

Suhanna Shafiq was born in Bradford, West Yorkshire. She graduated with a BA [Hons] degree in Arabic Studies in 2007 from the University of Leeds, and is currently studying for an MPhil in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter.

Suhanna's thesis, entitled *Buzurg ibn Shahriyār: Ninth Century Arabic Nautical Terminology of the Indian Ocean* aims to ascertain how Arabian navigation in the western Indian Ocean developed with time, from early Islam to the coming of the Portuguese in the fifteenth century. In particular, her interest lies in the development of nautical and maritime terminology within that period. The focus of her research will be on three medieval Arabic texts, compiled by Arabian/Persian navigators and sea captains: *Akhbār al-Ṣīn wa l-Hind* (News of China and India) (c.235/850), part of the work entitled *Silsilat al-tawārikh*, one of the earliest eyewitness accounts of its kind; Buzurg Ibn Shahriyār's (d.399/1009) *Kitāb Ajā'ib al-Hind* (The Book of the Marvels of India), a collection of sailors yarns; and Ibn Mājid's (d. after 906/1500) *Kitāb al-fawā'id fī uṣūl al-baḥr wa-l-qawā'id* (The Book of Benefits in the Principles of Navigation), a navigational treatise.

Overall, the research will aim to establish the evolution of maritime and nautical terminology, and Arabian navigational technology in terms of the language as portrayed in Classical and Medieval Arabic and Persian literary tradition.