



ANNEMARIE SCHIMMEL KOLLEG

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

Newsletter No. 18 / July 2017

Current Fellows



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Previous Events

Lectures

Fellows' Seminars

(Venue: Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg "History and Society during the Mamluk Era, 1250-1517", Heussallee 18-24)

8/5/2017 – Dr. Aleksandar Shopov, 4:00-6:00 pm

"Rāḍī al-Dīn al-Ghazzī's Jāmi' Farā'id al-Milāḥa fī Jawāmi' Fawā'id al-Filāḥa: The Last Mamluk Book on Farming and its Context"

15/5/2017 – Bogdan Smarandache, 4:00-6:00 pm

"Tracking and Mapping Frankish-Muslim Condominium Agreements, 502-688 AH/1108-1289 AD"

22/5/2017 – Shireen El Kassem, Christian Mauder, Dr. Abdelkader Al Ghouz, 4:00-6:00 pm

"Research Conference Report: The Fourth Conference of the School of Mamluk Studies (May 11-13, 2017)"

29/5/2017 – Prof. Dr. Bethany Walker, 4:00-6:00 pm

"The Medieval Jerusalem Hinterland Project: A Multidisciplinary Landscape Study"

14/6/2017 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Visit to the Bundeskunsthalle/Persian Exhibit, 2:00-3:00 pm

28/6/2017 – Prof. Dr. Robert Moore (Bonn), 2:00-4:00 pm

"Tracing the Curricula of Islamic Legal Education in Mamluk Cairo"

10/7/2017 – Prof. Dr. Nasser Rabbat (Bonn), 4:00-6:00 pm

"What's in a Title? On al-Maqrizi's Kitāb al-Mawā'iz wa-l-I'tibar bi-Dhikr al-Khitāt wa-l-Athar"

17/7/2017 – Dr. Chiara Corbino (Bonn), 4:00-6:00 pm

"Human-Animal Interactions in Mamluk Syria"

24/7/2017 – Christian Mauder, 4:00-6:00 pm

"In the Sultan's Salon: Learning, Religion and Rulership at the Mamluk Court of Qanisawh al-Ghawri (r. 1501-1516)"

31/7/2017 – Bogdan Smarandache (Bonn), 4:00-6:00 pm

"Conceptualizing Frankish-Muslim Condominium Agreements, 502-688 AH/1108-1289 AD"

Previous Events

Guest Lectures

9/6/2017 – Dr. Craig Perry (University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA), 4:00-6:00 pm
 “The Cairo Geniza and the Global History of Slavery, 969-1250“
 (Venue: Department of Islamwissenschaft, Library, Regina-Pacis-Weg 7)

16/6/2017 – Dr. Claudia Ott, (Universität Göttingen), 2:00-4:00 pm
 „Tausendundeine Nacht in der Türkei.
 Das Glückliche Ende von Tausendundeine Nacht nach der Handschrift der Rašit Efendi-Bibliothek Kayseri“
 (Venue: Department of Islamwissenschaft, Library, Regina-Pacis-Weg 7)

22/6/2017 – Prof. Dr. Jean-Pierre van Staevel (Sorbonne), 4:00-6:00 pm
 “Between Tribe and State: The French-Moroccan Excavations at Igiliz (Morocco), Birthplace of the Almohad Empire”
 (Venue: Research Unit of Islamic Archaeology in Brühler Str.7, 53119 Bonn)

23/6/2017 – Prof. Dr. Jean-Pierre van Staevel (Sorbonne), 4:00-6:00 pm
 “Studying Morphological and Socioeconomic Urban Dynamics Through Archaeological Remains and Legal Texts: The Case of the Souk (Near East, North Africa; 6th-9th centuries)”
 (Venue: Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg “History and Society during the Mamluk Era, 1250- 1517”, Heussallee 18-24)

Ulrich Haarmann Memorial Lecture

3/7/2017 – Dr. Noha Sadek (Paris), 4:00-6:00 pm
 (Venue: Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg “History and Society during the Mamluk Era, 1250-1517”, Heussallee 18-24)

Custodians of the Holy Sanctuaries: Rasulid-Mamluk Rivalry in Mecca

For almost two centuries, relations between the Rasulids of Yemen (1229-1454) and the Mamluks were characterized by a strong competition over political and economic supremacy in the Red Sea region. This rivalry was most forcefully apparent in Mecca which became the focus of political contest following the destruction of the Abbasid caliphate in Bagdad in 1258. Although the Rasulids preceded the Mamluks in establishing their authority in the Holy City when the Rasulid sultan al-Muẓaffar Yūsuf (1247-1295) was the first ruler to perform the pilgrimage and to provide the prestigious *kiswa* (coverings) for the *Ka'ba* in 1261, only to be outmaneuvered two years later by Sultan Baybars who stipulated that the Mamluk *kiswa* be the only one displayed. Although al-Muẓaffar had also sent a *kiswa* from Yemen in that same year, it was not displayed until after the departure of the Mamluk caravan. This practice continued throughout his reign and that of his successors, which gave the Banū Qatādah, the rulers of Mecca, a great opportunity to play one camp against the other. This lecture will present the Rasulid “version” of the rivalry between the two regional powers as Mamluk and Rasulid sources are occasionally at odds with regards to certain events. It will examine the Rasulids’ attempts at appropriating emblems of political power in order to counter the Mamluks, such as the sponsoring of architectural projects, sending the *kiswa*, and striking of coins in Mecca, and will show how these activities reinforced Rasulid regional and local legitimacy.

Dr. Noha Sadek

Previous Events

Ulrich Haarmann Memorial Lecture

7/7/2017 – Prof. Dr. Reuven Amitai (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), 4:00-6:00 pm
(Venue: Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg “History and Society during the Mamluk Era, 1250-1517”, Heussallee 18-24)

From Turks to Mongols: David Ayalon’s Vision of the Eurasian Steppe in Islamic History

This lecture seeks to survey and critically engage some of the ideas of David Ayalon (1914-98), and then to see where they might further be developed and applied. Although Ayalon is primarily known as a Mamlukist, and in fact can be called the father of Mamluk studies, he also turned his attention to other weighty matters in the study of Middle Eastern and Islamic history. Among these were the important relations between the Muslim dominated Middle East and the Eurasian Steppe, or rather between the Muslims and the nomadic peoples of the Steppes, the Turks and the Mongols. In a short but important article published in 1963 in Moscow (in the proceedings of the World Congress of Orientalists held there), entitled “The Eurasian Steppe: A Major Reservoir of Power for the Islam World,” Ayalon laid out clearly but concisely his vision of these relations lasting for many centuries. Ayalon clearly showed how military slaves (known usually as Mamluks) starting in the ninth century, Turkish tribesmen (led for a while by the Seljuq family) beginning in the eleventh century, and finally the Mongols in the thirteenth century and afterwards, all made a decisive impact on Islamic history, not only in the realms of politics and warfare, but also in society, economics and culture.

A related subject that Ayalon explored was the relations between the mostly Turkish Mamluks of Egypt and Syria with Mongols in general, and the Ilkhanate in Iran and the surrounding countries in particular.



In the early 1970s he published a series of articles called “The Great Yasa of Chingiz Khan – A Reexamination,” which looked critically at the question of Mongol law in general, while focusing on whether Mongol law (the Yasa) indeed was implemented to a degree in the Mamluk Sultanate. Ayalon’s conclusion was a resounding negative answer, but along the way, he opened up new vistas of source criticism, together with innovative ideas on both Mongol and Mamluk history. From reading Ayalon’s study we might suggest that there really is no proper understanding of Mamluk history without taking the Mongols into account, nor a study of Mongol history without the extensive use of the Arabic sources written in the Mamluk Sultanate.

Prof. Dr. Reuven Amitai

Upcoming Events

Fellows' Seminars

(Venue: Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg "History and Society during the Mamluk Era, 1250-1517", Heussallee 18-24)

August 2017 – Summer Break

4/9/2017 – Dr. Aleksandar Shopov (Bonn), 4:00-6:00 pm

"When People Began Dying from Smoking and Treatises on the Health Benefits of Tobacco Began Arriving from Morocco and Spain: The Early History of Tobacco in the Ottoman Eastern Mediterranean"

13/9/2017 – Christian Mauder, M.A (Bonn), 2:00-4:00 pm

"The Sultan Who Loved Flowers: Landscaping and Gardening in Late Mamluk Cairo under Qanisawh al-Ghawri as Means of Political Legitimation"

18/9/2017 – Shireen El Kassem, M.A (Bonn), 4:00-6:00 pm

"Silks from Mamluk Egypt and Syria (1250-1400 AD)"

20/9/2017 – Dr. Mathieu Eychenne (Bonn), 2:00-4:00 pm

"Urban-Rural Interactions in Mamluk Damascus"

Guest Lectures

11/9/2017 – Anja Dreiser, M.A. (Bamberg)

4:00-6:00 pm

"Electroplated Mamluk Revival Metalwork from Nuremberg for the Benefits of Museums of All Countries"

(Venue: Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg "History and Society during the Mamluk Era, 1250-1517", Heussallee 18-24)

Upcoming Events

25-29/9/2017 – Fall School – Webinar “Science and Technology in the Islamic Middle Periods”

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Each fall the Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg offers, at no cost, an intensive, five-day course to Mamluk scholars (and those in related fields) at the doctoral and post-doctoral level on topics of mutual interest.

The traditional model for such courses has been group work on medieval Arabic texts. The past two years, however, the Kolleg has innovated with course delivery and themes, to cultivate interdisciplinarity and expand and enrich our methodological approaches. The theme of the Fall School 2017 is “Science and Technology in the Islamic Middle Periods”. The Islamic Middle Periods (roughly 12th-16th centuries) witnessed a shift to mass production and the development of new technologies and crafts. To evaluate the contributions of this period in the development of science and technology in general is one goal of this course.

This Fall School will be taught as a webinar, which allows students (and instructors) to log in from anywhere in the world and meet one another in a virtual classroom in real time. The webinar format was chosen as an appropriate venue for technological experimentation and to create an environment fostering scientific exchange.

The course runs **September 25-29, 2017**. There will be generally two, two-hour seminars each day, each taught by a different instructor (or pair of instructors), who are leading scholars in their field.

The seminars combine PowerPoint lectures, group discussion of secondary readings, group work with period manuscripts (on science), and hands-on (online) exercises to develop knowledge about a range of technologies and sciences developed during the Middle Islamic Period. Daily seminars will cover the following topics:

- engineering and technology of warfare
- industry, production, and transfer of trade knowledge
- pharmacology and medicine
- water technology and agrarian science
- astronomy and mapping

The language of instruction is English. Applicants will be scholars of medieval Islamic history (or related fields) at the doctoral or post-doctoral level. All participants need dependable internet access and a Skype account, and agree to be available the entire week during the times scheduled for the daily seminars. To apply and register, send a statement of interest and CV to Dr. Abdelkader Al Ghouz (aalghouz@uni-bonn.de) by **August 15, 2017**.

Prof. Dr. Bethany Walker

Upcoming Events

8-10/12/2017 – International Conference “Material Culture Methods in the Middle Islamic Periods”

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Deadline for application: 8 September 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?

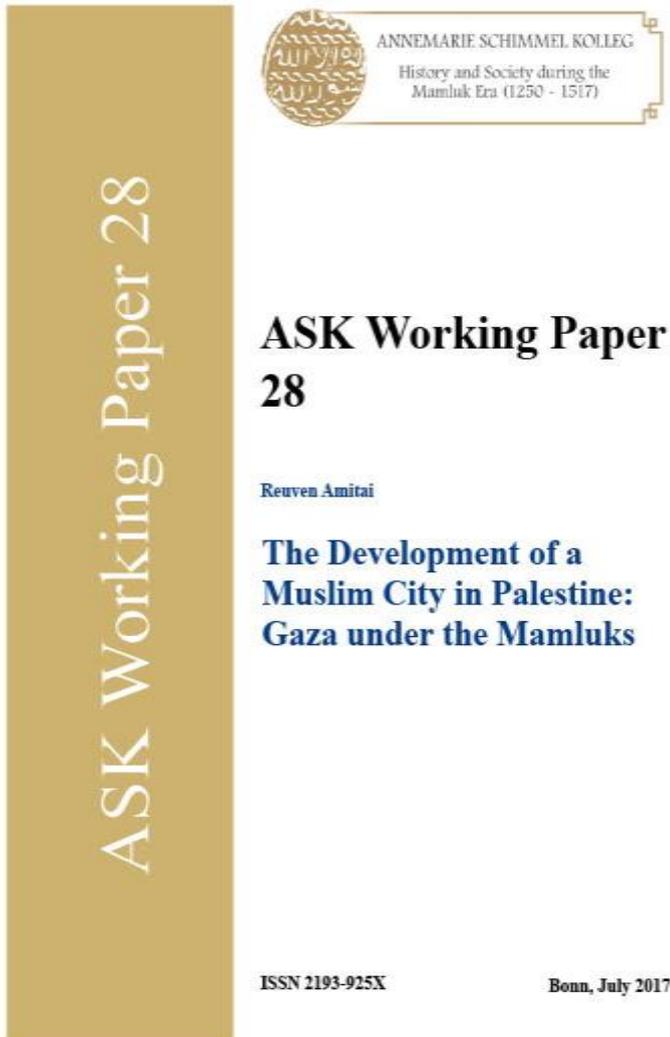
We invite both senior researchers and junior scholars using material culture methods in Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman Studies to share and reflect perspectives related to the conference’s topic and aim. Please submit your abstract (no longer than 500 words) and a short vita to Dr. Abdelkader Al Ghouz (aalghouz@uni-bonn.de) before September 8, 2017. Successful applicants are expected to submit a draft paper by November 24, 2017.

Speakers agree to publish their papers in a conference volume after a review process and confirm that they have not been previously published. For successful applicants, accommodations will be provided and travel costs will be covered. The language of the conference is English. The conference proceedings will be published in a peer-reviewed volume. The publication is planned for October 2018.

For more information, please contact
Dr. Abdelkader Al Ghouz.

Prof. Dr. Bethany Walker

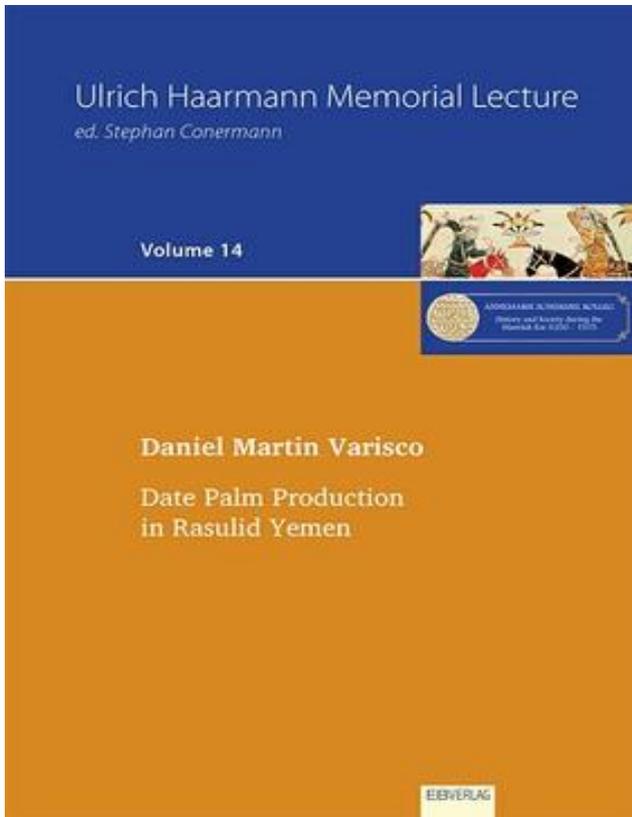
Publications



<https://www.mamluk.uni-bonn.de/publications/working-paper>

Gaza emerged from the Crusading and Ayyubid periods as a small town of minor importance, particularly run down by incessant military activity in the area in the middle decades of the thirteenth century. Under the Mamluk Sultans from 1260 CE onward, the city regained much of its former importance, and perhaps in some ways reached new heights. It is described in Arabic and other sources as a prosperous center, not the least due to it becoming the capital of a newly organized province around 1300. Other reasons behind these auspicious economic and demographic trends were the massive patronage of the Mamluk elite, a burgeoning agricultural hinterland and ongoing interregional trade. Probably the most important cause for the overall positive developments in the city and its surrounding countryside was the general sense of security provided by the Mamluk regime, including arrangements to keep local nomads (not only Bedouins, but also Kurds and Turkmans who immigrated to the area) under control and to integrate them into the local economy and administrative scheme. Gaza and its region also underwent a process of Islamization, encouraged by the Mamluk authorities. The city and its environs certainly took on a more Islamic appearance, due to construction of large and small buildings. There is increased Muslim religious activity of various kinds in mosques, *madradas*, *zawiyas* and *maqams*. This may well indicate an increased Muslim population in the region, both in absolute and relative terms. Gaza can be seen as an example of such trends of Islamization in Palestine (and beyond) in the period between the end of Frankish rule and the coming of the Ottomans in 1516.

Publications



There is a rich corpus of texts about agriculture during the Rasulid era (13th–15th centuries CE) in Yemen. One of the most important crops at the time was the date palm (nakhl), which was grown in the Tihāma coastal region, Najrān and Ḥaḍramawt. This essay provides a translation and analysis of the section on date palms in the 13th century agricultural treatise *Milḥ al-malāḥa fī ma‘rifat al-filāḥa*, written by the Rasulid sultan al-Malik al-Ashraf ‘Umar. Details are provided on the varieties of dates, their cultivation, pollination and protection from insects and diseases.

The Author

Daniel Martin Varisco is an anthropologist and historian with extensive experience in Yemen with a focus on the history of Yemeni agriculture and the history of the Rasulid period. He has taught at Hofstra University in New York and Qatar University and currently serves as President of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies.

<https://www.mamluk.uni-bonn.de/publications/ulrich-haarmann-memorial-series>

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