



Winner of Fritz-Steppat-Prize 2022

Hanna Nieber is a social anthropologist (PhD, Utrecht University, 2020) and a postdoctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, interested in how people live concepts and how this affects academic practice. With a MA in African Studies, she completed her doctoral degree at the intersection of Anthropology and the Study of Religion. The thesis examined written Qur'anic verses that are washed off and drunk as medicine in Zanzibar Town, by both Muslims and Christians. It scrutinized implications of writing about liquefied text and developed a "diffractive ethnography".

Currently, she is composing a book manuscript based on this research while commencing her new research project on the emergence of astronomy as a scientific discipline in Madagascar; she remains committed to the intersections of Africa and the Indian Ocean. Her articles have been published in *Journal of Africana Religions* and *Journal of Material Culture*.