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After studies in philosophy and Arabic (he holds an *Agrégation d'arabe*), he obtained his doctorate from the Sorbonne (Paris III) in 1994. Entitled *Réforme sociale et identité*, his dissertation was supervised by Mohamed Arkoun.

The two papers he will give in Berlin are based on his two recent books:

- *Identité et modernité: Les voyageurs égyptiens au Japon (XIXe-XXe siècle)*, Actes Sud-Sinbad, Paris, 2005.
- *La pensée islamique contemporaine: acteurs et enjeux*, Paris, Téraèdre, 2005.