



ANNEMARIE SCHIMMEL KOLLEG.  
History and Society during the  
Mamluk Era (1250 - 1517)



**Fellows**

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**Prof. Dr. Amalia  
Levanoni**  
**Haifa, Israel**

Professor LEVANONI has been a fellow of the ASK from March to August 2013. During her fellowship she was focusing on:

*Mamluks and Ulama: A comfortable symbiosis or a growing process of Mamluk take-over?*



**Dr. Konrad  
Hirschler**  
**SOAS, London,  
United Kingdom**

Dr. HIRSCHLER stayed as a fellow at the ASK from June to August 2013. His project dealt with:

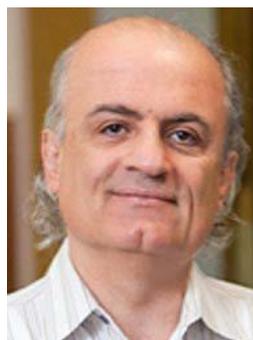
*Books and Libraries in the Late Ayyubid/ Early Mamluk Period*



**Prof. Dr. Doris  
Behrens-  
Abouseif**  
**SOAS, London,  
United Kingdom**

Professor ABOUSEIF has been a fellow at the ASK from May to September 2013. She came to Bonn with a project about:

*Diplomatic Gifts between Mamluk Sultans and Other Courts*



**Prof. Dr. Nasser  
Rabbat**  
**MIT, Cambridge,  
USA**

Professor RABBAT was a fellow at the ASK in July 2013. He was working on:

*Staging the City: The Urban Character of Mamluk Architecture*

## Fellows



**Dr. Koby  
Yosef**

Dr. YOSEF has been a fellow at the ASK for the second time. He stayed from July to September 2013.

His project was about:

*Ethnic Groups, Social Relationships, Schools of Law and Succession in the Mamluk Sultanate (1250-1517)*

## PostDoc-Students



**Dr. Élise  
Franssen**

Dr. FRANSSEN held a Post-Doc scholarship funded by the ASK till September 2013.

In her work, she concentrated on:

*A Codicological Analysis of aṣ-Ṣafadī's Taḍkirah*

## Staff



**Prof. Dr. Bethany  
Walker**

We would like to welcome Professor WALKER as the new Research Professor at the ASK.

Besides her professional qualification and long experience in the field of Islamic Studies, Professor Walker will complement the study areas of the Bonn University with the field of Islamic archeology.

## 1.7.2013 – Workshop Non-European Pre-Modern Art History

*Participants:* Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann; Dr. Daniel Redlinger; Nur Özdilmac; Miriam Kühn; Dr. Amr El-Hawary; Prof. Dr. Karoline Noack; Prof. Dr. Julia Hegewald; Prof. Dr. Harald Wolter von dem Knesebeck; Prof. Dr. Nasser Rabbat; Prof. Dr. Doris Abouseif.

Designed as an interdisciplinary workshop, the participants discussed the question of a Non-European Pre-Modern Art History. Six overarching themes framed this collaborative approach. Those were the question of (1) “Object Culture vs. Art Object” or “What is Art?” (2) “History of Research,” (3) “Terminology or Historical Semantics,” (4) “Context,” (5) “Categorization and Canonization of the Total of Objects,” (6) “Theoretical and Methodological Approaches.” The main purpose of the workshop was to emphasize the propria of the Non-European Pre-Modern Art History in contrast to European Art History and to find new theoretical and methodological approaches for interdisciplinary, collaborative studies.



September 16-19, an autumn school “Pre-Modern Global History” was successfully organized by the ASK, in which about 15 students on doctoral and post-doctoral level were invited. For the duration of a week, the group discussed the need for a broader view on history in a global perspective, to overcome the Eurocentric perspective of previous historical narrations and to develop an historiographical approach that is free from the service of the national state.

A closer look was taken into various approaches and the most promising theories of global history. This session helped all participants to recognize the possibilities and limitations of the global history approach. Works of some known historians and sociologists such as Wallerstein, Abu-Lughod, Osterhammel, Bayly and Darwin have already presented exemplary works. In a vivid discussion, the advantages and disadvantages, the strengths and weaknesses of these attempts were brought out. One session was devoted to the application of global theory to specific interdisciplinary projects, surveying topics in a global or at least trans-regional perspective. Whether the “flow of knowledge”, “the body, clothes and representations of rulers” or “piracy,” the group discussed the possibilities and new perspectives that comes with the global history approach to explore these topics in a framework of comparison, interaction and change of perspectives.



By stressing issues of global relevance this session marked a highlight of the autumn school and helped to recognize the possibilities and limitations of the global history approach.

### German Oriental Studies Conference in Münster, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> of September

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of September the German Oriental Studies Conference (DOT) took place in Münster (Westphalia) with about 1.300 participants from all over the world.

On the first day of the conference parts of the research staff and fellows of the ASK presented the institution as well as their projects. Thereby a variety of topics on the history and society during the Mamluk era (1250-1517) were discussed in the panel. Among them were lectures about “Power and Rule in the early Mamluk Era” (Dr. Gharaibeh), “Strategies in Medieval Muslim Historiography: The Example of al-Nuwayrī’s *Nihāyat al-Arab*” (Angermann), “Architektonischer Raum und Erinnerungskultur: Überlegungen zu mamlukischen Bauinschriften” (Dr. Redlinger) or “From Maps to Geographical-History: A Chapter in the Environmental-History of Mamluk Bilad al-Sham“ (Dr. Frenkel).



**01/07/2013 – Prof. Dr. Nasser Rabbat  
(MIT, Cambridge, USA)**

*Staging the City: The Urban Character of  
Mamluk Architecture*

In an impressive lecture, Nasser Rabbat offered new insights on the Mamluk architecture, their urban context, their perception and integration into court ceremonial rites. By showing several examples of Fatimid and Mamluk architecture, Rabbat argued that in the beginning of the Mamluk rule, the attempt to construct a ruling legitimacy through continuity in architecture was a dominating motif in Mamluk architecture. Over time, however, Mamluk architecture changed in some aspects and created a new and “Mamluk specific” style. By focusing on one important street, the *al-darb al-aḥmar*, Rabbat argued further that monumental buildings, which played a role in the sultanic processions, were purposely built on busy streets to achieve effective perception among the citizens.



**Upcoming**

**14/10/2013 - Dr. Daniella Talmon-Heller**

(Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be'er Scheva, Israel)

**16/12/2013 - Dr. Daisuke Igarashi**

(Chukyo University, Nagoya, Japan)

**Guest Lectures**

**22/07/2013 - Christian Mauder, M.A.  
(Göttingen)**

*Education and Knowledge among Members of the  
Mamluk Army. Results of a Quantitative Analysis  
of Mamluk Biographies*

**08/07/2013 - Dr. Edhem Eldem  
(Bogazici Universitesi, Turkey)**

*The Ottoman Muslim Epitaph and its Evolution  
from the Fifteenth to the Twentieth Centuries*

**09/09/2013 - Dr. Kristina Richardson  
(City University of New York,  
USA)**

*Women Professors of Islamic Law and Ethics in  
Mamluk Damascus. New Evidence from a  
Princeton Manuscript*

**30/09/2013 - Christian Mauder, M.A.  
(Göttingen)**

*Kulturelles und intellektuelles Leben an einem  
spät-mamlukischen Sultanshof – Die Soireen  
Qānṣūh al-Ġawrīs (reg. 1501-1516) und ihr  
Umfeld*

**Upcoming**

**01/10/2013 - Roberto Pera  
(Hamburg)**

*Some Remarks on Ibn Qayyim al-Jauziyya's  
“Hadi al-arwah ila bilad al-ifrah”*

12/07/2013 - Verena Ricken, M.A.  
(Bonn)

*Rachid al-Ghannouchi's (b. 1941) Concept of  
'Civil Society'*

06/09/2013 - Dr. Gül Şen  
(Bonn)

*Narrative Strategies in the First Ottoman  
Court Chronicle by Na'īmā (d. 1716)*

26/07/2013 - Hamidreza Pasha  
(Teheran, Iran)

*The Discovery of Cyrus Cylinder's Copy in  
China: Cultural Contacts between Iran and  
China in the Achaemenid Period*

13/09/2013 - Dr. Edhem Eldem  
(Bogazici Universitesi, Istanbul, Turkey)

*"Writing Less, Saying More: Calligraphy  
and Modernization in the Last Ottoman  
Century"*

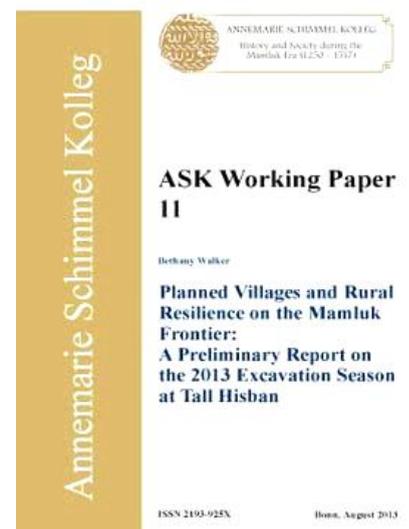
16/08/2013 - Dr. Ibrahim Şirin  
(Izmit, Turkey)

*Contorted Images: Ottomans and Europeans in  
Each Other's Caricatures*

## Publications

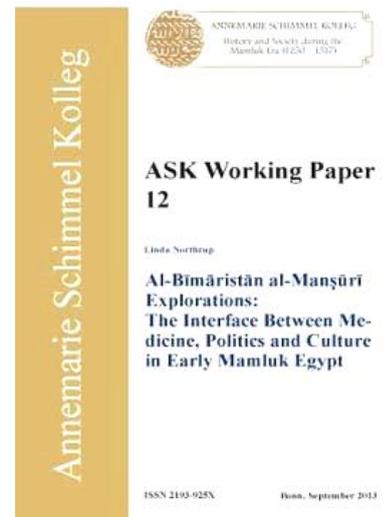
### Working Paper Nr. 11

There is a considerable body of literature today on urban space in Mamluk studies. This is in large part due to the nature and survival of the textual sources, which reflect an urban bias and are preserved in city archives. Architectural studies of Mamluk cities also abound, as many monuments and even entire neighborhoods of the period have been preserved in the urban fabric of modern Cairo, Damascus, Aleppo, and Jerusalem. The same cannot be said, however, about the rural lands under Mamluk rule – namely settlements of village and sub-village size – about which we know precious little. While textual sources, and particularly documentary ones, can produce some information about rural life, if they are carefully mined, it is the archaeological record that offers us the greatest promise for reconstructing the physical structure of rural settlements, their function(s) and development over time, and details of the lives of the people who lived there. The focus of the 2013 excavation season at Tall Hisban, co-sponsored by the ASK of the University of Bonn, was to investigate the settlement associated with the Mamluk citadel and to explore the many factors that may have contribute to its growth, decline, and transformation over time. The essay is a preliminary, non-technical assessment of that fieldwork, highlighting the most important results relevant to a study of Mamluk-era rural life and raising important questions about changing relations between state and village in the seventh/fourteenth century.



<http://www.mamluk.uni-bonn.de/publications/working-paper/ask-wp-11-walker.pdf>

Al-Bīmāristān al-Manṣūrī (the Manṣūrī hospital), founded by the sultan al-Manṣūr Sayf ad-Dīn Qalāwūn (r. 678-689/1279-1290) at a moment of cultural shift, is both the object of this study and a lens through which to view the links between medicine, politics and culture in Mamluk Egypt and Syria. The exploratory research described here is intended to result in a history of this hospital that will cast light on aspects of the intellectual history of the Mamluk period that, despite several recent groundbreaking studies, still remains largely unknown and underappreciated. Two approaches have been used: 1) source analysis with primary focus on two documents, the diplomas for the riyāsat aṭ-ṭibb (chief physicianship in Egypt and Syria) and the tadrīs al-bīmāristān (chair of medicine at the hospital) examined with respect to their structure and three themes (ḡihād, ‘ilm, and medical education) and 2) network analysis focusing on individuals who had some affiliation to the hospital whether as founder, later donor, physician, administrator, student, or patient. Although we have barely scratched the surface here, the paths followed seem promising as strategies to arrive at more than a descriptive history of the hospital and to provide insights into the role of the hospital within the context of the medicine, politics and wider intellectual currents and culture of the period. The textual analysis of two diplomas of appointment indicates that in addition to other possible purposes, the hospital was intended both to elevate the status of medicine as a discipline by rendering this foreign science less controversial in the Islamic context by demonstrating that medicine (‘ilm al-abdān) was integral to the religious sciences (‘ilm al-adyān) and ultimately to advance the Islamization of the medical profession. The analysis of networks of individuals with affiliations of various kinds to the hospital promises to yield insights into the links between medicine and power within the context of the wider cultural and intellectual environment. To date, this type of analysis also shows that despite the ḡihādī, exclusionary language and intentions of the documents at the formal level, actual relationships and networks at the time of the founding of the hospital were in fact more inclusive at the informal level at least at the beginning of the Mamluk era. This exploratory research opens new paths for studying the history of Mamluk society and intellectual history while raising more questions than it answers, such as, most basically, what role the hospital played in these developments?



<http://www.mamluk.uni-bonn.de/publications/working-paper/wp-12-northrup.pdf>

Sehepunkte 13/4 (15.04.2013)

Islamische Welten: Forschungen zum Mamlukenreich (1250-1517)

Ed. by Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann



**Donald S. Richards:** *Mamluk administrative Documents from St Catherine's Monastery*, Leuven: Peters 2011  
Reviewed by Amir Mazor

**Éric Vallet:** *L'Arabie marchande. État et commerce sous les sultans Rasūlides du Yémen (626-858/ 1229-1454)*, Paris: Publications de la Sorbonne 2010  
Reviewed by Stephan Conermann

**John L. Meloy:** *Imperial Power and Maritime Trade. Mecca and Cairo in the Later Middle Ages*, Chicago: Middle East Documentation Center 2010  
Reviewed by Stephan CONERMANN

**Li Guo:** *The Performing Arts in Medieval Islam. Shadow Play and Popular Poetry in Ibn Dāniyāl's Mamluk Cairo*, Leiden/ Boston/ Tokyo: Brill Academic Publishers 2011  
Reviewed by Stephan CONERMANN

**Nasser Rabbat:** *Mamluk History through Architecture. Monuments, Culture and Politics in Medieval Egypt and Syria*, London / New York: I.B.Tauris 2010  
Reviewed by Daniel REDLINGER

**Ellen Kenney:** *Power and Patronage in Medieval Syria. The Architecture and Urban Works of Tankiz Al-Nāṣirī*, Chicago: Chicago Studies on the Middle East 2009  
Reviewed by Nur ÖZDILMAÇ

**Katherine Strange Burke:** *Archaeological Texts and Contexts on the Red Sea. The Sheikh's House at Quseir al-Qadim*. Diss., Univ. of Chicago, Ill., Ann Arbor, MI: UMI 2007  
Reviewed by Bethany WALKER

**Konrad Hirschler:** *The written word in the Medieval Arabic lands. A social and cultural history of reading practices*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2011  
Reviewed by Dorothée KREUZER

**Bethany J. Walker:** *Jordan in the late Middle Ages. Transformation of the Mamluk Frontier*, Chicago: Middle East Documentation Center 2011  
Reviewed by Yehoshua FRENKEL

**Sami G. Massoud:** *The Chronicles and Annalistic Sources of the Early Mamluk Circassian Period*, Leiden/ Boston/ Tokyo: Brill Academic Publishers 2007  
Reviewed by Anna Katharina ANGERMANN

**Christian Mauder:** *Gelehrte Krieger. Die Mamluken als Träger arabischsprachiger Bildung nach al-Ṣafadī, al-Maqrīzī und weiteren Quellen*, Hildesheim: Olms 2012  
Reviewed by Stephan CONERMANN

**Kristen Stilt:** *Islamic Law in Action. Authority, Discretion, and Everyday Experiences in Mamluk Egypt*, Oxford: Oxford University Press 2011  
Reviewed by Torsten WOLLINA

**Yahya M. Michot:** *Ibn Tamiyya. Against Extremisms*, Paris: Editions Albouraq 2012  
Reviewed by Abdelkader AL GHOUZ

**Caterian Bori/ Livnat Holtzmann (eds.):** *A Scholar in the Shadow: Essays in the Legal and Theological Thought of Ibn Qayyim al-Gawziyyah*, Rom: Istituto per l'Oriente Carlo Alfonso Nallino 2010  
Reviewed by Miriam BEN MOSHE

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