



The Geography and Infrastructure of Trade in early Islam

[800-1000 CE]

3-4 & 5 December 2015

at SOAS University of London
Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG



SOAS
University of London



Early Islamic
ECONOMY
الاقتصاد الإسلامي المبكر

The Leverhulme Trust

Thursday 3 December

Room T101, 21-22 Russell Square, first floor

09.00-09.30 Registration

09.30-10.45 General introduction to problems and methods

H. Kennedy [SOAS], **F. Bessard** [St Andrews]
R. Bulliet [Columbia University] - *Money and Muslim Identity*

10.45-11.15 Coffee

SOURCES FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY

11.15-12.45 Archaeological insights

Chair: A. Walmsley [University of Copenhagen]
S. Priestman [Edinburgh] - *Indian Ocean Exchange Networks during the Early Centuries of Islam: Economic Staple or Irrelevance?*
I. Freestone and M. Phelps [UCL] - *Continuity and Change in Early Islamic Glass technology and production*

12.45-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.30 Monetary sources

Chair: H. Kennedy [SOAS]
A. Walmsley [University of Copenhagen] - *Regulation of Base Coinage and the End of the Umayyads: economic contradictions*
S. Heidemann [Universität Hamburg] - *Creation and Breakup of the Monetary Union of the Abbasid Empire*

15.30-16.00 Tea

16.00-17.30 Written evidence

Chair: S. Heidemann [Universität Hamburg]
J.-Ch. Ducene [EPHE, Paris] - *The Middle East as seen by the Arab geographers (9th-10th c.): a multipolar urban network*
H. Kennedy [SOAS] - *Historical narrative as a source for economic history*

17.30-18.00 General discussion

Friday 4 December

Room T101, 21-22 Russell Square, first floor

WATER MANAGEMENT AND THE AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATIONS

09.00-10.30 Northern Mesopotamia

Chair: M. Soroush [ISAW-New York]
L. Rayne [Leicester] - *Early Islamic Water Management in Northern Mesopotamia*
K. Novacek [Palacký University Olomouc] - *Economic Continuity and Change in Northeastern Mesopotamia, from the 6th to the 13th century*

10.30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-12.30 Iran-Iraq

Chair: L. Rayne [Leicester]
M. Soroush [ISAW-New York] - *Dynamics of agricultural Investment in al-Ahwaz in the late Antique-early Islamic period*
M. Decker [University of Florida] - *Plants and Progress: Rethinking the Islamic Agricultural Revolution*

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00 **Greater Syria**

Chair: **K. Damgaard** [University of Copenhagen]

G. Avni [The Hebrew University of Jerusalem] - *Agriculture, irrigation systems, and technological innovations in Early Islamic Palestine and Jordan*

D. Genequand [Université de Genève] - *Agriculture and Economic development in Syria, 8th-10th centuries CE*

15.00-15.15 Tea

PORTS, SHIPS, RIVERS AND ROADS

15.15-16.45 **The Mediterranean World**

Chair: **Ch. Wickham** [Oxford]

K. Cytryn-Silverman [The Hebrew University of Jerusalem] - *The Road-Inns of the Early Islamic period in Bilad al-Sham: a bit more on the little known*

C. Fenwick [UCL] - *Trade without trace? Gold, slaves and the infrastructure of North African trading networks*

[15 min break]

17.00-18.30 **The Sea routes: Indian ocean and the red Sea**

Chair: **J. Howard-Johnston** [Oxford]

J. Cooper [University of Exeter] - *Nature and Nurture in the Navigational Landscape of the Medieval Egypt*

R. Darley [Birkbeck] - *Late Antique [c. 300-800] links between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean: disconnecting connectivity*

Saturday 5 December

Room B 111, Brunei Gallery, SOAS

09.00-10.30 **The river roads in Egypt and Iraq**

Chair: **H. Kennedy** [SOAS]

K. Damgaard [University of Copenhagen] - *Bahr al-Arab: Muslim Expansionism and the Formation of an Arabian Mercantile Complex in the Red Sea*

P. Verkinderen [Universität Hamburg] - *Water-ways in Iraq: Early Islamic River Transport*

10.30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-12.30 **The inland road networks in Central Asia**

Chair: **J. Howard-Johnston** [Oxford]

M. Jankowiak [Oxford] - *The Infrastructures of the Islamic Slave Trade*

P. Wordsworth [Oxford] - *Evaluating trade as the impetus for the establishment of marginal towns and remote outposts in the desert zones of Central Asia*

12.30-13.15 **Conclusion** **H. Kennedy** [SOAS], **F. Bessard** [St Andrews]

13.15 Lunch

Online registration is now open. Early registration is recommended.

To register, please e-mail Dr Fanny Bessard [fb67@st-andrews.ac.uk]

*A conference fee of £10 per day (£5 for students and unwaged)
is payable at the conference.*

The fee will cover teas/coffees, and refreshments.