

Material Culture Methods in the Middle Islamic Periods

International Conference

(8th -10th December 2017)

This year's international conference is devoted to the study of material culture in the Middle Islamic periods, namely the era of the Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman Sultanates and their contemporaries, with a special emphasis on the Mamluk era. Material culture includes the things that people have made and the relationships between people and those things. It is most informative about the realities of daily life, social and economic networks, and the spatial setting of social activities. Rather than focusing on the formal qualities of objects or their "materiality" (dating, provenance, material composition), the conference's aim is to facilitate the expansion of the kind of questions we can ask about the societies of the Mediterranean in the 12th-16th centuries, through reference to the material record, including "archaeological texts" (papyri, paper documents, and inscriptions recovered from archaeological contexts). The geographical focus of the conference is the Mediterranean and its hinterland.

Participants are challenged to address the explore ways in which "things" fashioned by human hands defined, molded, and reconstituted relationships: the relationships between craftsman and consumer, patron and client, and within social or intellectual groups, for example.

What about the relationships between "things"? When objects gained a second life – through reuse, recycling, as spolia – how did these relationships change? How were relationships consolidated or transformed through consumption (or performance), display, or disappearance from public view? What can we learn about the societies of the day in this manner?

Organisation

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Timetable

Friday 8th December

- 9:30-10:00 Bethany WALKER (Bonn)
Welcome
- Panel 1: Complexity of Patronage
Chair: Bethany WALKER
- 10:00-10:30 Iman R. Abdulfattah (New York)
The Complex of Qalāwūn in Cairo: Acculturation and Connoisseurship in Early Mamluk Architecture
- 10:30-11:00 Noha Abou Khatwa (Cairo)
Shaping the Material Culture of Cairo in the 1350s: a Case Study in the Patronage of Amir Sirghitmish al-Nasiri
- 11:00-11:30 **Break**
- 11:30-12:00 Miriam Kühn (Berlin)
Contextualising the Endowment of Mamluk Minbars
- 12:00-12:30 Muhammad Hafez Shaaban (London)
The Curious Case of a Fourteenth Century Madrasa: Who Really Founded the Madrasa of Umm al-Sultan Sha 'bān?

12:30-13:30 Lunch

- Panel 2: The Built Environment
Chair: Suraiya Faroqhi (Munich/Istanbul)
- 13:30-14:00 Bethany Walker (Bonn)
On Houses and Households: the Built Environment of Family Life in Late Medieval Syria
- 14:00-14:30 Nicolò Pini (Cologne)
Walls of Identities. Built environment as Social Marker
- 14:30-15:00 Elisa Pruno, Raffaele Ranieri, Chiara Marcotulli (Florence)
The Material Culture in Shawbak Between Ayyubid and Mamluk: the Case-Study of Hospitaller Chapel
- 15:00-15:30 Ahmad Lash (Department of Antiquities of Jordan)
The Graffiti at Qusayr Amra
- 15:30-16:00 **Break**
- 16:00-17:30 Stephennie Mulder (Texas)
Keynote Address
Sharing Sanctity: Sunnis, Shi'is, and Architectural Patronage in Medieval Damascus

Saturday 9th December

- Panel 3: Material Culture as Text
Chair: Iman R. Abdulfattah
- 10:30-11:00 Rachel Ward (Independent Scholar)
Allegiance by Design: Mamluk Blazons
- 11:00-11:30 Daisy Livingston (BONN)
Documents Lying Around: Astage in the Archival Life-Cycle of Administrative Documents from the Margins of Mamlūk Egypt
- 11:30-12:00 Tobias Nünlist (Zürich)
Devotion and Protection: the Amuletic Scroll Is 1624
- 12:00-13:30 **Lunch**
- Panel 4: Things and their Ever-Changing Social Lives
Chair: Warren Schultz
- 13:30-14:00 Bilal Badat (Tübingen)
The Reuse and Ritualisation of Materials in Ottoman Calligraphy: a Case Study of the Legacy Of Şeyh Hamdullah

14:00-14:30 Fien De Block (Ghent)
The Timekeeper-Teacher and His Discursive Instruments: a Material Approach to Ibn al-Majdi's "al-Jami' al-Mufid"

14:30-15:00 Julie Bonnéric (Bonn)
The Function and Symbolical Role of Objects: Lighting Devices in Mamluk Mosques

15:00-15:30 **Break**

Panel 5: Cultural Appropriation and Identity
Chair: Abdelkader Al Ghouz (Bonn)

15:30-16:00 Nikolaos Vryzidis (Athens/Istanbul)
Islamic Material Culture in Byzantine and Early Modern Greek Context (13th-16th Centuries): Shifting Meanings and Methodological Problems

16:00-16:30 Adriana Gaşpar (Bucharest)
A Preliminary Report on the Ottoman Pottery from Timișoara (Romania)

16:30-17:00 Kurt Franz (Tübingen)
The Devotional Use of the Pilgrim Roads to Mecca: Places, Constructions, and Communality

Sunday 10th December

Panel 6: Decoding Daily Life
Chair: Lorenz Korn (Bamberg)

09:00-09:30 Alexander Shopov (Bonn)
Experiencing Balsam in Sixteenth-Century Cairo

09:30-10:00 Stephen McPhillips (Bonn), co-authored with Wissam Halabi-Halawi (Exeter) and Elise Voguet (CNRS and IRHT, Paris)
A Materiality of Rural Life in Mamluk Jabal Lubnan?

10:00-10:30 **Break**

10:30-11:00 Warren Schultz (Chicago)
Coins as Artifacts, Coins as Evidence: Contextualizing Copper Fulūs in the Material Culture of Middle Islamic, Southern Bilād al-Shām

11:00-11:30 Catherine Rose (London)
Tombstones & Textiles: Funerary Materials as Sources for the Lives of Children and Parents in Mamluk Society

11:30-12:00 Gül Kale (Montréal)
Stuff of the Mind: Material Possession Within the Network of Ottoman Scholars

12:00-13:00 Suraiya Faroqhi (Munich/Istanbul)
Concluding Notes & End of Conference Discussion

13:00-14:00 **Lunch**

15:00-16:30 **Visiting Christmas Market**



ANNEMARIE SCHIMMEL KOLLEG.

History and Society during the Mamluk Era (1250 - 1517)

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