

Inter-Science Meeting: Towards the Qānūn 2030 Project

Rationale

Making al-Bīrūnī's *al-Qānūn al-Mas'ūdī* available to historians of science (especially astronomy and mathematics) has been considered a priority by the community since the late nineteenth century. But a serious edition of this text is simply beyond the reach of an individual undertaking. It is therefore out of necessity that the implementation of such a project requires the constitution of a competent and restricted editing team and its liaison with specialists from extremely diverse fields.

A thousand years after its redaction, some fifteen manuscripts of al-Bīrūnī's *al-Qānūn al-Mas'ūdī* are extant. To date, we do not know exactly how many manuscripts actually exist (between 15 and 20 in all probability). Over the last few years I have been able to obtain good digital copies of eleven manuscripts. As it stands, this collection of manuscripts is sufficient to begin the construction of a stemma (but the quest is by no means over), which is a prerequisite for the establishment of a critical edition.

The next stage will take place on 3 and 4 October in Toulouse at the **Inter-Science Meeting: Towards the Qānūn 2030 Project**. The main aim of this inter-scientific meeting is to bring together as many specialists as possible from disciplines that often ignore each other. The purpose is to gather at an early stage elements of reflection that will structure the work of the future editing and translation teams, which are yet to be constituted at this stage, of al-Bīrūnī's *al-Qānūn al-Mas'ūdī*. Among these disciplines are translatology, ecdotics, Arabic literature, the linguistics of Iranian languages and digital humanities.

Hopefully, we will take advantage of the approach of the millennium of the writing of *al-Qānūn al-Mas'ūdī* by 2030 to organise ourselves and to produce a collective effort for the publication of a critical edition – accompanied by translations into a significant number of languages and a large amount of commentaries – of this major treatise on the history of science: this is the *Qānūn 2030* project.

Additionally, there is now a genuine ecosystem of projects that share common problematics with the *Qānūn 2030* project. It is therefore crucial to benefit very early on with feedback from the Principal Investigators and those actively involved in these projects.

Several follow-ups are already scheduled simultaneously or immediately after these two Toulouse days.

- Launch of a bi-monthly seminar focusing on the editing of the *Qānūn al-Mas'ūdī*.
- Construction of the *Minor Program* (as part of the TIRIS program, Université de Toulouse) TA MATHEMATA on the methods of critical editing of ancient and medieval scientific texts.
- Submission of a funding application to the *Scaling up Science Program* (as part of the TIRIS program, Université de Toulouse).
- Response to the ERC *Starting Grant 2025* call for proposals.