



Vlad Atanasiu

**i value the fine grained texture
of knowledge spun
from blended perspectives
and i enjoy playing at kindling ideas
that make things move and sparkle**

French & Romanian citizenships, Swiss residency (C)
Postgasse 38
3011 Bern, Switzerland
T +41 76 242 8118
atanasiu@alum.mit.edu
<http://waqwaq.info>

SKILLS

COMPUTER SCIENCE

image processing · visualization ·
handwriting and document analysis
· geographical information systems ·
text analysis · statistics · data quality
· data fusion · human visual percep-
tion · user experience · evaluation ·
robotics · web front- and back-end

HUMANITIES

digital humanities · science and
technology studies · book history ·
paleography · typography · art history
· history · linguistics · middle eastern
studies

COGNITIVE SCIENCE

visual perception · somatosensory
and motor systems

DESIGN

typography · graphic design · fonts
· calligraphy

WRITING

creative · editing

FUNCTIONS

research · teach · program · plan ·
design · write

EXPERIENCE

languages · international work
environments



STUDENT INVOCATIONS OF CONFUCIUS

- 2012 - 2023 **Ph.D. Computer Science — University of Fribourg, Switzerland**
 thesis Human Factors as Constraints and Solutions in Document Processing
 advisor Rolf Ingold
-
- 2003 - 2005 **Post-Doc — Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA**
 topics Art History, Science and Technology Studies, Brain and Cognitive Sciences
 advisors Nasser Rabbat, Joseph Dumit, & Ruth Rosenholtz
-
- 1996 - 2003 **Ph.D. Art History & History — École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, France**
 thesis The calligraphic phenomenon in Mamluk times (Middle East, 13th-16th c.)
 advisor François Déroche
-
- 1995 - 1996 **M.A. Paleography — École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, France**
Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris, France
 thesis Of Letter Frequencies and Their Influence on Arabic Calligraphy
 advisor François Déroche
-
- 1993 - 1995 **M.A. Linguistics — University of Provence, Aix-en-Provence, France**
 thesis Lexical Fields in "Lisān al-‘arab" & Semantic Unity of <gh**> roots
 advisors Claude-France Audebert & Pierre Larcher
-
- 1990 - 1993 **B.A. Middle Eastern Studies — University of Provence, Aix-en-Provence, France**
 thesis Meaning & Sound in "Maqāyīs al-lughā", a dictionary by Ibn Fāris (d. 395/1004)
 advisor Claude-France Audebert
-
- 1989 **Admission, Telecommunications Engineering — "Traian Vuia" Polytechnic University, Timișoara, Romania**
-
- 1989 **Baccalaureate, Mathematics & Physics — "Nikolaus Lenau" High School of German language, Timișoara, Romania**

LANGUAGES



RECOMBINATIONS

Natural

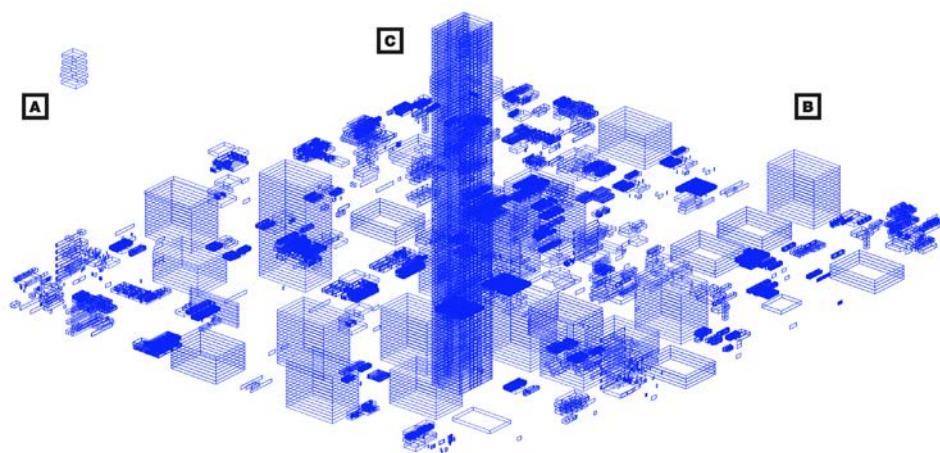
Spoken/Written: Arabic (classical, Egyptian & Syrian dialects), English, French, German, Persian, Romanian — Notions: Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Turkish; Ancient Near Eastern & Semitic languages and scripts (e.g., Akkadian, Egyptian, Pre-Islamic Arabic, South Arabic)

Formal

Matlab, Java, Python, JavaScript, D3, Processing, XML, HTML, CSS, PHP, PhpMyAdmin, MySQL, Unix shell, Basic, MOS 6510 assembler — Systems & applications: Aseba for Thymio robots; ESRI ArcGIS Python, Web API, & desktop; Blender; Adobe InDesign IDML, scripting, & GUI; LaTeX; FontLab

EMPLOYMENT

- 2021- **Researcher**, Department of Digital Humanities, University of Bern, Switzerland — Entity names labelization of the Swiss phone book PTT-Archive using reinforcement learning / Quantitative data analysis of the Swiss National Library catalog for the exhibition “Political Representation” / Improved the OCR of historical archival documents through natural language and image post-processing / Historical information visualization / Graphic design
- 2019 – 2021 **Researcher**, Department of Ancient Studies, University of Basel, Switzerland — Software development for legibility enhancement of papyri using color processing and visual illusions // [Testimonial: “Such a useful tool was incredibly needed in our papyrological community.” Chiara D’Agostino](#)
- 2017 – 2020 **Researcher & Planner**, School of Engineering and Architecture, Fribourg, Switzerland – Elaborated a mathematical theory of structural information potential / Automated the classification and visualization of 1.3 million scanned catalog cards of the Swiss National Library / Project architect for academia–industry–government collaborations on digital libraries (Swiss Federal Archives, Swiss National Library, Swiss Post, Sugarcube)
- 2016 – 2017 **Planner**, Chair of Digital Humanities, University of Vienna, Austria — Project architect for “Alice”, Austrian–Flemish project on the use of computational logic for historical studies
- 2012 – 2015 **Researcher & Teacher**, Department of Informatics, University of Fribourg, Switzerland — How do you formulate queries to describe the unknown beyond the horizon? I conceived “Document Towers”, a panoramic visualization based on an architectural metaphor for exploring digital libraries when precise linguistic queries are infeasible and speed is critical / Taught Information Representation for computer scientists (in English & French) // [Student testimonial: “Because of that class \[. . . \] I have landed 2 contracts doing D3 development in America. I appreciate the skillset I developed in that class as it will pay off greatly!”](#)
- 2011 – 2012 **Teacher**, Centre for Information Modeling / Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities, Graz University, Austria — Taught Information Visualization for Humanities (English & German)
- 2011 **Researcher**, National Institute for Applied Sciences (INSA), Lyon, France — Surveyed the state of the art in computational document forensics, a work published in book form
- 2010 – 2011 **Researcher**, Télécom ParisTech, Paris, France — Carried out research on automated handwriting analysis and developed “Rex”, a Web application for document retrieval
- 2010 – 2011 **Programmer**, National Center for Scientific Research, Paris, France — Back and front end programming of “Iracarto”, a Web database for the statistical geography of Iran



This is a collection of ninety-nine digital articles and one book represented as a city: each document is a tower, each page a flat, each raster image a room; some are born digital documents, some are scanned, impacting keyword search quality.

- 2009 **Programmer & Designer**, Institute for Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria — Programmed an interactive Web-based visualization of the geographical spread of Austrian dialects and designed a physical three-dimensional model thereof
- 2007 **Teacher**, National Library, Cairo / The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA) — trained library staff in paper studies (in Arabic)
- 2006 - 2010 **Researcher & Planner**, Commission for Scientific Visualization, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria — Investigated the historiography of paper studies and its impact on its computational modeling / Created “Waqwaq”, image processing, data quality control, georeferencing, & geographical information systems software suite for historical paper analysis / Project architect and co-coordinator of the European portal “Bernstein” for historical watermark and paper expertise
- 2004 - 2005 **Researcher**, Lighthouse International, New York, USA — Contributed to psychophysical and computational research on improving script legibility for people with low vision
- 2003 - 2005 **Researcher**, Commission for Scientific Visualization, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria — Part-time research in image processing for Humanities
- 2003 **Teacher**, National Library of the Netherlands, The Hague / Instituto Centrale di Patologia del Libro, Rome — Installed and dispensed training for the AD751 software, resulting in automating the analysis of 21000 paper reproductions
- 2002 **Researcher & Programmer**, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique / Multimedia Press, Paris, France — Developed analytical methods for dating papers based on their laid lines structure and implemented them in the AD751 software
- 1998 **Assistant**, Paris, France — Assisted visually impaired persons to browse, read, and manage text-based documents
- 1997 **Designer**, Oxford University Press / American University in Cairo / Laboratory of Egyptology, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris — Created fonts for scientific transliteration
- 1996 - 2003 **Programmer & Researcher**, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, France — Programmed “Kabikadj”, the first Web database of manuscripts in Arabic script / Indexed first centuries Qur’anic manuscripts
- 1994 - 1995 **Teacher**, University of Provence, Aix-en-Provence, France — Tutoring in Arabic language, Middle Eastern history & civilization (in French)
- ongoing **Designer**, freelance — Graphic art: book layout, covers, logos, business cards, Web sites



A laser cutter is shown here engraving a plastic plate with a map representing by isolines the density of homonymous populated places in Austria. Lower densities appear at the country’s borders, where German placenames coexist along toponyms influenced by Slavic and Romanic languages.



THE DESERT OF THE TARTARS

- 2001 **Iran**, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) mission for Project "Manuscript Heritage" (three months) — *also surprised a dragon fast asleep since Mongol times*
- 2000 **Iran**, French National Centre for Research (CNRS) mission for the digitization of the manuscript collection of the French Research Institute in Iran (three months) — *chased the rabbit in the moon and other tales of Chinese origin*
- 1999 **Iran**, French Institute of Research in Iran (IFRI), prospecting countrywide on manuscript collections, epigraphy, and contemporary calligraphers (three months) — *battled bandits by night en route through the Balkans*
- **Syria**, French Institute for Arabic Studies in Damascus (IFEAD), prospecting on manuscript collections, epigraphy, & art history (two months) — *ate grapes from the gardens of King Salomon and chanted the Song of Songs on the Djebel Druze*
- **Turkey**, Istanbul, prospecting on manuscript collections, epigraphy, & art history (two months) — *Grand Tour of Ottoman cemeteries and escape from the Great Earthquake*
- 1998 **Egypt**, French Institute of Oriental Archaeology in Cairo (IFAO), study of Mamluk manuscripts and epigraphy (six months) — *rescued cats in distress and got help from the Shaykh al-Azhar and a blind librarian*
- 1993 - 1994 **Syria**, French Institute for Arabic Studies in Damascus (IFEAD), training in Middle Eastern Studies (one year) — *captured by soldiers on Mount Hermon while listening Bach and enjoying the vista of the shimmering Euphrates beyond the temples of Palmyra*
- 1991 - 1992 **Egypt**, Department of Arabic Studies in Cairo (DEAC), linguistic training center of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry, Arabic language training (one year) — *shipwrecked before Alexandria, then mined alabaster in the desert mountains with the seven dwarfs of Luxor*

Grants	European Commission, eContentPlus project “The Memory of Papers: Bernstein. Image based paper expertise and history” / Comprising an Internet portal and software, multilingual watermark database, research activities in humanities and computer science, publications, conferences, ten exhibitions, and an ongoing vibrant research network / A partnership between nine European institutions, including national libraries, with 3.000.000 € budget, between 2006 and 2009 / Role: co-coordinator Manuscript Heritage: Digital cataloguing and reproduction of manuscripts collections / École Pratique des Hautes Études (François Déroche), UMR 7528 Monde Iranien: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Université Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle (Živa Vesel, Maria Szuppe, Bernard Hourcade, Francis Richard), 2001 to 2003 / Role: founder
Awards	Aga Khan Fellowship, Program for Islamic Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2003-2004) International Mobility Fellowship, French Ministry of Education & Research (1998)
Reviewer	Document Engineering (Association for Computing Machinery), Abstracta Iranica, Forensic Science International
Expert	European Commission, Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
Affiliations	Société Asiatique (France), History & Computing (Switzerland)
Licenses	Paragliding, parachuting, scuba diving



METAMORPHOSIS

Depending on the reading distance the above text says “SANS” or “SERIF”. The illusion is created by filtering two words at different spatial frequencies and blending them into a single image. I created this font as a tangible metaphor of the polysemy of language.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Information Theory, Image Processing & Visualization

The Structural Information Potential and Its Application to Document Triage”, IEEE Access, 2022 (10): 13103–13138.

Presents a theory and a method for the measurement of the information potential that extends the classical information theory of Shannon to structural data; develops a panoramic visual exploration paradigm of digital libraries based on an architectural metaphor as an alternative to keyword search.

History & Art History

Hypercalligraphy: The calligraphic phenomenon in Mamluk times (Middle East, 13th–16th c.); Ph.D. thesis, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, 2003.

A study of cultural rivalry between the Great Powers of Egypt/Syria, Turkey, and Persia during the Eurasian Renaissance period. Showcases how a close technical reading of calligraphy and calligraphers reveals a crystalline hall of mirrors at the heart of socio-culture.

Computational Linguistics & Art History

Of Letter Frequencies and Their Influence on Arabic Calligraphy; book, Paris: L'Harmattan, 1999.

Introduction to the statistical foundations of Arabic calligraphy. Argues that the ortho-graphical rhythm of the written language has shaped major calligraphic styles, in a context where the knowledge of letter frequencies gained from scribal practice was used in linguistics, theology, literature, cryptography, and further disparate domains.

Semantics & Lexicography

Meaning and Sound in “Maqāyīs al-lughā”, a dictionnary by Ibn Fāris (d. 395/1004); B.A. thesis, University of Provence, Aix-en-Provence, 1993.

Identifies overlapping semantic and phonetic clusters of the Arabic lexicon. E.g., significant amounts of words containing the <gh> root denote something hidden, unclear, or negatively connotated: ghafala forget, ghâ'ib absent, ghurba exile, ghalaqa close, ghilâf cover, ghûl death and demon, gharar danger, ghalat error, ghair without, ghurûb sunset, ghaddan tomorrow, ghayn cloud, ghâba forest, ghubâr dust, ghanna nasalisation.

Human & Computational Geography

Geography & factors of placename homonymy; digital maps & laser engraved physical models, Commission for Visualization / Institute for Austrian Dialects and Name Lexica, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria, 2010.

Welsh placenames are notoriously long, inhibiting recurrence, contrary to Japanese placenames. Besides social & linguistic factors, homonymity is indicative of cultural diversity; e.g., low in Romanian, German, and Hungarian-speaking Transylvania. It impacts the accuracy of civilian & military geographical information systems.

Psychology & Graphic Design

Ugraphia. The Utopia of the Perfectly Legible Script; article, Conference Proceedings: "Graphemics in the 21st century: From graphemes to knowledge", 14-15 June 2018, Brest, France, pp. 113-140.

Font and script designers use legibility improvement a marketing criterion, a claim backed by little historical and psychophysical evidence and an unattainable goal due to a variety of mathematical, cognitive, and cultural constraints. Nevertheless, legibility remains a compelling selling argument and its history makes a good story.

BOOKS

- 2014 **Expert Bytes—Computer Expertise in Forensic Documents: Players, Needs, Resources, and Pitfalls**, Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2014, 198 p., <https://doi.org/10.1201/b15467>.
- 1999 De la fréquence des lettres et son influence en calligraphie arabe [**Of Letter Frequencies and Their Influence on Arabic Calligraphy**], Paris: L'Harmattan, 1999, 192 p.
-

ARTICLES

- 2022 **The Structural Information Potential and Its Application to Document Triage**, IEEE Access, 2022, 10: 13103-13138, <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2021.3133654>.
- **Applications of the Document Towers method of representing document structures; Annex: Dreams, Architecture, and Information Systems: A brief review of the utility of document exploration**, Information Design Journal, 2022, 27(1): 1-47, <https://doi.org/10.1075/idj.20026.ata>.
- **Improving the Quality Control and Exploration of Digital Documents Using Visualization and Serendipity**, Journal of Information Architecture, 2022, 6(2): 7-81, <https://doi.org/10.55135/1015060901/222.011/2.046>.
- Wolfgang Eger (auth.), Heike Bazak, Christiane Sibille (interv.), Vlad Atanasiu (ed.), **Innovating for the Common Good**, in Vlad Atanasiu, Nicolas Chachereau, Enrico Natale, Christiane Sibille (eds), Framing Communication Infrastructures (1950-2020): Discours et imaginaires / Diskurse und Vorstellungen, Revue Histoire et Informatique / Zeitschrift Geschichte und Informatik, vol. 22 (2022), Zürich: Chronos, pp. 123-132.
- 2021 Vlad Atanasiu, Isabelle Marthot-Santaniello, **Legibility Enhancement of Papyri Using Color Processing and Visual Illusions: A Case Study in Critical Vision**, International Journal on Document Analysis and Recognition (IJDAR), 2022 (25): 129-160, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10032-021-00386-0>.
- Vlad Atanasiu, Rolf Ingold, **Document Towers: A MATLAB software implementing a three-dimensional architectural paradigm for the visual exploration of digital documents and libraries**, SoftwareX, 2021, 14: 100684, 7 p., <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.softx.2021.100684>.
-

- 2018 **Ugraphia. The Utopia of the Perfectly Legible Script**, Extended Abstracts of the conference “Graphemics in the 21st century: From graphemes to knowledge”, 14-15 June 2018, Brest, France, pp. 113-140.
- 2016 **Cuckoos among Your Data: A Quality Control Method to Retrieve Mislabeled Writer Identities from Handwriting Datasets**, IS&T International Symposium on Electronic Imaging, Document Recognition and Retrieval XXIII, 15-18 February 2016, San Francisco, CA, paper 056, 16 p., <https://doi.org/10.2352/ISSN.2470-1173.2016.17.DRR-056>.
- 2011 **Forensic vs. Computing writing features as seen by Rex, the intuitive document retriever**, First International Workshop on Automated Forensic Handwriting Analysis, 17-18 September 2011, Beijing, China, pp. 16-20.
- Vlad Atanasiu, Laurence Likforman-Sulem, Nicole Vincent, **Writer Retrieval—Exploration of a Novel Biometric Scenario Using Perceptual Features Derived from Script Orientation**, 11th International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition, 18-21 September 2011, Beijing, China, pp. 628-632, <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICDAR.2011.132>.
- **Rex Online**, Gazette du Livre Medieval, 2011 (56-57): 131-135.
- Table ronde. Applications actuelles de l’informatique à la paléographie: Quelles méthodes pour quelles finalités ? [**Round Table. Paleographical applications of computer science: Which methods and to what aims?**], Gazette du Livre Medieval, 2011 (56-57): 122-123.
- Bernard Hourcade, Amandine Lebugle, Emanuel Giraudet, Poupak Rafii-Nejad, Vlad Atanasiu, Irancarto : diffuser l’information spatiale pour analyser des questions controversées [**Irancarto: publishing spatial data to analyze controversial questions**], Colloque Fonder les Sciences du Territoire, 23-25 November 2011, Paris, France.
- 2008 **Using Cartography to reveal Historical Perspectives**, Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI) at Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC) Conference, 4-6 December 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Wenger Emanuel, Vlad Atanasiu, **Paper Expertise and Contextual Data Provided by the eContentPlus Project Bernstein**, 29th International Congress of Paper Historians, 27-31 May 2008, Stockholm, pp. 93-101.
- 2006 Wenger Emanuel, Vlad Atanasiu, eContentPlus Projekt Bernstein. Das Gedächtnis der Papiere [**eContentPlus Project Bernstein. The Memory of Papers**], Proceedings of Conference Electronic Information: the Visual Arts and Beyond, 2006, Berlin, pp. 65-69.
- The President and the Calligrapher: Arabic Calligraphy and Its Political Use [**futility subverted. The instrumentalization of calligraphy in Middle Eastern politics**], Studies in Architecture, History and Culture. Papers by the 2003-2004 AKPIA@MIT visiting fellows, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT, 2006, pp. 7-20.
- Les allographes comme mesure biométrique et la synthèse du comportement [**Allographic biometrics and behavior synthesis**], Cahiers GUTenberg, 46-47 (2006): 5-15.
- 2004 **Assessing paper origin and quality through large-scale laid lines density measurements**, Proceedings of 26th Congress of the International Paper Historians Association, 30 August - 6 September 2002, Rome/Verona, pp. 172-184.
- Les réalités subjectives d’un paléographe arabe du X^e siècle [**Subjective realities of a 10th century paleographer**], Gazette du Livre médiéval, 2004 (43): 14-22.
- 2003 **Allographic biometrics and behavior synthesis**, TUGboat, 2003 (24.3): 998-1002.
- 2002 Le traitement des images et son application à l’histoire du papier: La mesure à grande échelle de la densité de vergeures [**Image analysis and its application to the history of paper: Large-scale measurement of laid lines densities**], Gazette du Livre médiéval, 2002 (41): 31-41.

- 2001 5170 marches jusqu'à Dieu: Traditions musulmanes relatives à la Tour de Babel et à la confusion des langues [**5170 steps until God: Muslim traditions concerning the Tower of Babel and the confusion of languages**], *Annales Islamologiques*, 2001 (35): 1-16.
- 2000 Le Retroencrage: Analyse du ductus des écritures d'après le dégradé du coloris de l'encre [**Retinking: finding the direction of writing from the intensity of ink**], *Gazette du Livre médiéval*, 2000 (37): 34-42.
- 1997 Calligraphie à 50Hz ou l'art de l'écriture influencée par la fréquence des lettres [**Calligraphy at 50 Hz or the art of writing influenced by the frequency of letters**], *Proceedings of AFEMAM-EURAMES Conference*, 4-7 July 1996, Aix-en-Provence, France.

THESES

- 2023 **Human Factors as Constraints and Solutions in Document Processing** — Ph.D. Computer science, University of Fribourg, Switzerland, advisor: Rolf Ingold
- 2003 Hypercalligraphie: Le phénomène calligraphique à l'époque du sultanat mamlik (Moyen-Orient, XIII^e-XVI^e siècle) [**Hypercalligraphy: The calligraphic phenomenon in Mamluk times (Middle East, 13th-16th century)**] — Ph.D. Art History & History, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, France, advisor: François Déroche
- 1996 De la fréquence des lettres et de son influence en calligraphie arabe [**Of Letter Frequencies and Their Influence on Arabic Calligraphy**] — M.A. Paleography, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, France, advisor: François Déroche
- 1995 Familles lexicales dans le "Lisān al-'arab" & Unité du sens des racines [**Lexical Fields in "Lisān al-'arab" & Semantic Unity of <gh*> roots**] — M.A. Linguistics, University of Provence, Aix-en-Provence, advisors: Claude-France Audebert and Pierre Larcher
- 1993 Les sens dans les sons: d'après "Maqāyīs al-lughā", un dictionnaire d'Ibn Fāris [**Meaning and Sound in "Maqāyīs al-lughā", a dictionary by Ibn Fāris (d. 395/1004)**] — B.A. Middle Eastern Studies, University of Provence, Aix-en-Provence, advisor: Claude-France Audebert

EDITED BOOKS

- 2022 Vlad Atanasiu, Nicolas Chachereau, Enrico Natale, Christiane Sibille (eds), **Framing Communication Infrastructures (1950-2020): [Discourse and Imaginary]** Discours et imaginaires / Diskurse und Vorstellungen, *Revue Histoire et Informatique / Zeitschrift Geschichte und Informatik*, 2022 (22), Zürich: Chronos.
- 2019 Nicolas Chachereau, Christiane Sibille, Enrico Natale, Vlad Atanasiu (eds), Enjeux politiques du web: approches historiques / Das Web als politische Herausforderung: historische Perspektiven [**Political Challenges of the Web: Historical Perspectives**], *Revue Histoire et Informatique / Zeitschrift Geschichte und Informatik*, 2019 (20), Zürich: Chronos, DOI 10.33057/chronos.1466.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- 2022 **Improving the matching accuracy of card images and electronic records of the Swiss National Library catalog**, School of Engineering and Architecture, HES·SO//Fribourg, iCoSys, Fribourg, Switzerland
- 2020 **CardOCR Visual Exploration**, in Beat Wolf, Michael Jungo, Andreas Fischer, Analyse "Automatisierte Integration des alten Sachkatalogs in Alma", School of Engineering and Architecture, HES·SO//Fribourg, iCoSys, Fribourg, Switzerland
- 2018 **Structural Information Potential: Theory, Measurement, Representation, Applications**, School of Engineering and Architecture, HES·SO//Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland
- 2016 **UHU: An interactive web-based software to visualize the graph edit distance**, Department of Informatics, University of Fribourg.

- 2013 - 2015
Automation of EPUB Production: 1. How can InDesign help the tagging of PDFs?, 2. The Visualization of Document Structures, Document Image and Video Analysis Group (DIVA), Department of Informatics, University of Fribourg / Sugarcube Sarl.

 2011
Computational Handwriting Analysis, Télécom ParisTech, Paris.

 2005
Spatial proprieties of written information: measurements, encoding, applications, Balkan Commission, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria.

 1992
Ghagars of the Nile Delta. An Ethnographic and Linguistic Study (private commission)

.....
TALKS

- 2020
Contextual Versus Generic Technologies: Lessons from selecting images among a large number of papyri enhancements, IS&T DigiTips, 15 December 2020, online conference.

 —
 Vlad Atanasiu, Peter Fornaro, **On the Utility of Color for Shape Analysis**, Neo-Paleography conference, University of Basel, 27-29 January 2020, Basel, Switzerland.

 2019
Script Styles Panoramas by Computational Synthesis, 29th International Congress of Papyrology, 28 July - 3 August, Lecce, Italy.

 —
Computational Graphonomics (d-scribes Project), Computerizing Handwritings: Current Approaches on Historical Documents, University of Basel, 27 June 2019, Basel, Switzerland.

 —
Digital Paleography as Odysee, Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, University of Hamburg, 23 Mai 2019, Hamburg, Germany.

 —
 Isabelle Marthot-Santaniello, Vlad Atanasiu, **The Digital Paleography of Greek and Coptic Papyri**, Digital Humanities Exchange Conference DHX2019, University of Basel, 21-22 February 2019, Basel, Switzerland.

 2017
See-through Books: Visual Exploration of Vesalius' "Fabrica" (1543), Panel Hackathons als Zukunftslabor für die digitale Nachhaltigkeit, Conference Digital Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum, 13-18 February 2018, Berne, Switzerland.

 2015
Document and library visualization, Workshop on The state of the art in image recognition, Digital Cultural Heritage Forum, Association of European Research Libraries (Liber) 44th Conference, 24-26 June 2015, London, UK.

 2008
Reflets d'encre: une fantaisie typographique offerte par un paléographe, Colloque international d'épigraphie islamique, Hommage à Solange Dry, Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l'homme (MMSH), 28-29 November 2008, Aix-en-Provence, France.

 2008
Visionary Scientists: What Scientific Visualization can learn form Graphic Arts, Aesthetics and Science, Symposium on the Occasion of the Solemn Session of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, 13 Mai 2008, Vienna, Austria.

 2006
Bernstein: Collaborative systems for paper expertise and history, The Islamic Manuscript II: A Conference to Establish The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA), Cambridge University, 7-9 August 2006, Cambridge, UK.

 2004
Handwriting of the Dead: Advances in Script Identification and Synthesis, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 10 May 2005, Cambridge, MA, USA.

 2002
Visible i'ajaz: Three graphic particularities in Qur'an copies, International Conference on Manuscripts of the Qur'an, 26-28 September 2002, Bologna, Italy.

 —
Type with Style!, Symposium on The history of printing and publishing in the languages and countries of the Middle East, First Congress of Middle Eastern Studies, 9-12 September 2002, Mainz, Germany.

- **The Kabikadj database for manuscripts**, European Association of Middle East Librarians (MELCOM), 27–29 May 2002, Paris, France.
- **The Manuscript Heritage Project for Digital Manuscripts**, French National Centre for Research (CNRS), 23 May 2002, Villejuif, France.
- 2000 **Statistics, Language, & Calligraphy** (in Persian), Dramatic Arts Center of Iran, Tehran, Iran
- Structures linguistiques et structures graphiques : Problèmes et solutions de la calligraphie du Coran en écritures persane nasta'liq [**Linguistic and graphical structures: Problems and solutions to writing the Qur'an in the Persian nasta'liq style**], French Institute of Research in Iran, 23 December 2000, Tehran, Iran.
- **Linguistic aspects of calligraphy**, 36th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (ICANAS), 27 August – 2 September 2000, Montreal, Canada.
- **Cultural ramifications of letter frequencies in Arabic**, New York University Florence, Florence, Italy.
- 1998 **Sex, Calligraphy and Politics**, Mamluk Studies Conference / Conference of the Middle Eastern Studies Association, 3–6 December 1998, Chicago, IL, USA.
- 1997 Donne-moi ton regard, je t'offrirais l'immortalité – Apologie pour la sociologie du regard [**Give me your gaze, I will offer you Immortality: Apologue for a sociology of the gaze**], inaugural lecture, Société Asiatique, Palais de l'Institut de France, Paris, France.
- **Give me your gaze, I will offer you Immortality: Apologue for a sociology of the gaze**, 35th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (ICANAS), Körösi Csoma Society & Eötvös Loránd University, 9–10 July 1997, Budapest, Hungary.
- 1995 5170 marches jusqu'à Dieu: Traditions musulmanes relatives à la Tour de Babel et à la confusion des langues [**5170 steps until God: Muslim traditions concerning the Tower of Babel and the confusion of languages**], Symposium on Atour de la Pentecôte : universalité du langage et pluralité des langues et cultures, 2 June 1995, Aix-en-Provence, France.

WEB PUBLICATIONS

- URL <http://waqwaq.info>
- 2010 **Avatars in Real Life: Placename homonymy in Iran**
- **Inimitable handwriting. Graphical specificities of copying the Qur'an**
- 2009 **7385 Swabian bulls and 2 Viennese mermaids: Interpreting the Bernstein cartography of papers and watermarks**
- **The Score of Death. Plague Epidemics in Europe 1347–1600**
- 2004 **A Japanese Gaze. Using space to represent time and meaning in Japanese animation**
- 1999 **Devil in the Gaze. Depicting social non-conformism in Harīrī's Maqāmāt**

REVIEWS

- 2018 **Computer Networks Histories: Illustrated Review**, Lugano, 14–15 December 2017, 28 p., infoclio.ch
- 2015 **Data and History: Poetry & Cartoons Review**, Symposium, Berne, 16 September 2015, 20 p., infoclio.ch
- **Document Engineering (DocEng)**, Lausanne, 8–11 September 2015, infoclio.ch

- 2010 Yuka Kadoi, **Islamic Chinoiserie**, Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, 2010 / Abstracta Iranica, 32-3 (2009-10): 147.
- 2003 David J. Roxburgh, **Prefacing the Image: The Writing Art History in Sixteenth-Century Iran**, Leiden, E.J. Brill, 2000 / Abstracta Iranica, 24 (2001): 82-3.
- W. M. Thackston, **Album Prefaces and Other Documents on the History of Calligraphers and Painters**, Leiden, E.J. Brill, 2000 / Abstracta Iranica, 24 (2001): 84-4.

NOT YET PUBLISHED

- 2000 **Feathers of Angels: Homoeroticism and calligraphy in Renaissance Persia**
- 1998 Les Lampes de Déméter: Le symbolisme sacré des lampes à huile en terre cuite dans les bassin méditerranéen [**Demeter's lamps: Sacred symbolism of terracotta oil lamps around the Mediterranean**]

SOFTWARE

Open source code, Matlab File Exchange, MathWorks, <https://ch.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/?q=atanasiu>

Once you start thinking of impossible books you make them possible. — A book not written is impossible to read. — Every book not written increases the amount of impossible books. — Just-in-time books: when the author starts writing just before the book is shipped out. — The author might perpetually rewrite the entire book, except for the page the reader is in the process of reading. Nobody will notice.

— Impossible Books

SELECTION

- ongoing **Impossible Books**, The New Yorker (submitted)
- ongoing **Travel to Waqwaq** (photographical geo-fiction) — *À Constantinople, où les étoiles / ont le goût de vanille, / dans le Palais du Topkapi / les Marsupilamis / font la chasse à l'Okapi*
- 2003–2005 **Fresh Sushi News** (life at MIT) — *Leonardo da Vinci visits the MIT Nuclear Plant during IAP'04 · Dragon sets volcano ablaze, extinguished by MIT RainLab · Language obsolete! Brain space for rent*
- 1998 Le Moustique [**The fly**], Le Lien, Revue de l'Association Démocratique des Français à l'Étranger, 1998 (November): 14–15 — *Bzzz*
- La chaise de Richelieu [**Richelieu's chair**] [the cat of the National Library of France] — *Chaque jour, avant sa tournée dans les galeries de la bibliothèque, et en vue de cette expédition, Richelieu avait pris l'habitude d'aller s'aiguiser les griffes sur un des pieds d'une certaine chaise de la grande salle des Imprimés...*
- 1995 Le talsiman de Si Sadeq [**Si Sadeq's Talisman**] [fictionalizing documents of the Archives nationales d'outre-mer, Aix-en-Provence] — *C'était un beau garçon. Il avait fait la guerre pour le Turc en 1874 contre les Persans et, de retour en Algérie, il affectait de porter à leur manière le turban, en laissant dépasser quelques mèches blondes. ...*
- 1994 Virgule d'Orient ou comment fut construit Babel [**Oriental commas. Or how Babel was build**], in Anne Zali, Annie Berthier (eds), *Les Écritures*, Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale, 1997, p. 72. — *S'il y a beaucoup de mots que la langue arabe a prêté aux langues d'Europe, peu sont ceux qui lui ont été restitués. Il serait très étonnant de savoir que ceci s'est passé aussi avec les nobles litières dans lesquelles s'entassaient les mots en voyage : les lettres elles-mêmes. ...*
- 1990 Le divan bleu [**Blue Divan**] (novel, bound in rabbit fur) — *Locul îi de mult, / timpul-i de acum, / iar ei din nou au pornit, / prin mahalalei labirint, / ce îi scoate la liman, / limanul Alepului, / poarta Ierusalemului...*



JUSLES VERNE

SELECTION

- ongoing **Photography**, Through my Eyes, A photographic journey
- 2018 **Font**, Metamorphosis
- 2015 **Layout**, Svizzera Open Access. Guida alle risorse online per le scienze storiche e sociali, infoclio.ch, Berne
- 2013 **Cover design**, Frank Peter, Sarah Dornhof, Elena Arigita, eds., Islam and the Politics of Culture in Europe: Memory, Aesthetics, Art, transcript Verlag, Bielefeld
- 2009 **Sonification**, Conversations in Deep Space, Les Grands Boulevards, The Alphabets
- 2008 **Font**, Sol, hommage to Solange Dry
- **Logo**, Historians of Islamic Art Association
- 2006 **Layout**, Roger Delbarre, Communication et violence symbolique: Une autre approche de la société est-allemande, L'Harmattan, Paris
- 2003 **Impossible books**, objects, private collection Cristina Pallini, Italy/USA
- 2000 **Graphics**, "Art Slash Life", Art/Life, 2000 (5)
- 1997 **Fonts** for the transliteration of Oriental languages (Oxford University Press, American University in Cairo and Laboratory of Egyptology, EPHE4, Paris)
- 1996 **Web site**, Delia Dumitrașcu, painter

.....
CALLIGRAPHY
.....

- 1994 Student of calligrapher Adnān Sanaqnaqī in **Damascus**, Syria (nasta'liq calligraphic style)
.....
1993 Follows the teaching of master Hassan Celebi in **Istanbul**, Turkey (ruq'a calligraphic style)
.....
1992-3 Noviciate with Prof. Solange Ory at the University of Provence, **Aix-en-Provence**, France

