Aziz Fardane

PhD, Medieval History · Independent researcher, Marrakesh
Water in the history of Morocco · documents, archives and manuscripts

SITE fardane.com
EMAIL aziz.fardane@gmail.com
ORCID 0009-0007-1033-7415
LINKEDIN in/aziz-fardane-gis1948

CAPABILITY STATEMENT · 2026

Water in the history of Morocco

Medieval history · Arabic documents and manuscripts of the Maghrib

I am a researcher of the medieval Maghrib, with a doctorate in medieval history, specialising in water in the history of Morocco: irrigation and water systems, oases and urbanism, and the social and religious life organised around water. My work rests on the primary record — documents, legal and notarial archives, and manuscripts — read as the material from which that history can be reconstructed.

01 · WATER IN MEDIEVAL MOROCCO

Water systems and the society built on them

Irrigation networks, *khettara* tunnels and water clocks; oases, hydraulic heritage and urbanism; the social and religious life organised around water, from the medieval Maghrib to the present.

02 · LEGAL & NOTARIAL ARCHIVES

Deeds, registers, endowments

Notarial acts (*adl*), deeds and contracts, notarial registers (*kananish*), *waqf* endowments, court judgments and *fatwas* — read for what they record about property, family, belief and daily life.

03 · MANUSCRIPTS & FIQH TEXTS

Read, date, compare

Historical and legal manuscripts: identification, dating, reading and analysis; comparison of historical and jurisprudential sources, and of the divergences between them.

04 · SOCIAL & RELIGIOUS HISTORY

Communities, belief, everyday life

Minorities and religious communities; the social and religious history of Morocco and the Islamic Maghrib; how Maghrebi societies changed across periods, and what the record shows of those changes.

LANGUAGES Arabic · Amazigh · French · English — Arabic and French sources read in the original.

Evidence and engagement

Selected publications and forms of collaboration

Research capabilities

WHAT I BRING TO A TEAM

01 Design original research projects grounded in primary historical sources.

02 Read and analyse Arabic historical and jurisprudential texts.

03 Study documents and manuscripts, and extract historical data from them.

04 Compare historical and jurisprudential sources and analyse their divergences.

05 Contribute to manuscript cataloguing: description, classification and metadata.

06 Prepare scholarly studies, articles and academic research.

07 Work in multidisciplinary teams, including projects that digitise documentary and manuscript heritage and open it to researchers.

Selected publications

SELECTED TITLES · ARABIC

THESIS	*Water and Urbanization in the Medieval Maghrib: the South-East and the Qibla Lands* — doctoral thesis, Cadi Ayyad University Press
2026	"The contribution of toponymy to identifying figures of Moroccan resistance, 1932–1933" — *Kan Historical Journal* 19/80, pp. 140–155
2023	"The strangest foods of the Maghrebi oases in the 2nd–3rd centuries AH" — Mohammed V University Press
2023	"The image of women in oasis society: the maternal system as a case" — *Al-Waha* 7
2022	"Aspects of water-resource management in the Moroccan oases in the medieval period" — *Wadi Draa Journal* 40
2019	"Water clocks in the medieval Maghrib" — MA thesis, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh (unpublished)

Titles translated for this sheet; the works themselves are in Arabic. Full list and PDFs at fardane.com/publications

What you can commission

INDICATIVE, NOT A PRICE LIST

Engagement	You receive	Span
Collection survey	A written survey of a documentary or manuscript collection: scope, genres, dates, condition, gaps, and a prioritised plan for cataloguing or digitisation.	2–4 weeks
Catalogue & metadata	Catalogue entries or a finding aid — description, classification, dating, and structured metadata ready for your database.	by scope
Report on a document or manuscript	Diplomatic or codicological note, transcription, dating argument, and annotated translation of the passages that matter to you.	1–2 weeks
Water-history study	A written study of a site, an irrigation system or a water institution: the sources, the chronology, the technical vocabulary, and a text you can publish or exhibit.	3–5 weeks
Work-package support	Arabic-sources inputs to your deliverables, meeting notes, and reviewer-ready memos on sources, chronology and place names.	1–3 months

I am seeking to develop these projects through collaboration with universities, research centres, libraries and historical collections — studying their documentary and manuscript holdings, and putting historical training and primary-source expertise to work in producing new historical knowledge.

Independent researcher, available as an external expert or subcontractor.