

# **MAG. DR. PHIL. GEBHARD FARTACEK**

## **CURRICULUM VITAE (SHORT VERSION)**

### **Current Coordinates**

Senior Researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Tenure-Track Position)  
Phonogrammarchiv | Audio-Visual Research and Documentation,  
Liebiggasse 5, A-1010 Vienna, Austria; [www.phonogrammarchiv.at](http://www.phonogrammarchiv.at)  
phone: +43 1 4277 29611  
e-mail: [gebhard.fartacek@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:gebhard.fartacek@oeaw.ac.at)

Project Leader, FWF Stand Alone Project P 28736 “Death & Life: Local Conceptions of Reincarnation among the Druzes in the Middle East” (financed by the Austrian Science Fund, based at the Austrian Academy of Sciences); [www.taqammus.at](http://www.taqammus.at)

Lecturer at the University of Vienna,  
Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology,  
Universitätsstraße 7, A-1010 Vienna, Austria;  
<http://ksa.univie.ac.at>

Born 1971, February 15<sup>th</sup> in Vienna, Austrian citizenship, married with Dr. Susanne Binder, daughter Ronja (2004), son Stanislaus (2007), son Nepomuk (2013)

Home address: Törnau 1, A-3231 St. Margarethen an der Sierning, Austria;  
phone: +43 2747 67578 (home), +43 677 619 19 632 (mobile)

### **Main Areas of Research**

Anthropology of the Middle East: ethnic-religious boundaries; conflict resolution and coping with life; pilgrimage and local conceptions of holiness (baraka); Middle Eastern conceptions of reincarnation (taqammus).

Mobility, forced migration, and refugee studies.

Methods of anthropological field research, audio-visual ethnography, oral tradition and case-reconstructive research.

### **Academic Functions at the Austrian Academy of Sciences**

- 06/2017 – AAS Works Council Member
- 06/2015 – until 05/2017: AAS Works Council Substitute Member
- 11/2014 – Senior researcher at the Phonogrammarchiv, Liebiggasse 5, A-1010 Wien
- 01/2001 – until 10/2014: Scientist at the Institute for Social Anthropology (former: Social Anthropology Research Unit; former: Commission for Social Anthropology)
- 01/2009 – until 04/2013: Staff representative for scientific activities, international guest lectures, conferences and symposia of the Institute for Social Anthropology
- 01/2007 – until 12/2008: Deputy Director of the Institute for Social Anthropology (former: Social Anthropology Research Unit), Austrian Academy of Sciences
- 12/2006 – Tenure Track Position at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (100%) according to an international scientific evaluation procedure

### **Academic Functions at other Scientific Institutions**

- 09/2016 – Affiliate scholar at the Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), Rue Hussein Beyhum 44. Zokak el-Blat, Beirut, Lebanon; [www.orient-institut.org](http://www.orient-institut.org)
- 03/2016 – Lecturer at the Academy of Austrians Psychotherapists (VÖPP), Lustkandlgasse 3-5, A-1090 Vienna; [www.voep.at](http://www.voep.at)

- 10/2006 – Lecturer at the University College of Teacher Education in Vienna, Grenzackerstrasse 18, A-1100 Vienna, Austria; [www.phwien.ac.at](http://www.phwien.ac.at)
- 09/2005 – Lecturer at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Universitätsstraße 7, A-1010 Wien, Austria; <http://ksa.univie.ac.at>
- 03/2016 – until 06/2016: Visiting Professor at the University of Vienna, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Universitätsstraße 7, A-1010 Vienna, Austria; <http://ksa.univie.ac.at>
- 10/1999 – until 12/2011: Lecturer at the Austrian Oriental Society, Dominikanerbastei 6, A-1010 Wien, [www.orient-gesellschaft.at](http://www.orient-gesellschaft.at)
- 11/2011 Lecturer at the University College of Teacher Education of Christian Churches Vienna/Krems [www.kphvie.ac.at/](http://www.kphvie.ac.at/)
- 04/2011 Lecturer at the University College of Teacher Education Lower Austria, Campus Baden, Mühlgasse 67, A-2500 Baden, Austria; [www.ph-noe.ac.at](http://www.ph-noe.ac.at)
- 01/2004 – until 12/2007: Lecturer at the Danube University Krems, Dr.-Karl-Dorrek-Straße 30, A-3500 Krems, Austria; [www.donau-uni.ac.at](http://www.donau-uni.ac.at)
- 04/2001 – until 12/2003: Chercheur associé [Research associate] at the Institut Français d'Etudes Arabes de Damas (IFEAD), Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

### University Degrees

- 11/2004 PhD [Dr. phil.] in Social and Cultural Anthropology with excellence [PhD-Thesis: *Zonen der Ungewissheit: Lokalkulturelle Konzeptionen über Dämonen und deren Relevanz für das Leben in der syrischen Peripherie*], supervised by Andre Gingrich, University of Vienna
- 06/1999 M.A. [Mag. phil.] in Social and Cultural Anthropology with excellence [MA-Thesis: *Die Manifestation des Heiligen. Eine ethnologische Untersuchung zur Konstruktion sakraler Plätze in Syrien*], supervised by Andre Gingrich, University of Vienna

### School-based Education

- 06/2014 Certificate of Competency as a Professional Agriculturalist [*“Landwirtschaftlicher Facharbeiterbrief”*] with excellence, College for Organic Agriculture, Schlägl, Austria
- 06/1989 Matura, High School: HBLA für künstlerische Gestaltung, Linz, Austria

### Invited Lectures (selection)

- 2018 Die Welt der Dschinn: Lokalkulturelle Konzeptionen im Bereich des Islam. Eingeladener Vortrag im Rahmen der öffentlichen Ringvorlesung *Zwischen Himmel und Erde. Engel und Dämonen in der jüdischen Überlieferung und ihrem Umfeld*, Zentrum für jüdische Kulturgeschichte der Universität Salzburg, 18. Jänner
- 2016 Neues Feindbild Alawiten? Reflexionen zu ethnisch-religiösen Segmentierungen und gegenwärtigen Entwicklungen im Syrienkrieg. *Wednesday-Seminar* at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, June 15<sup>th</sup>
- 2014 Die Wiener Arabien-Forschung: Ethnologische und orientalistische Perspektiven in der Wissenschaftsgeschichte. Invited Lecture at the workshop: *Geschichte der Nahostethnologie im deutschsprachigen Raum*, Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin, July 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
- 2012 Arab Spring, Collective Identities and Holy Places. Presentation at the international conference: *Realigning Power Geometries in the Arab World*, invited by the Volkswagen-Foundation, Oriental Institute University Leipzig, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

- 2011 Holy Places and the Transmission of Baraka: Conformity of Social Norms. Invited Lecture in the frame of international conference: *Performing Religion: Actors, Contexts, and Texts*, Orient-Institute Beirut (OIB), Beirut, November 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>
- 2011 Local Pilgrimage and the Construction of Ethnic Boundaries in the present-day Syrian Arab Republic. Invited Lecture in the frame of international conference: *Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian communities in the world: Theoretical frameworks and empirical studies*, Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz, May 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 2011 Heilige Orte als Zugänge zum Fremden: Eine sozialanthropologische Spurensuche in Syrien. Invited Lecture, interdisciplinary symposium: *Zugänge zum Fremden. Methodisch-hermeneutische Perspektiven*, Sonderforschungsbereich 804, TU Dresden, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Paper Presentations (selection)

- 2018 Previous-life memories, “speaking children”, and discourses on reincarnation among the Druze. Paper Presentation at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), Seville, Spain, July 20<sup>th</sup>
- 2017 Amaliyat an-nutq: Episodic interviews dealing with the phenomenon of “speaking” children and discourses on Reincarnation among the Druze. Contribution in the frame of the *International Workshop on Reincarnation and Personal Identity in the Middle East*, AAS, Vienna, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>
- 2015 (together with Lorenz Nigst): Sacred Sites and Ethnic Identities in Syria and Lebanon: the structural and the anti-structural mode of baraka as principles in local pilgrimage. Paper Presentation in the frame of the workshop 34: Multi-religious places: when shared sacred sites are (not) contested, *bi-annual meeting of German-speaking anthropologists (DGV conference)*, Marburg an der Lahn, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 2015 Sofra and Baraka: Bemerkungen zur Konzeption von Baraka im Kontext des lokalkulturellen Pilgerwesens im Nahen Osten. Eröffnungsreferat, *Workshops M: Identity and ritual expression: Audio-visual contributions on the Middle East; 10<sup>th</sup> Vienna Anthropology Days*, April 24<sup>th</sup>
- 2011 Gefährliche Räume – unsichere Zeiten: Begegnungen mit Djinn im östlichen Mittelmeerraum. Paper presentation within the working group Mediterranean Studies, *bi-annual meeting of German-speaking anthropologists (DGV conference)*, Vienna, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>
- 2010 Local Sanctuaries, Pilgrimage and ethnic Heterogeneity in Syria. Paper Presentation in the frame of the anthropological atelier: *Ritual, Conflict and Consensus: Comparing Case Studies in Asia and Europe*, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Budmerice, Slovakia, April 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>
- 2010 “Kullna mitl ba‘d!” Holy Places and the Ideology of Local Pilgrimage in Syria. Paper presentation in the frame of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, panel 220: Saints, Sacred Places, and Collective Memory. Barcelona, Spain, July 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>
- 2007 Pilgerwesen und Dämonen-Glaube als Konfliktbewältigungsstrategien. Paper presentation in the frame of the 30. Deutscher Orientalistentag der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft (DMG), Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>
- 2004 Die Djinn als Hüter der Moral? Lokalkulturelle Konzeptionen über das Wirken von Geistern und Dämonen in Syrien. Paper presentation, 29. Deutscher Orientalistentag der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft (DMG) Halle an der Saale, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

#### International Conference and Workshop Organization (selection)

- 2017 together with Lorenz Nigst: Organization of the *International Workshop on Reincarnation and Personal Identity in the Middle East*, AAS, Vienna Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>
- 2015 Convener of the workshop M in the frame of the 10<sup>th</sup> Vienna Anthropology Days: *Identity and ritual expression: Audio-visual contributions on the Middle East*; Vienna, April 24<sup>th</sup>
- 2011 Scientific Member of the local committee of the *Bi-annual meeting of the German Anthropological Association (DGV-Conference)*, Vienna, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

- 2008 Member of the scientific committee of the *4. Tage der Wiener Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie*. Convener of the panel *Anthropology of Pilgrimage* (with 8 lectures), Vienna, April 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Awards and Grants (selection)

- 2015 Euro: 271.645,40 – Allocation by the FWF-Board, Stand Alone Project P 28736: “*Death & Life: Local Conceptions of Reincarnation among the Druzes in the Middle East*”; www.taqammas.at
- 2009 Euro: 8.000,00 – Allocation by the FWF-Board based on an international review process: Support for the monograph: *Unheil durch Dämonen?*
- 2002 Euro: 7.000,00 – Allocation by the FWF-Board based on an international review process: Support for the monograph: *Pilgerstätten in der syrischen Peripherie*
- 2001 Award of the Syrian Studies Association (SSA) for the best M.A. thesis written on Syria during the academic year 1999–2000, Orlando, Florida

#### Membership in Academic Organizations (selection)

Council of the Association for Middle Eastern Studies (EURAMES) – Austrian Representative since 07/2017.

Refugee Outreach & Research Network (ROR-N), AAS, Full member since 2015.

German Anthropological Association (GAA): Founding Member Working Group *Mediterranean Studies* (2009) and the Working Group *Middle Eastern Studies* (2013).

European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA): Full member since 2004. Founding member of the EASA-network *Peace and Conflict Studies in Social Anthropology* (PACSA, 2005).

Alumni-Association of the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna – Board Member (“Schriftführer”) since 2005.

#### Scientific Research Projects (selection)

“*Death & Life: Local Conceptions of Reincarnation among the Druzes in the Middle East.*” FWF – Stand Alone Project P 28736; AAS Phonogrammarchiv; Head of the project (04/2016 – 03/2019).

“*Narrative Interviews with Syrian War Refugees.*” AAS Phonogrammarchiv; Head of the project (08/2015 – 12/2018).

“*Possession and Identity: Religious Practice at the Arabian Gulf.*” AAS Institute for Social Anthropology; Head of the project (08/2009 – 04/2013).

“*Local Strategies of Conflict Resolution in Arabia.*” AAS Institute for Social Anthropology; Head of the project (01/2007 – 04/2013).

“*Alpine Popular Culture, Seen from Outside: The Austrian Musikantenstadl*” (Jubilaeumsfondsprojekt Nr. 10948), funded by the Austrian National Bank and co-financed by the MA 7, Municipality of Vienna; Project Coordinator (08/2004 – 03/2007).

#### Ethnographic Field Work Experience (all in all; selection)

Syria (118 weeks), Iran (21 weeks), Yemen (17 weeks), Northern Pakistan (13 weeks), Lebanon (14 weeks), Jordan (8 weeks), Egypt (5 weeks), Eastern Turkey (5 weeks), Oman (3 weeks), Northern Iraq (3 weeks), Northern Israel & Golan (3 weeks).