, and structural reform in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Georgia, contributing to a broader global history of the Enlightenment.

2014 - 2015

Employee and Arabic - German translator - DAAD programme “Leadership for Syria”, Bonn

Academic support within the DAAD scholarship programme for Syrian students.

2010 - 2015

Full Doctoral Fellowship - European University Institute (EUI), Florence

Doctoral fellowship covering the full period of PhD research in the Department of History and Civilization.

2010 - 2015

Multiple DAAD Travel Grants

Travel grants for research stays, archival work, and academic travel during doctoral studies.

June - August 2009

Research Fellowship (Forschungsstipendium) - German Historical Institute Paris (DHI Paris)

Resident research stay at the Deutsches Historisches Institut Paris.

2008

Nomination for the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes

Nominated by Stephan Conermann.

September 2007 - August 2008

Erasmus and Sports Scholarship - Doğuş University, Istanbul

Year-long academic exchange; member of the T.C. Doğuş Üniversitesi men's basketball programme.

During university studies

Arabic Instructor and Research Assistant - University of Cologne

Taught Arabic at the Institute for Oriental Studies and worked as a research assistant in the Department of History and Department of Islamic Studies at the Universities of Cologne and Bonn.

LANGUAGES

German (native); English (fluent); French, Italian, Latin, Arabic, Persian, and Turkish (advanced); Georgian (currently learning).

SELECTED CURRENT TEACHING

- The Global Nineteenth Century: The Transformation of the World (MA)
- The Middle East and the International Order: Western Power, Regional Agency, and Global South Perspectives, 1990 - Present (MA)
- Doing Global History: Methods, Scales, Connections (MA)
- Understanding Islam: History, Texts, Cultures, and Global Connections (MA)
- German-language teaching at the Goethe-Institut; academic mentoring with particular emphasis on international scholarships and student mobility

PUBLICATIONS

Books, Edited Volumes & Translation

Kollatz, Anna, and Tilmann Kulke, eds. *Narrative Strategies for India in Transition*. Berlin: EB-Verlag, 2023.

Doborjginidze, Nino, Oliver Reisner, and Tilmann Kulke, trans. *Sebastian Conrad, Ra aris Globaluri Ist'oria?* Tbilisi: Ilia State University Press, 2023. Georgian translation of *What Is Global History?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016).

Kulke, Tilmann, and Irene María Vicente Martín, eds. *From Florence to Goa and Beyond: Essays in Early Modern Global History*. HEC Working Paper 2022/01. Florence: European University Institute, 2022.

Special Issues

Kollatz, Anna, and Tilmann Kulke. "Aktuelle Studien zur Geschichte des Islams in Indien." Special forum, *sehepunkte* 22, no. 4 (2022).

von Brescius, Moritz, Robrecht Declercq, Tilmann Kulke, and James White, eds. "Current Historiographical Research at the European University Institute." Special issue, *zeitenblicke* 12, no. 1 (2013).

Articles, Chapters & Reference Entries

Kollatz, Anna, and Tilmann Kulke. "Editors' Preface: Narrative Strategies for India in Transition: The Long Nineteenth Century." In *Narrative Strategies for India in Transition*, edited by Anna Kollatz and Tilmann Kulke, 9 - 18. Berlin: EB-Verlag, 2023.

Kavtaradze, Giorgi, and Tilmann Kulke. "Luring the Tsar into India: Rafael Joseph Danibegashvili's Political Narrative of Transitional India, 1799 - 1827." In *Narrative Strategies for India in Transition*, edited by Anna Kollatz and Tilmann Kulke, 107 - 154. Berlin: EB-Verlag, 2023.

Kollatz, Anna, and Tilmann Kulke. "Conclusion: Perspectives on India in Transition." In *Narrative Strategies for India in Transition*, edited by Anna Kollatz and Tilmann Kulke, 323 - 357. Berlin: EB-Verlag, 2023.

Doborjginidze, Nino, Oliver Reisner, and Tilmann Kulke. "Shesavali." In *Sebastian Conrad, Ra aris Globaluri Ist'oria?*, translated by Nino Doborjginidze, Oliver Reisner, and Tilmann Kulke, 1 - 16. Tbilisi: Ilia State University Press, 2023.

Kulke, Tilmann, and Irene María Vicente Martín. "Prelude." In *From Florence to Goa and Beyond: Essays in Early Modern Global History*, edited by Tilmann Kulke and Irene María Vicente Martín, 7 - 12. Florence: European University Institute, 2022.

Doborjginidze, Nino, and Tilmann Kulke. "Erekle II (1720 - 1798) Goes Global: Zwischen Aufklärung, Wissenstransfer und strukturellen Reformen in Georgien ab den 1750er Jahren." In *From Florence to Goa and Beyond: Essays in Early Modern Global History*, edited by Tilmann Kulke and Irene María Vicente Martín, 145 - 175. Florence: European University Institute, 2022.

Kulke, Tilmann, and Irene María Vicente Martín. "Current Historiographical Research in Early Modern Global History: An Interview with Jorge Flores." In *From Florence to Goa and Beyond: Essays in Early Modern Global History*, edited by Tilmann Kulke and Irene María Vicente Martín, 267 - 280. Florence: European University Institute, 2022.

Kulke, Tilmann. "Aurangzeb and Islam in India: 50 Years of Mughal Realpolitik." In *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Religions*, edited by Knut A. Jacobsen, 190 - 204. London and New York: Routledge, 2020.

Kulke, Tilmann. "Muḥammad Kāzīm." In *Encyclopaedia of Islam, THREE*, edited by Kate Fleet, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, and Everett Rowson, 121 - 122. Leiden: Brill, 2020.

Kulke, Tilmann. "Musta'idd Ḥān." In *Encyclopaedia of Islam, THREE*, edited by Kate Fleet, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, and Everett Rowson, 144 - 145. Leiden: Brill, 2020.

Kulke, Tilmann. "Ināyat Allāh Ḥān b. Mirza Šukr." In *Encyclopaedia of Islam, THREE*, edited by Kate Fleet, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, and Everett Rowson, 47 - 48. Leiden: Brill, 2020.

Kulke, Tilmann, Moritz von Brescius, Robrecht Declercq, and James White. "Diversity in Unity: An Introduction to Historiography at the European University Institute." *zeitenblicke* 12, no. 1 (2013).

von Brescius, Moritz, and Tilmann Kulke. "Interview über die Globalgeschichte mit Professor Sebastian Conrad." *zeitenblicke* 12, no. 1 (2013).

Book Reviews

- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review essay on Katja Gloger and Georg Mascolo, *Das Versagen*, and Carlo Masala, *Wenn Russland gewinnt: Ein Szenario*. *The Book Review* 50, no. 2 (February 2026).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review essay on Carlo Masala, *Weltunordnung: Die globalen Krisen und die Illusionen des Westens*, and Thomas Borrel, Amzat Boukari-Yabara, Benoît Collombat, and Thomas Deltombe, eds., *L'Empire qui ne veut pas mourir: Une histoire de la Françafrique*. *The Book Review* 48, no. 5 (May 2024).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Das Ende des Kapitalismus: Warum Wachstum und Klimaschutz nicht miteinander vereinbar sind - und wie wir in Zukunft leben werden*, by Ulrike Herrmann. *The Book Review* 47, no. 3 (March 2023).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *The Ceremonial of Audience: Transcultural Approaches*, edited by Eva Orthmann and Anna Kollatz. *The Book Review* 46, no. 4 (April 2022).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Macht bei Hofe: Narrative Darstellungen in ausgewählten Quellen. Ein interdisziplinärer Reader*, edited by Stephan Conermann and Anna Kollatz. *The Book Review* 46, no. 3 (March 2022).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Politicizing Islam: The Islamic Revival in France and India*, by Z. Fareen Parvez. *sehepunkte* 22, no. 4 (2022).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Babur: Timurid Prince and Mughal Emperor, 1483 - 1530*, by Stephen F. Dale. *The Book Review*, no. 1 (January 2021).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Break All the Borders: Separatism and the Reshaping of the Middle East*, by Ariel I. Ahram. *Weltsichten* (January 2020).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia Did Not: Global Economic Divergence, 1600 - 1850*, by Prasanna Parthasarathi. *sehepunkte* 19, no. 6 (2019).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Terrains of Exchange: Religious Economies of Global Islam*, by Nile Green. *sehepunkte* 19, no. 6 (2019).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Sites of Mediation: Connected Histories of Places, Processes, and Objects in Europe and Beyond, 1450 - 1650*, edited by Susanna Burghartz, Lucas Burkart, and Christine Göttler. *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Geschichte* 69, no. 1 (2019).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, by Arundhati Roy. *sehepunkte* 18, no. 4 (2018).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Jihadi Culture: The Art and Social Practices of Militant Islamists*, edited by Thomas Hegghammer. *sehepunkte* 18, no. 4 (2018).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Galiz Kahraman*, by İhsan Oktay Anar. *sehepunkte* 14, no. 5 (2014).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Louvre Koleksiyonlarından Başyapıtlarla İslam Sanatının 3 Başkenti: İstanbul, İsfahan, Delhi*, by Ayşen Anadol, Zeynep Avcı, Nazan Ölçer et al. *sehepunkte* 13, no. 11 (2013).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Writing the Mughal World: Studies on Culture and Politics*, by Muzaffar Alam and Sanjay Subrahmanyam. *sehepunkte* 13, nos. 7 - 8 (2013).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *The Cultures of History in Early Modern India: Persianization and Mughal Culture in Bengal*, by Kulkum Chatterjee. *sehepunkte* 13, nos. 7 - 8 (2013).
- Alberto Benvenuti and Tilmann Kulke.** Review of *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*, by Manning Marable. *sehepunkte* 12, no. 10 (2012).
- Alberto Benvenuti and Tilmann Kulke.** Review of *Hubert Harrison: The Voice of Harlem Radicalism, 1883 - 1918*, by Jeffrey B. Perry. *sehepunkte* 12, no. 9 (2012).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *The Eastern Islamic World: Eleventh to Eighteenth Centuries*, edited by David O. Morgan and Anthony Reid. *sehepunkte* 12, nos. 7 - 8 (2012).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *The Adventures of Amir Hamza*, by Musharraf Ali Farooqi. *sehepunkte* 11, no. 10 (2011).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Strategien der Kontingenzbewältigung: Der Mogulherrscher Humāyūn (r. 1530 - 1540 und 1555 - 1556) dargestellt in seiner Tazkirat al-Wāqī'āt seines Leibdieners Jauhar Aftābchī*, by Nader Purnaqcheband. *sehepunkte* 11, no. 6 (2011).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Narratologie und biblische Exegese*, by Sönke Finnern. *sehepunkte* 11, no. 6 (2011).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Istanbul: Ein historischer Stadtführer*, by Klaus Kreiser. 2nd rev. ed. *sehepunkte* 10, no. 11 (2010).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Die Brücke von Istanbul: Eine Reise zwischen Orient und Okzident*, by Geert Mak. *sehepunkte* 10, no. 1 (2010).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Die Welt im 16. Jahrhundert*, edited by Peter Feldbauer and Jean-Paul Lehnert. *sehepunkte* 10, no. 1 (2010).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *After Tamerlane: The Global History of Empire*, by John Darwin. *sehepunkte* 9, no. 10 (2009).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Explorations in Connected History: From the Tagus to the Ganges*, by Sanjay Subrahmanyam. *sehepunkte* 9, no. 10 (2009).
- Kulke, Tilmann.** Review of *Kein Gott außer Gott: Der Glaube der Muslime von Muhammad bis zur Gegenwart*, by Reza Aslan. *sehepunkte* 9, no. 6 (2009).

Kulke, Tilmann. Review of Explorations in Connected History: Mughals and Franks, by Sanjay Subrahmanyam. *sehepunkte* 9, no. 1 (2009).

ACADEMIC SERVICE & EDITORIAL WORK

- Review Editor / Co-editor, “Islamische Welten”, *sehepunkte*
- Founding editor, “Research in Dialogue - Dialogue in Research”, European University Institute / *geschichte.transnational* (from 2015)
- Co-editor, special issue “Current Historiographical Research at the European University Institute”, *zeitenblicke* 12, no. 1 (2013)