

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Patrick RINGGENBERG

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1273 Arzier
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EDUCATION

- 2007-2010** **PhD in History**, University of Geneva.
Thesis under the supervision of Professor Dario Gamboni:
Theories of Art in the Traditionalist School of Thought: René Guénon – Ananda K. Coomaraswamy – Frithjof Schuon – Titus Burckhardt (in the French original: *Les théories de l'art dans la pensée « traditionnelle »: René Guénon – Ananda K. Coomaraswamy – Frithjof Schuon – Titus Burckhardt*).
■ Distinction: *Summa cum laude* (Très honorable avec félicitations à l'unanimité du jury).
- 2004-2007** **MA of Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes**, Paris-Sorbonne.
Thesis under the supervision of Professor Jean-Pierre Brach:
The Concepts of Primordial Tradition and Sophia Perennis in the Works of René Guénon and Frithjof Schuon (in the French original: *Les notions de tradition primordiale chez René Guénon et de Sophia perennis chez Frithjof Schuon. Filiation – comparaison – bilan*).
■ Distinction: *Summa cum laude* (Très honorable avec félicitations à l'unanimité du jury).
- 1991-1997** **MA in Cinema-Video** of Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts (or E.S.A.V.), Geneva.
- 1987-1990** **Baccalaureate Latin-English**, Gymnasium Belvédère, Lausanne.
- 1981-1987** **Certificate of Secondary Studies**, College of Nyon.

RESEARCHES AND TEACHING

- Currently** Associate researcher at *Institut Cultures, Religions, Modernité*, Lausanne University.
- 2011-2013** Historical and iconographical study of Mashhad (Khorâsân, Iran), commissioned by the *Sâzmân-e farhang va Ertebâtât-e eslâmi* (Tehran).
- 1999-2013** Lecturer in several Private Institutes and Cultural Organizations in Switzerland (Universités Populaires, Ecole Club Migros, Ecole & Quartier).

QUALIFICATIONS / MEMBERSHIP

- Qualification CNU 2012 (France)** – Section 22 - Histoire et civilisations : histoire des mondes modernes.
- Member of the *Association suisse des historiens et historiennes de l'art*.
- Founding member of Kuficpedia (<http://kuficpedia.org>).

AXES OF RESEARCHES

Islam

Symbolism and hermeneutic in Islamic arts.
Iranian and Turkish cultures (architecture, iconography, art of books): Iran, Turkey, Central Asia, Northern India.
Arab-Andalusian culture.
Ornamentation.
Pictorial and figurative representation.
The Shrine of Imam Reza at Mashhad.
Iranian cinema.

History and philosophy of Western arts

Visual anthropology.
The issue of “sacred art ”.
The neoplatonic tradition in the visual arts.
Middle Ages and Neo-medievalism.
West, orientalism / East, “occidentalism”.

History of religious and esoteric thoughts

The “traditionalist” current of thought founded by René Guénon.
Philosophia perennis and universalism in Western esotericism.

RESEARCHES

- 2012-2013** Mashhad: transformations of a pilgrimage city.
Forthcoming publication: *Mashhad dans le miroir des voyageurs*, Tehran / London, Candle & Fog.
- 2011** Architecture and pilgrimage: the shrine of Imam Rezâ at Mashhad. Forthcoming publication: *Le sanctuaire de l'Imam Rezâ à Mashhad*. Tehran / London, Candle & Fog.

PUBLICATIONS

THESIS

- 2011** *Les théories de l'art dans la pensée traditionnelle. Guénon – Coomaraswamy – Schuon – Burckhardt*, Paris, L'Harmattan. 832 p.
► A review of the PhD dissertation by Prof. Mark Sedgwick (June 18, 2010) on <http://traditionalistblog.blogspot.com/2010/06/traditionalism-and-art-and-perhaps-more.html>
- 2010** *Diversité et unité des religions chez René Guénon et Frithjof Schuon*, [Préface de Jean-Pierre Brach], Paris, L'Harmattan. 384 p.
► Reading note by Jérôme Rousse-Lacordaire, in *Politica Hermetica*, 25, 2011, p. 124.

STUDIES

- Forthcoming* *Mashhad dans le miroir des voyageurs*, Tehran / London, Candle & Fog.
- Forthcoming* *Le sanctuaire de l'Imam Rezâ à Mashhad*, Tehran / London, Candle & Fog.
- Forthcoming* *L'ornement dans les arts d'Islam*, Tehran / London, Candle & Fog.
- 2009** *L'univers symbolique des arts islamiques*, Paris, L'Harmattan. 560 p.
► Review by Abd el Rahman Nehmé : *IESR - Institut européen en sciences des religions*, mis à jour le : 24/08/2011, URL :<http://www.iesr.ephe.sorbonne.fr/index6600.html>
■ Book awarded by the *World Prize for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran* and by *Farabi International Award* in 2012.

CHAPTER OF ENCYCLOPEDIA

- 2012** *Iranian Islamic Arts: Symbolism and Hermeneutic*, to be published in Persian in *Târikh-djâme-ye Iran [The Great History of Iran]*, The Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia, Tehran.

ARTICLES

- Forthcoming* « Une iconographie de la guerre : le patrimoine photographique iranien de la guerre Iran-Irak ».
- Forthcoming* « De l'usage universaliste des images chez les "traditionalistes" ».
- 2014** « Les peintures murales de Téhéran. Introduction à l'étude d'un art contemporain ».
- 2013** « Les *fâl* de Hâfez en Iran : l'usage oraculaire de la poésie ».
- 2013** « The Architecture of the Holy Shrine at Mashhad Described in the European Travelogues Between 1404 and 1910 », to be published in a collection of essays by the Research Center of Âstân-e Qods-e Razavi, Mashhad, edited by Meysam Jalali.
- 2013** « Islamic Ornamentation: Reflections on its Humanistic, Cosmological, and Metaphysical Aspects », to be published in the Acts of the *Tehran-Tabriz International Congress on: Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts*, IRCICA, Téhéran et Tabriz, May 5-9 2013.
- 2012** "The Art of Showing, the Art of Reading. Concerning the Surah Ya-Sin in the Great Mosque of Shushtar", to be published in English and in Persian in a collection of essays devoted to the Great Mosque of Shushtar (Iran).
- 2012** "The Holy Shrine at Mashhad: the Architectural Ornamentation in the Mirror of Spirituality", to be published in the Acts of the International Conference on Religion in the Mirror of Art, Hamedan (Iran), April 10-11 2012.
- 2012** "De la tradition primordiale à la *sophia perennis* : les métamorphoses de l'universalisme, de Guénon à Schuon", to be published in a collection of essays edited by Philippe Faure (Paris, Cerf).
- 2006** "L'amour et la beauté chez Djâmi" (with Andia Abai-Ringgenberg) (*Aurora*, 2, p. 29-31).
[Online edition: <http://editionenligne.moncelon.com/Dj%C3%A2mi.pdf>]
- 1997** "Métaphysique du vitrail" (*Connaissance des Religions*, n°51-52, p. 1-25).

PREFACES AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 2012** "Introduction", Titus Burckhardt, *La culture mauresque en Espagne*, translated from the German by Génia Catala, Milan, Archè, *forthcoming*.
- 2012** "Preface", S. M. V. Mousavi Jazayeri, *Kufic Encyclopedia* [in English and in Persian], *forthcoming*.
- 2009** "En guise d'ouverture", Prelude to the article by Pascal Meier, "Une vision contemporaine de l'art sacré" (*Les Cahiers d'Orient et d'Occident*, n°22, p. 2-3).

ESSAYS

- 2009** *Une introduction au Livre des rois (Shâhnâmeh) de Ferdowsi. La gloire des rois et la sagesse de l'épopée*, Paris, L'Harmattan. 176 p.
- 2006** *Guide culturel de l'Iran*, Téhéran, Rowzaneh. 512 p. [second revised edition published in 2009; third revised edition to be published in 2013].
- 2006** *Miroirs du Moyen Âge*, Paris, Les Deux Océans. 266 p.
- 2006** *La peinture persane ou La vision paradisiaque*, Paris, Les Deux Océans. 241 p.
- 2005** *L'art chrétien de l'image. La ressemblance de Dieu*, Paris, Les Deux Océans. 200 p.

2004 *L'union du Ciel et de la Terre. La peinture de paysage en Chine et au Japon*, Paris, Les Deux Océans. 186 p.

Unpublished

2012 “Susan Khayyam : artiste photographe iranienne”, introducing a contemporary Iranian artist.

2011 “Sanaz Sasannejad”, introducing a contemporary Iranian artist.

2005 “Le tourisme iranien par un voyageur européen” [five articles on Iranian tourism].

AWARDS

2012 *World Prize for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran* for *L'univers symbolique des arts islamiques* (2009).

2012 *Farabi International Award* for *L'univers symbolique des arts islamiques* (2009).

TEACHING

Academic teaching (English or French)

Persian painting – Islamic Art University, Tabriz (Université d'Art Islamique, Tabriz (October 23rd 2013)

Western Approaches to Islamic Arts – Faculty of Architecture, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran (March 2nd 2014).

Ornament in Islamic Architecture : Use, Purpose, Hermeneutic - Faculty of Architecture, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran (April 27th 2014).

Classes in French: Universités Populaires (Lausanne, Nyon, Le Sentier), École Club Migros (Geneva) and École & Quartier (Versoix).

• Islamic Studies

From Ispahan to the Taj Mahal: the Arts in the Islamic East (Lausanne: 2012, 2010 / Nyon: 2011).

Islam: History and Spirituality (Lausanne: 2010).

Islamic Arts (Geneva: 1999-2000 / Lausanne: 2013, 2012, 2010, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998 / Le Sentier: 2002-2003).

Al-Andalus. Arabic Civilization in Spain (Lausanne: 2008, 2004, 2003, 2002).

Islamic Art in Central Asia: Samarqand and Bukhara (Lausanne: 2008, 2004, 2003, 2002 / Geneva: 2004, 2003, 2002).

The Muslim Civilization (Religion, History, Cultures) (Nyon: 2007-2008 / Lausanne: 2008, 2007, 2006, 2004-2005).

Sufism, the Islamic Mysticism (Lausanne: 2007-2008, 2005-2006 / Versoix: 2007 / Le Sentier: 2006-2007).

Byzantium – Constantinople – Istanbul. From the Byzantine Empire to the Ottoman Sultanate (Lausanne: 2004, 2003).

Islamic Cultures in Medieval Spain and in Central Asia (Le Sentier: 2003-2004).

Muslim Spain: from Cordoba to Granada (Geneva: 2002).

• Iranian Studies

Religions and Mystics in Iran (Lausanne: 2012).

The Splendor of Persian Art (Lausanne: 2008, 2005-2006 / Nyon: 2004-2005 / Geneva: 2004).

Life and Culture of the Iranian Cities (Lausanne : 2008).

The Iranian Civilization (Versoix: 2006 / Le Sentier: 2004-2005).

Beauty and Wisdom of Persian Painting (Lausanne: 2006).

From Samarqand to the Taj Mahal: Persian Art in Central Asia and Northern India (Lausanne: 2006).

From Persia to Iran: a 9000 years Civilization (Lausanne: 2003).

1° *History of the Iranian Civilization*, 2° *Iran in the 20th Century: from the last Kings to the Islamic Revolution*, 3° *The Religions of Iran*, 4° *Persian Arts*.

Persian Painting (Lausanne: 2003, 2002 / Geneva: 2001).

From Persia to Iran – History, Culture, Iran today (Lausanne: 2012, 2013 / Nyon: 2013).

• Middle Ages

Icons and Byzantine Art (Lausanne: 2006-2007).

Armenian Art: Churches, Manuscripts, Khatchkar (Lausanne: 2006).

Byzantine and Russian Icons (Lausanne: 2006).

The Middle Ages: an Introduction (Nyon: 2005-2006).

Culture and Heritage of the Middle Ages (Lausanne: 2005-2006, 2004-2005).

Byzantine Church: Light and Iconology (Lausanne: 2005).

Medieval Glass Windows (Lausanne: 2005).

Byzantium – Constantinople – Istanbul. From the Byzantine Empire to the Ottoman Sultanate (Lausanne: 2004, 2003).

Chartres and the Golden Age of Cathedrals (Lausanne: 2004).

Hildegard of Bingen (Lausanne: 2002).

Icons and Byzantine Art (Lausanne: 2002, 2001).

Romanesque and Gothic Arts (Geneva: 2001-2002).

Icons (Geneva: 2001).

• Asian Arts

The Oriental Painting, a Journey: from Byzantium to China, from Persia to India (Le Sentier: 2007-2008).

Chinese and Japanese Landscape Painting (Lausanne: 2004).

Oriental Painting (China – Japan – Tibet – India) (Lausanne: 2001-2002).

Visions of sacred arts: from Gothic stained glasses to Chinese landscape paintings (Nyon: 2012 / Lausanne: 2013, 2012).

• History of Western Esotericism

René Guénon, Frithjof Schuon and the Tradition (Lausanne: 2008).

Lectures in French and in English

2013	<i>Sufism. An Introduction</i> , Association POL, Geneva.
2012	<i>Islamic Arts and Symbolism</i> , Islamic Research Foundation, Mashhad.
2009	<i>Introducing the paintings of Mrs Nafissy</i> , Galerie L.A.C., Vevey.
2009	<i>The Religions of Iran</i> , Association Illa, Geneva.
2007	<i>Iran</i> , Association Illa, Geneva.
2006	<i>Philosophical and Mystical Symbolism of Persian Art</i> , Mossadegh Foundation, Geneva.
2006	<i>Persian Art in Central Asia and Northern India</i> , Histoire & Voyages, Lausanne and Geneva.
2004	<i>Iranian Culture</i> , Amnesty International, Geneva.
2004	<i>Persian Painting</i> , Art Club, Geneva.
2003-2005	<i>Sufism and Dances</i> , International Scalène Danse, Lausanne (one lecture per year).
2003	<i>Persian Painting</i> , Mossadegh Foundation, Geneva.
2003	<i>Persian Art</i> , Histoire & Voyages, Lausanne.
2003	<i>Bam, the Lost City of Iran</i> , Histoire & Voyages, Lausanne.
2002-2006	<i>Iran / Uzbekistan</i> , Training of Travel Agents, Ecole Club Migros, Geneva (two lectures per year).

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- 2013** Tehran-Tabriz International Congress on: Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts, IRCICA, Tehran and Tabriz, May 5-9.
- 2012** International Conference on Religions and Contemporary Awakening, Tehran, April 30-May 1.
- 2012** International Conference on Religion in the Mirror of Art, Hamedan (Iran), April 10-11.

COACHING

- 2014** Advisor of Zeynab Safarian for her PhD thesis, devoted to the comparative study of ornamentation in the Western and Islamic arts of books, Prof. Mehdi Mohammadzadeh, Islamic Art University, Tabriz.
- 2013** Advisor of Goli Omidvar, for her PhD thesis « Corps Voilé, Dévoilé », Prof. Michel Sicard, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.
- 2011** Occasional advisor of Mr Sid-Ahmed Khelfa, for his PhD thesis « Architecture et soufisme dans la ville de Fès au XIV^e siècle », Prof. Leila el-Wakil, Geneva University
- 2011** Occasional advisor of Mrs. Selma Pinar, for his Master Degree thesis devoted to the geometry in the mosques, École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture, Strasbourg.

AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTIONS

Experiences: cinema, photography, theater

- 1983-...** Pictures in Colour or in Black & White, with different techniques (slides, negatives, digital pictures).
- 1984-1991** Realization of numerous amateur films (animation, fiction, or experimental movies in Super 8 mm).
- 1987 / 1988** Two one-week training-periods at Télévision Suisse Romande (Geneva).
- 1986-1990** Actor and stage manager in various amateur theaters.

Films

- 1998-1999** *L'École d'Ingénieurs de Changins* – Promotional film in four languages (French, German, English, Italian) (Video Hi-8 ; Colour ; 10').
- 1996** *Symboles de la Franc-Maçonnerie* – Documentary (16 mm ; Black & White ; 10').
 ■ Film for the MS of E.S.B.A.
- 1994** *La magie* – Experimental (16mm ; Black & White; 10').
 ■ Selected in **Rencontres Internationales Henri Langlois**, Poitiers (France), 1994.
- 1993** *La synarchie* – Expérimental (16 mm; Colour and Black & White ; 5').
 ■ Selected in several film festivals in Switzerland (**Festival of Locarno** ; “**Genève fait son cinéma**”, Geneva), 1993.

Photographs

• Photographic projects

- 2011 / 2012** The Shrine of Imam Rezâ at Mashhad (Khorâsân, Iran).
- 2001-2005** Iran: visual resources for the *Guide culturel de l'Iran*, published in 2006.

• **Published pictures**

- **Books** *L'ornement dans les arts d'Islam (forthcoming)* ; *Le sanctuaire de l'Imam Rezâ à Mashhad (forthcoming)* ; *Les théories de l'art dans la pensée traditionnelle* (2011) ; *L'univers symbolique des arts islamiques* (2009) ; *Une introduction au Livre des rois (Shâhnâmeh) de Ferdowsi* (2009) ; *A Travel Guide to Fars* by Oksana Beheshti (Tehran, Rowzaneh, 2006) ; *Guide culturel de l'Iran* (2006) ; *L'art chrétien de l'image* (2005).
- **Internet** <http://patrickringgenberg.com/>

PUBLISHING

- 2009-2011** Editorial work (layout, iconography, promotion) for *L'univers symbolique des arts islamiques*, *Une introduction au Livre des rois (Shâhnâmeh) de Ferdowsi* and *Les théories de l'art dans la pensée traditionnelle*.
- 2001-2006** Realization of a *Guide culturel de l'Iran* (Rowzaneh, Tehran): text, pictures, overall conception, iconography, supervision of the layout. Editorial work on *InDesign* for the 2nd and the 3rd revised editions between 2008 and 2012.
- 1998** Three-day training-period at L'Âge d'Homme publishing house, Lausanne.

TOURISM

- Currently** Manager, cultural department, RediscoverIran (<http://rediscoveriran.com/>).
- 2010-2011** Associate manager, cultural department, Tech Travel travel agency (EPFL, Lausanne).
- 2008-2011** Cultural advisor at *Maison de l'Iran* (Paris).
- 2001-03/2011** Occasional advisor for Iranian travel agencies in Tehran (IPTO, 1001 Nuits, Marco Polo).
- 2000-2008** Lecturer, cultural travel agency Histoire & Voyages (Kuoni, Lausanne) in Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Armenia, Northern India (Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh), Turkey (Istanbul), Morocco.