

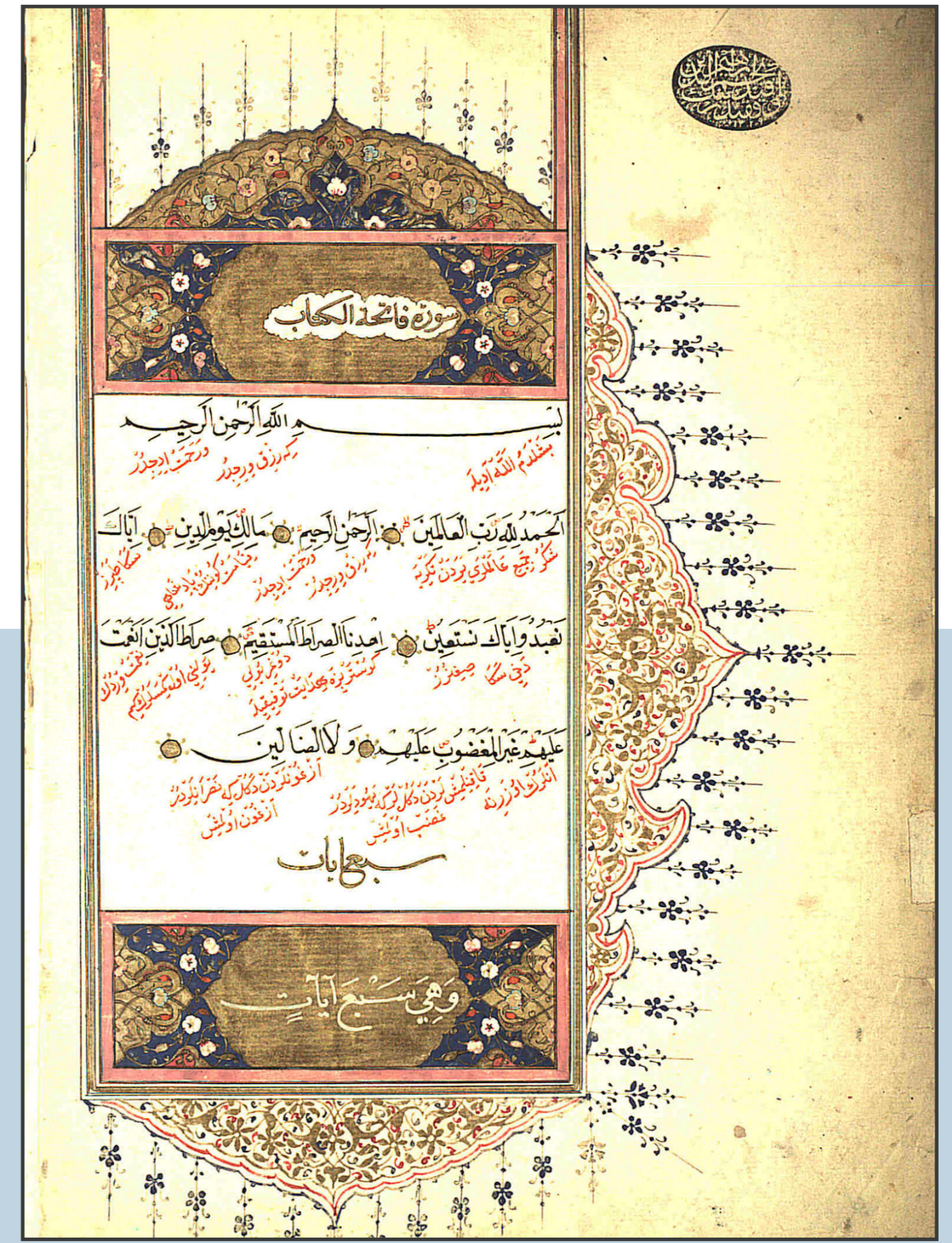
# translAPT

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TRANSLATION: ARABIC • PERSIAN • TURKISH

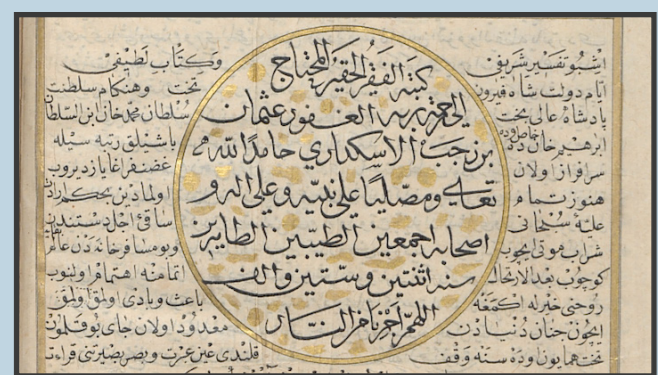
Translation processes played a central role in the formation of the Ottoman Empire in the early modern period. Against the background of confessional-political polarisation in the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, a multitude of works were increasingly received, translated and commented upon. Therefore, using a multidisciplinary approach, this junior research group is investigating the transregional transfer of knowledge **between 1400 and 1750** holistically for the first time. In doing so, the focus lies on translation as a **concept, process and product** in a large portion of the Islamic world. By bringing together research

approaches from **Oriental/Middle Eastern studies, translation studies and material philology**, the group will not only close significant gaps in the current state of research but also replace the current, too narrowly defined concepts of translation with a new understanding of translation that better reflects cultural history. This applies, in particular, to the function of translation in the context of **ideological self-positioning and confessional demarcation**. The further development of literary norms by **translators, clients and recipients** will also be examined across different types of text.

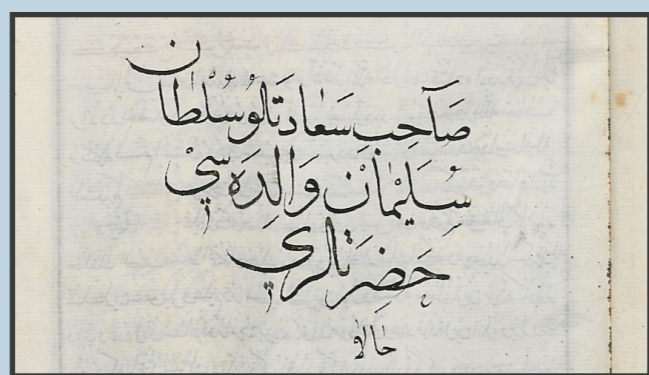


Süleymaniye, Yozgat, 15-01, f. 11v: *Enfesü'l-Cevāhir* (The Most Exquisite of Jewels), with interlinear translations (red), copied before 1259/1844.

## What is material philology?



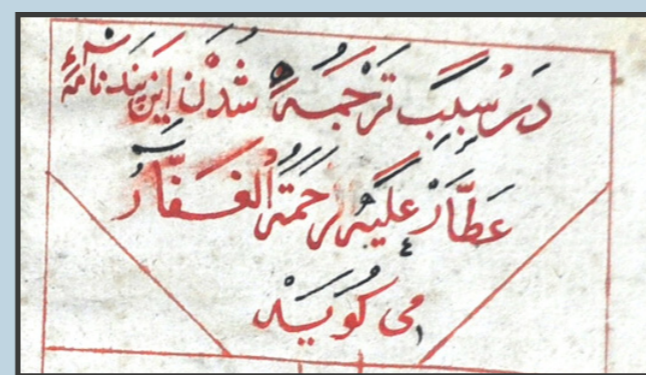
**Colophons** are closing notes in manuscripts, detailing the scribe's identity, date, place of production, and additional remarks.



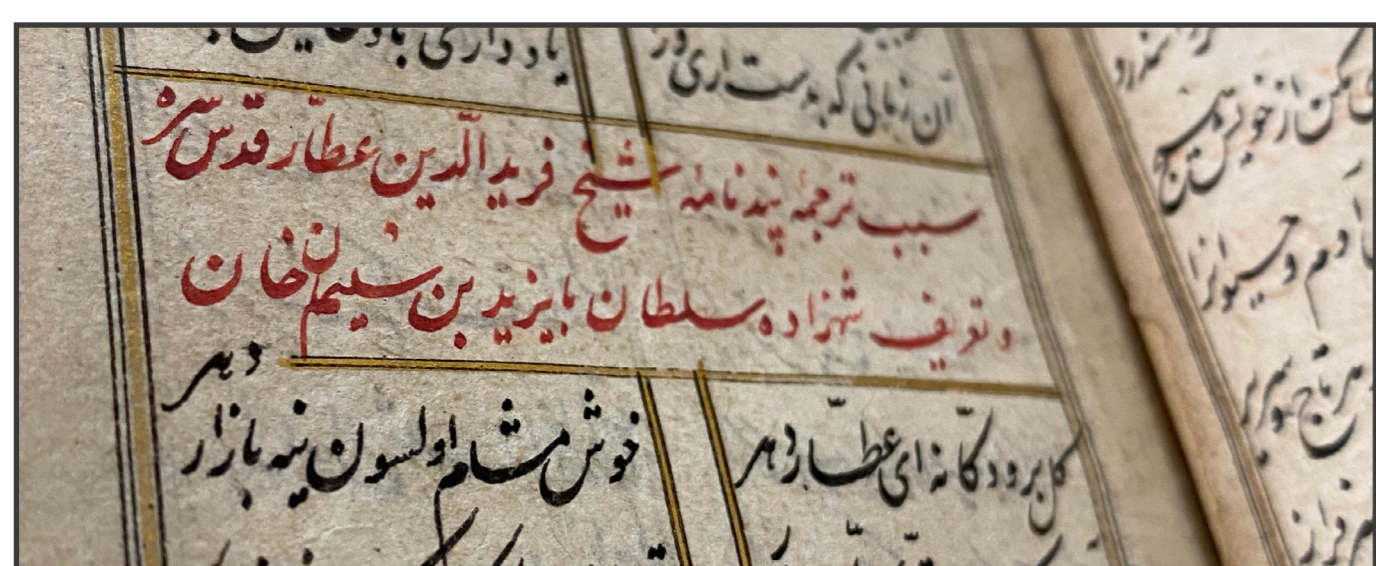
**Ownership statements** are notes documenting a manuscript's owner(s), often including names, acquisition dates, and relevant transactions or inheritances.



**Endowment stamps** are seals or marks indicating that a manuscript has been donated to a religious institution or library as a charitable endowment (*waqf*).



**Prefaces** are introductory sections that provide context, purpose, author information, patronage, and sometimes a summary of the content.



## What's in an Ottoman translation?

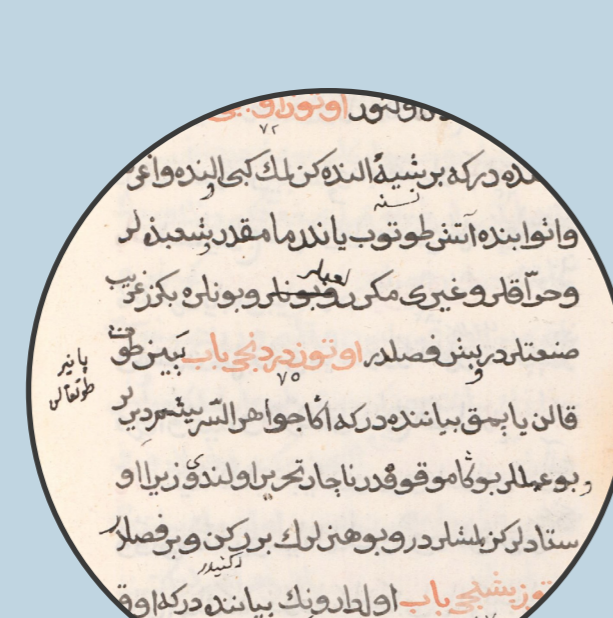
An Ottoman translation, or *terceme*, was a multifaceted and dynamic practice that extended beyond mere literal rendition from one language to another. In the early modern Ottoman Empire, translation encompassed a broad spectrum of activities, including **adaptation, imitation, rewriting, and repurposing** of texts across various genres such as poetry, history, encyclopedias, and religious

sciences. This approach enabled the Ottomans not only to convey knowledge but also to **actively shape and cultivate a distinct literary and scholarly culture**. By integrating and transforming the content of these works, the Ottomans legitimized their self-image as leaders of a new Islamic 'golden age' and reinforced their cultural and political dominance within the Islamic world.

## Sub-projects:



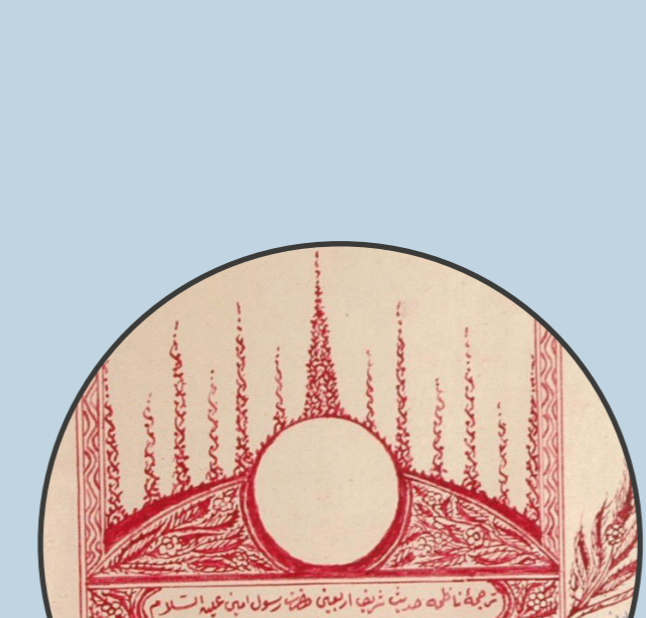
Historiography



Encyclopaedia



Biography



Hadith



Exegesis



Mysticism

## Associated projects:

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