

## CURRICULUM VITAE



*Unil*  
UNIL | Université de Lausanne  
Institut religions, culture  
et modernité

**Dr Patrick RINGGENBERG**

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Switzerland

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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*.

## 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.

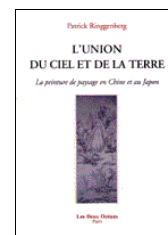
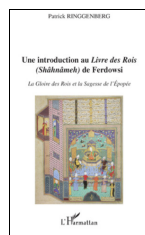
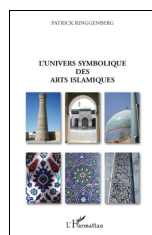
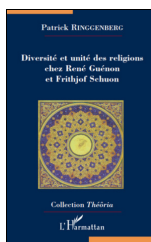
*Philosophia perennis* and universalism in Western esotericism.

## RESEARCHES

**2012-2013** Mashhad: transformations of a pilgrimage city.  
Forthcoming publication: *Mashhad. Guide et anthologie historiques.*

**2011** Architecture and pilgrimage: the shrine of Imam Rezâ at Mashhad. Forthcoming publication:  
*Le sanctuaire de l’Imam Rezâ à Mashhad.* Tehran, Rowzaneh.

## 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. Guide et anthologie historiques.*

*Forthcoming* *Le sanctuaire de l’Imam Rezâ à Mashhad*, Téhéran, Rowzaneh.

*Forthcoming* *L'ornement dans les arts d'Islam.*

**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* “De l’usage universaliste des images chez les traditionalistes”.

**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

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

### • Islamic Studies

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

*Islam: History and Spirituality* (Lausanne: 2010).

*Islamic Arts* (Lausanne: 2010 / Le Sentier: 2002-2003 / Lausanne: 2012).

*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).

*Islamic Arts* (Lausanne: 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998 / Geneva: 1999-2000).

### • 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).

### • 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: 2012).

#### • History of Western Esotericism

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

#### Lectures in French and in English

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

<i>Forthcoming</i>	XX <sup>e</sup> Congrès de l'Association Internationale de Littérature Comparée, Paris, 2013.
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

2011	Advisor of Mr Sid-Ahmed Khelfa, for his PhD thesis « Architecture et soufisme dans la ville de Fès au XIV <sup>e</sup> siècle », Prof. Leila el-Wakil, Geneva University
2011	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://guidecultureldeliran.over-blog.com/>  
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Accueil> [Username « Patrickringgenberg »].

## 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

- 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.

## COMPUTER

Microsoft Word

Power point

Website management (“Espace culturel”, [www.techtravel.ch](http://www.techtravel.ch)) in 2011.

Blog creation (<http://guidecultureldeliran.over-blog.com/>) in 2011.

## LANGUAGES

<b>French</b>	mother tongue	<b>Latin</b>	reading
<b>English</b>	writing, reading, speaking	<b>Persian</b>	speaking
<b>German</b>	reading		

## PRESENTATIONS

Born 10 May 1970 in Lausanne

Married

Swiss