Prof. Dr. Linda T. Darling
From Border Province to Imperial Hub: Transformation in Syria’s Geopolitical Role as a New Ottoman Province. The Ottoman Elite in a World of Change

Prof. Dr. Daniel Varisco
Transcultural Interaction between Mamluk Egypt and Rasulid Yemen

Prof. Dr. Ellen Kenney
Branding Damascus: Material Culture and Its Imaginaries

Prof. Dr. Frédéric Bauden
- Al-Maqrizi’s Collection of Opuscules: An Introduction
- Mamluk Literary and Documentary Handwritten Sources: A Handbook

Prof. Dr. Antonella Ghersetti
- Visiting Scholar-

Dr. Daniel E. Mahoney
Socio-Intellectual Networks and Mobility between Yemen and the Mamluk Realm

Dr. Julie Monchamp
Pottery from Late Mamluk to Ottoman Period in Egypt

Dr. Gül Şen
Continuity and Change in the Ottoman Provincial Administration: Districts in Syria in the Sixteenth Century

Dr. Gül Kale
Discourses on the Legitimate Foundations of Architecture: Ottoman Scholars and Architects in Collaboration
Previous Events

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

4/2/2019 – Guest Lecture, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Prof. Dr. Andreas Eckart (Institute of Physics, University of Cologne)
“Ibn Raḥīq’s Text on the Milky Way: Perception of the Milky Way in the Early Islamic Society”

11/2/2019 – Guest Lecture, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Mariusz Kaczka (European University Institute, Florence)
“A Diplomat Packs his Bags: Diplomatic Travel between Warsaw and Istanbul in the Eighteenth Century”

25/2/2019 – Fellows’ Seminar, 4:00–6:00 p.m.
Dr. Gül Sen (ASK)
“The History of the Eternal Ottoman State: Understanding the Concept of Time in Tārīḫ-i Naʿīmā”

18/3/2019 – OSML, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Prof. Dr. Rossitsa Gradeva (American University in Bulgaria and Institute of Balkan Studies with Centre for Thracian Studies)
“Contested Public Space(s) in the Thought World of Balkan Christians and Muslims: Sofia, 15th-19th Centuries”

25/3/2019 – Guest Lecture, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Dr. Bilal Badat (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen)
“Practising 25 hours a day’: The Apprentice’s Journey towards Mastery in Ottoman Calligraphy”

1/4/2019, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Hayat Ahlili (PhD candidate, Utrecht University)
“The Revival of Ibn Taymiyya’s Majmūʿ al-Fatāwā in the Late 19th and -20th Century”

8/4/2019, UHML, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Prof. Dr. Livnat Holtzman (Bar-Ilan University)

**The Prophet’s Finger: A New Perspective on Ibn Taymiyya’s Trials in Damascus and Cairo**

The following paper offers a new perspective on the ‘ordeals’ (miḥān) that the prolific Hanbalite theologian Ibn Taymiyya (d. 1328) underwent during the years 1306-1307. At the centre of these ‘ordeals’ stood the Damascus and Cairo trials in which Ibn Taymiyya was interrogated by senior Shafi’ite and Malikite ʿulāmāʾ on his credo. Ibn Taymiyya was accused by his prosecutors of anthropomorphism (tashbīḥ) and corporealism (tajsīm). The vast scientific literature on Ibn Taymiyya’s trials (for example, the important 1994 ‘Ibn Taymiyya on Trial in Damascus’ by Sherman Jackson) emphasizes the doctrinal nature of the accusations against Ibn Taymiyya. However, a new contextualized reading in the ample sources about Ibn Taymiyya’s trials reveals that these accusations were not merely doctrinal but also socio-political. Apparently, Ibn Taymiyya defied the Ash’arite prohibi-
tion to point one’s index finger heavenwards when mentioning God. More so, Ibn Taymiyya encouraged the lay people to use this gesture in the public sphere.

In this talk, Livnat Holtzman presented the doctrinal background to the Ash‘arite prohibition of “gesturing at something which is perceivable by at least one of the senses” (al-ishāra al-hissiyya) with an emphasis on the stance of the sultan al-Malik al-Nasir (r. 1293-1341) and Ibn Taymiyya’s prosecutors. Thereafter, she described how Ibn Taymiyya defended himself. Apparently, Ibn Taymiyya rationalized the use of al-ishāra al-hissiyya by emulating the Prophet’s conduct in ‘The Farewell Pilgrimage’ (hijjat al-wadā’). Finally, Holtzman presented the belated response of Ibn Taymiyya’s disciple, Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyya (d. 1350) to the Ash‘arite prohibition of al-ishāra al-hissiyya.

This paper rearranges the thesis which Holtzman presented in Chapter Five of her monograph Anthropomorphism in Islam: The Challenge of Traditionalism 700-1350. The socio-political aspect of al-ishāra al-hissiyya was elaborated in a book chapter which she recently published in the collection of essays, Islamic Philosophy from the 12th to the 14th Century, edited by Dr. Abdelkader Al Ghouz. Livnat Holtzman is currently writing a journal article which further develops her thesis on Ibn Taymiyya’s miḥan and al-ishāra al-hissiyya.

Prof. Dr. Livnat Holtzman

13/4/2019 – OSML, 6:00–8:00 p.m.  
Prof. Dr. Jane Hathaway (The Ohio State University)  
“East vs. West: Was Ethno-Regional Tension the Defining Feature of Early Modern Ottoman Administration”

15/4/2019 – Fellows’ Seminar, 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
Dr. Gül Kale (ASK)  
“Discourses on the Legitimate Foundations of Architecture: Ottoman Scholars and Architects in Collaboration”

17/4/2019 – OSML, 6:00–8:00 p.m.  
Prof. Dr. Miri Shefer Mossenson (Tel Aviv University)  
“Healers and Patients in Istanbul and Jerusalem, 16th-17th Centuries”


29/4/2019 – Guest Lecture, 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
Dr. Elise Franssen (Università Ca’ Foscari de Venice)  
“al-Ṣafadī’s Tadhkira: Between Literary Genre and Methodological Tool”

Webinars
1/3-16/4/2019 - Webinar  
Introduction to Islamic Landscape Archaeology” live from the field at the excavation in Jerusalem

Conferences
29/3/2019 – Interdisciplinary Approaches to Rasulid Entanglement in the Medieval Islamic World

International Conference organized by Dr. Daniel E. Mahoney  
Financial support provided by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation

9:10 a.m.  
Welcome and Introduction (Daniel Mahoney)

9:30 a.m.  
Ellen Kenney (American University of Cairo, Egypt / Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg)  
“Treasuring Yemen: Exchange and Collection in Rasulid Material Culture”

10:30 a.m.  
Ingrid Hehmeyer (Ryerson University, Canada)  
“Continuity and Change: Water Engineering and Management in Zabīd under the Rasulids and Mamluks”
11:30 a.m.
Coffee Break

12:00 p.m.
Roxani Margariti (Emory University, USA)

1:00 p.m.
Magdalena Moorthy-Kloss (University of Vienna / Austrian Academy of Sciences)
“Eunuchs at the Service of the Rasulids”
2:00 p.m.
Lunch Break

3:00 p.m.
Daniel Varisco (American Institute of Yemeni Studies, USA / Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg)
“Reading Rasulid Maps: An Early 14th - Century Geographical Resource”

4:00 p.m.
Daniel Mahoney (Austrian Academy of Sciences / Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg)
“Power Dynamics between Yemeni Islamic Jurists and the Early Rasulid Sultanate”

5:00 p.m.
Discussion of all the papers and conclusions (Moderated by Daniel Varisco)

12-14/4/2019
The 2nd International Conference on the
Mamluk-Ottoman Transition: Continuity and Change in Egypt and Bilād al-Shām in the Sixteenth Century

Organized by Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann and Dr. Gül Şen
Venue: Günnewig Hotel Bristol Bonn
Prinz-Albert-Str. 2
53113 Bonn

While the Ottoman conquest of the Mamluk Sultanate in 1516-17 doubtlessly changed the balance of political power in Egypt and Greater Syria, we studied the extent of continuity and change in various fields over time. We aimed to examine a multitude of situations during the 15th and 16th centuries and determined how the reconfiguration of political power affected both Egypt and Greater Syria. The conference continued the debate we initiated with the 2015 conference on transition and the resulting 2017 edited volume The Mamluk-Ottoman Transition in Egypt and Bilād al-Shām in the Sixteenth Century. They inspired us to pair scholars from Mamluk and Ottoman studies on key issues. By combining perspectives, we hope to gain a more comprehensive yet nuanced picture of the process of transformation.

April 12, Friday

9:30 a.m.
Opening
Stephan Conermann and Gül Şen

10:00 a.m.
Keynote Speech
Linda T. Darling (University of Arizona): From Border Province to Imperial Hub: Transformation in Syria’s Geopolitical Role as a New Ottoman Province

10:45 a.m. Coffee Break

11:15 a.m.
PANEL 1: Political Culture
Chair: Dorothée Kreuzer

Nasser Rabbat (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
“One Being a Mamluk and a Member of the Ruling Class”

Jane Hathaway (Ohio State University)
“The Kul Problem in Early Ottoman Egypt: Ottoman Reorganization Gone Awry”

12:45 p.m.
Lunch Break
1:45 p.m.
PANEL 2: Military
Chair: Reuven Amitai

Albrecht Fuess (University of Marburg)
“Why Domenico Had to Die and Black Slaves Wore Red Uniforms: Military Technology and its Decisive Role in the Ottoman Conquest of Egypt 1517”

Charles Wilkins (Wake Forest University)
“Janbulad Bek b. Qasim (d. ca. 1575) and the Command of Provincial Armies in Early Ottoman Syria”

3:15 p.m.
Coffee Break

3:45 p.m.
PANEL 3: Violence
Chair: Adam Sabra

Carl F. Petry (Northwestern University)
“Violence as Tactic: Rioting by Mamluk Soldiers in the Late Circassian Period”

Timothy J. Fitzgerald (James Madison University):
“Shedding Blood Justly: Perceptions of Violence in Early Ottoman Syria”

5:15 p.m.
Coffee Break

5:30 p.m.
PANEL 4: Intellectual Changes
Chair: Christian Mauder

Anna Kollatz (University of Bonn)
“Narrating Transitions in Times of Transition: What Does Ibn Iyās Focus On?”

Torsten Wollina
“Local Knowledge Production in Damascus: Was There an Ottoman Audience?”

7:00 p.m.
Reception Dinner

April 13, Saturday

9:00 a.m.
PANEL 5: Ulama
Chair: Yehoshua Frenkel

Mohammad Gharaibeh (University of Bonn)
“Networks, Institutions and Intellectual Trends in the late Mamluk Period”

Toru Miura (Ochanomizu University) “Socio-political Changes of the ‘Ulama’ in 16th Century Damascus”

11:00 a.m. PANEL 6: Sufism
Chair: Daniel Varisco

Abdelkader Al Ghouz (University of Bonn) “Hybrid Places: The Social Role of Saints in Mamluk Politics”

Adam Sabra (University of California) “Sufism and Political Culture in Egypt in the Early Ottoman Period”

12:30 p.m.
Lunch Break

1:30 p.m.
PANEL 7: Countryside
Chair: Wakako Kumakura

Bethany J. Walker (University of Bonn)

Aleksandar Shopov (University of Munich) “Commercial Farming and Agricultural Knowledge During the Transition Period from the Mamluks to the Ottomans”

3:00 p.m.
Coffee Break
3:30 p.m. 
PANEL 8: Provincial Administration 
Chair: Albrecht Fuess

Reuven Amitai (Hebrew University) 
“Late Mamluk Gaza: Aspects of Society, Economy and Administration on the Eve of Ottoman Rule”

Gül Şen (University of Bonn) 
“Political Administration of the Districts in Syria During the Transition Period”

5:00 p.m. 
Coffee Break

Departure from the hotel to Annemarie-Schimmel-Kolleg

6:00-8:00 p.m. 
Otto Spies Memorial Lecture

Jane Hathaway (Ohio State University) 
“East vs. West: Was EthnoRegional Tension the Defining Feature of Early Modern Ottoman Administration?” 
Venue: Heussallee 18-24, Annemarie-Schimmel-Kolleg, conference hall

April 14, Sunday

9:00 a.m. 
PANEL 9: Salons 
Chair: Charles Wilkins

Christian Mauder (IAS, Princeton) “Ottomanization Before the Conquest? Mamluk-Ottoman Cultural and Intellectual Entanglements in the Courtly Salons of Qânişawh al-Ghawrí”

10:00 a.m. 
PANEL 10: Finances 
Chair: Toru Miura

Stephan Conermann (University of Bonn) 
“The Economic System of the Mamluk Sultanate at the Beginning of the 16th Century”

Wakako Kumakura (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) “The Ottoman Impact on Financial Records and Administrative Networks in Egypt”

11:30 a.m. 
Coffee Break

12:00 
PANEL 11: Waqf System 
Chair: Nasser Rabbat

Yehoshua Frenkel (University of Haifa) “The Waqf System in the Late Mamluk Decades”

Randi Deguilhem (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique – CNRS) “From One Empire to Another: Transitioning Mamluk Waqf to Ottoman, An Analysis of the Ottoman Land Survey № 602”

1:30 p.m. 
Lunch Break

2:30- 3:15 p.m. 
Discussion & Conclusions
Upcoming Events

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

13/5/2019 – Guest Lecture (BCDSS), 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Dr. Claude Chevaleyre (Lyon)
“Human Trafficking in Late Imperial China: Evidence and Interpretative Framework”

20/5/2019 – Fellows’ Seminar, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

23/5/2019 – OSML, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Dr. Edith Gülçin Ambros (University of Vienna)
“On Formal, Factual, and Fictional Aspects of Ottoman Chronogram Poems”

21/6/2019 – OSML, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Prof. Dr. Selim Karahasanoglu (Istanbul Medeniyet University/Berlin Free University)
“Al-Maqrizi: The Conscience of Egypt’s History”

27/5/2019 – Fellows’ Seminar, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

11/06/2019 – Fellows’ Seminar, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Prof. Dr. Nasser Rabbat (ASK)
“Al-Maqrizi: The Conscience of Egypt’s History”

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

13/5/2019 – Workshop on “Text-Context-Problematic”

Teaching Sessions

8:00-10:15 a.m.
Prof. Dr. Daniel Varisco

10:15 -10:45 a.m.
Coffee Break

10:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Prof. Dr. Bethany Walker
“‘Reading the Rural’ in Mamluk Palestine: An Introduction to Textual-Archaeological Methods”

1:00-2:00 p.m.
Lunch

Presenting ongoing research projects
2:00-2:40 p.m.
Dr. Erina Ota-Tsukada “Zayn al-Din ibn Muzhir and his consolidation of power”

2:40-3:20 p.m.
Hidenori Teshima
“Factionalism in the Late Mamluk dynasty: Some Considerations on Assumption of Government Official from Qāïtbāy Ashrafiya”

3:20-3:40 p.m.
Coffee Break
3:40-4:20 p.m.  
Ryosuke Kubo  
“Acquisition of the Site for Sufi Institutions and its Utility Form in Mamluk Cairo: Within the Framework of Waqf”

4:20-5:00 p.m.  
Kaori Otsuya  
“Social and political roles of the religious elite of Mecca and Medina during the Mamluk period”

5:00 -5:15 p.m.  
Concluding Remarks

24/5/2019 – Workshop – 1st Fellows’ Day, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Presenting Research Results

9:00:10:15 a.m.  
Prof. Dr. Daniel Varisco  
“Transcultural Interaction between Mamluk Egypt and Rasulid Yemen”

10:15-10:30 a.m. – Coffee Break

10:30-11.45 a.m.  
Prof. Dr. Frédéric Bauden  

11.45 a.m. -1:00 p.m.  
Prof. Dr. Linda T. Darling  
“From Border Province to Imperial Hub: Transformation in Syria’s Geopolitical Role as a New Ottoman Province, The Ottoman Elite in a World of Change”

2:00 -3:15 p.m.  
Dr. Gül Şen  
“Continuity and Change in the Ottoman Provincial Administration: Districts in Syria in the Sixteenth Century”

3:15 – 3:45 p.m. Coffee Break

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.  
Prof. Dr. Ellen Kenney  
“Branding Damascus: Material Culture and Its Imaginaries”

Participation in International Conferences

15–17/6/2019 – Sixth Conference of the School of Mamluk Studies Conference, Tokyo, Japan

ASK Panel Title: “Mobility of Ideas, Individuals and Goods in the Mamluk Period”  
Panel Chairperson: Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann  
Panel Organizer: Dr. Abdelkader Al Ghouz

Speakers:  
Prof. Dr. Bethany J. Walker  
Dr. Anna Kollatz  
Dr. Abdelkader Al Ghouz

Panel Description

Bilād al-Shām and its neighbours are considered in this panel not as a geographically clear-cut area but rather as a multiply interconnected space. This space is formed and re-formed by human acts and interaction crossing and transcending spatial, social and cultural boundaries. Mobility of ideas, individuals and goods is characteristic for this space of interaction: the physical movements of individuals and groups, i.e. social mobility along horizontal and vertical lines; mobility between social positions and within hierarchies; but also the mobility of knowledge expressed in the ‘movement’ and transfer of ideas, images and different aspects of material culture. The aim of this panel is to shed light on the mobility of ideas, individuals and goods in the Mamluk Period from a cross-disciplinary perspective.
1) Locally Produced but Regionally Consumed: The Circulation of Household Goods in the Syrian Countryside

Bethany Joelle Walker

A tight network of villages and smaller communities developed in the Syrian countryside from the 14th century under the impact of investment into travel and transport infrastructure by the Mamluk government and exponential growth in the number and diversity of rural markets. As a result, peasants were highly mobile and in regular contact with villages at some distance away. While these networks and this physical mobility are hinted at by contemporary written sources, they are vividly illustrated by the archaeological record, in the form of portable objects, travellers’ graffiti, and production and storage facilities and their region-wide distribution. This paper highlights the role that the circulation of everyday goods—both consumable commodities and household accoutrements—in the countryside played in reinforcing rural social and economic networks. It will center on the production of typical course wares (handmade table wares and cooking pots) and the cultivation/husbandry of food staples of the period (namely particular kinds of cereals, sugar cane molasses, olive oil, fish, and mutton) and their circulation among rural communities, near and far. The geographical scope of the paper in southern Bilād al-Shām (Transjordan and Palestine), with a particular focus on the results of ongoing fieldwork at the castle-village site of Tall Ḥisbān in central Jordan and the amiral estate of Khirbet Beit Mamzil outside Jerusalem. Formal archaeological and laboratory analysis of domestic pottery, food remains, and agricultural fields from these two highland sites, compared with published results from other rural sites in the region and a critical readings of relevant period sources, suggest ways in which highly mobile “things” brought people in closer contact with one another.

2) Mobility in Immobility: Tracing travelling Narratives in Ibn Iyās’ Writings

Anna Kollatz

Ibn Iyās’ Badā’i’i' az-Zuhūr is one of the most widely received sources, especially for the transition period of the 15th and 16th centuries in Egypt. The complete works of the historiographer, by contrast, have received little attention so far. While the historical author, after all we know, practically did not leave his hometown Cairo, his texts deal with the history of the whole Levant. Out of relative immobility they consider a broad time frame in which social, military, economic and individual mobilities shaped history. Yet a high degree of intertextual mobility of narratives, plots and narrative structures can be observed between the individual texts from Ibn Iyās’ pen. This lecture follows those narratives and plots that appear again and again in the various writings of the historiographer. How does the representation of individual events change? Is it possible to dissect a working process among the sources that were created sequentially or in parallel? Along which criteria does Ibn Iyās process his material?

3) Signs of Greek Science in Ibn al-Akfānī’s (d. 749/1348) Treatise ‘Irshād al-qāṣīd ilā asmā al-maqaṣīd

Abdelkader Al Ghouz

Born in Sinjar, died in Cairo, the physician and encyclopedist Muhammad B. Ibrāhīm al-Anšārī, known as Ibn al-Akfānī (d. 749/1348), composed in Mamluk Cairo his most popular encyclopedia of educational concepts and classification of science entitled ‘Irshād al-qāṣīd ilā asmā al-maqaṣīd (Guidance of the Seeker to the Supreme Purposes). Ibn al-Akfānī conceptualized the ‘Irshād al-qāṣīd as an aggregation of ideas and concepts of education from different cultures and scholarly origins. The
Irshād al-qāṣid was popular not only in the Mamluk period but also in the Ottoman period, because it shaped—for instance—the design structure and classificatory schema of science in Ṭāssh-köprüzāda’s treatise Miftāḥ al-sa’āda. Therefore, the Irshād al-qāṣid constitutes an ideal source that reflects the mobility of ideas retrospectively and prospectively. The aim of this paper is twofold. First, it examines the classificatory schemata of science that Ibn al-Akfānī follows in the Irshād al-qāṣid and its relevance to Mamluk education policy. Second, it tackles the question of the extent to which Ibn al-Akfānī followed the Greek classificatory schema of science on the one hand, and how Irshād al-qāṣid correlates to other classification of science established by Muslim scholars on the other.

24/6/2019 – Workshop – 2nd Fellows’ Day, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Presenting Research Results

10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Dr. Julie Monchamp
“Pottery from Late Mamluk to Ottoman Period in Egypt”

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Dr. Gül Kale
“Discourses on the Legitimate Foundations of Architecture: Ottoman Scholars and Architects in Collaboration”

1:00 – 2:15 p.m. – Lunch
2:15 – 3:30 p.m.
Dr. Daniel E. Mahoney
“Socio-Intellectual Net-works and Mobility between Yemen and the Mamluk Realm”

3:30 – 4:00 Coffee Break

4:00 – 6:00 – Guest Lecture
Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahman (Beaconhouse National University, Lahore)
“Interpretations of Jihad in South Asia”
Gül Şen’s study offers a reconsideration of the area covered by present-day Jordan under Ottoman rule during the sixteenth through the eighteenth century. Despite its political and strategic importance over the ages, the former Mamluk- and later Ottoman-ruled region has remained an understudied area eclipsed by other territories in the former Ottoman province of historical Syria (Bilād al-Shām). By applying a combination of approaches, putting an emphasis on ‘transition’ instead of dynastic division and considering the geographical reorientation as the ‘empire’s frontier’, the author reframes Jordan as a frontier during a transitional period and sets it into the larger picture of Ottoman provincial administration. Thus, she offers a fresh understanding of Ottoman rule beyond the conventional assessments. Further, she argues that in order to understand the multilayered experiences of the imperial administration in this frontier zone, various historical perceptions should be examined. Appealing to interdisciplinary approaches, the study is a contribution to the complex history of the Arabic-speaking provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

Bogdan C. Smarandache
Conceptualizing Frankish-Muslim Partition Truces in the Coastal Plain and Greater Syria
(502-684 AH/1108-9-1285 AD)

This paper is an attempt to clarify the development, function, and conceptualization of shared-revenue arrangements between Franks and Muslims in the Coastal Plain(al-Sāḥil) and Greater Syria (Bilād al-Shām) in the medieval period. I first catalogue truces that established partitions while assessing their defining characteristics. I then analyze...
how Frankish and Muslim conceptualizations of property and territory may have informed two slightly different notions of partitioning. Based on an analysis of these conceptualizations of ownership and territory, I argue that the only basis for partition truces in the Frankish-Muslim context was a division of revenue that resembled tributary status.

This book comprises the edition and analysis of a waqf-scroll documenting the charitable foundations of a Damascene physician, Ibn Ḥubayqa, established in the last years of the Mamluk reign. The document is regularly updated and corroborated by courts and judges of all madhhabs throughout the first century of Ottoman rule in the city. Two principal reasons make this document, which is now held at the American University of Beirut, stand out: First, the general scarcity of pre-Ottoman archival material from Damascus, notably the near-complete absence of original waqf-deeds from the city. This is, of course, in stark contrast to the many surviving endowment documents from Mamluk Egypt, a fact that means a severe geographical imbalance in our knowledge of this important institution’s history. Second, the profession of the endower and his descendants as prominent physicians makes this a welcome addition to our knowledge of a group that left otherwise very few traces in the literary sources. This scroll allows us to investigate how this physicians’ family participated in the spread in personal ownership of rural agricultural lands in the Damascene hinterland in the late Mamluk and early Ottoman period. Finally, the edition and analysis of this rare document will help us better understand the process of transition from the Mamluk to the Ottoman law-court system.

Imprint

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