Everything is on the Move:
The ”Mamluk Empire” as a Node in (Trans-)Regional Networks
International Conference
(6th – 9th December 2012)

In this conference, we try to understand the “Mamluk Empire”, not as a confined space but as a region where several nodes of different networks existed side-by-side and at the same time. In our opinion, these networks constitute to a great extent the core of the so-called Mamluk society; they form the basis of the social order.

Following, in part, concepts refined in the New Area Studies, recent reflections about the phenomenon of the “Empire – State”, trajectories in today’s Global History, and the spatial turn in modern historiography, we intend to identify a number of physical and cognitive networks with one or more nodes in Mamluk-controlled territories. In addition to this, one of the most important analytical questions would be to define the role of these networks in Mamluk society.

The conference proposed here takes seriously the challenge to investigate and understand the mechanisms, linkages and movements of a somewhat globalized region. It investigates the production and transformation of socio-cultural, economic, political and religious linkages and networks, focusing on the movements, transport and transfers of human beings, material objects, ideas, religions, technologies, diseases, music, images and “cargoes” through which alone such connections come to life.

The Mamluk Empire, as a macro region that has been traversed for two and a half centuries, can hardly be studied otherwise. Furthermore, its study is, to our mind, ideally suited to probing the translocal and transregional movements of people, things and ideas. A conference on “The Mamluk Empire as Node in (Trans-)Regional Networks” can thus achieve significant new insights into the issue of what we call “connectivity in motion”, that is, motion understood in spatial, temporal and socio-cultural senses.

Organisation
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Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)
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<td>Stephan Conermann (Bonn) Welcome</td>
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<td>Amr El Hawari (Bonn) Some Additional Remarks on Network Theories</td>
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<td>Stuart Borsch (Worcester) Trade and the Export Industries in Late Mamluk Egypt: Demand Elasticities and Production Possibilities</td>
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<td>Bethany Walker (Springfield/Bonn) Mobility and Migration in Mamluk Syria: The Dynanism of Villagers ‘on the Move’</td>
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<td>12:15-13:00</td>
<td>Malika Dekkiche/Jo van Steenberg Den (Ghent) The Politics of the Hajj: Networks and Meanings from Shaykh to Khushqadam (815-872 AH)</td>
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<td>Anna Angermann (Bonn) Al-Nuwayri’s History of the Mongols: A Case Study of a Mental Network</td>
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<td>Syrinx von Hees (Beirut) Poetic Motives as Travelling Concepts: Al-Nuwayri’s Anthological Chapter on White Hair</td>
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<td>Patrick Franke (Bamberg) Family Networks and the Rise of Mamluk Patronage in Late Medieval Mecca</td>
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<td>16:45-17:30</td>
<td>Veerle Adriaenssens (Ghent) Jânibak al-Ṣūfī (d. 841 AH) and the Intersection of Local and Transregional Networks in the 15th Century Mamluk Sultanate</td>
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<td>20:45-21:15</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Hayat N. Al Hajji (Kuwait) Ceremonial Address</td>
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<td>21:15-21:45</td>
<td>Miriam Kühn (Bamberg) “Stars, they come and go, [...] and all you see is glory” – Minbars as Emblems of Power in Intra-Mamluk Strife</td>
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<td>21:45-22:15</td>
<td>Richard McGregor (Nashville) The Periphery Becomes the Center: Rethinking the Hajj in the Mamluk Sultanate</td>
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<td>22:15-23:00</td>
<td>Thomas Herzog (Bern) Mamluk Trans-Societal Discourses on māl and zuhd – their Possible Institutional Framework(s)</td>
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**Friday 7th December**

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<td>14:00-14:45</td>
<td>Thomas Bauer (Münster) How to Create a Network and Destroy it again: the Case of Zain al-Dīn al-Atharī (765-828/1364-1425)</td>
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15:30-16:00 coffee break

16:00-16:45 Johannes Pahlitzsch (Mainz)
Networks of Greek Orthodox Monks and Clerics in the Eastern Mediterranean

18:30 Kilian Schmidtner (Berlin)
Presentation
The Missing Links: Defining the Mamluk Empire as a Node, and What the Network Knows about it

19:15 Reception
Department for Islamic Studies

Saturday 8th December

Chair Syrinx von Hees (Beirut)

09:30-10:15 Carl Petry (Chicago)
“Travel Patterns of Medieval Notables in the Near East” Revisited: a Reassessment of Motives and Circumstances

10:15-11:00 Henning Sievert (Bonn)
Very Special Relations: A Network Perspective on Mamluk Politics and Society

11:00-11:30 coffee break

11:30-1215 Moain Sadeq (Qatar)
Migration of Arts and Artisans within and beyond the Mamluk Territory

12:15-13:00 Linda Northrup (Toronto)
Physicians on the Move: the Mamluk Empire as a Magnet for Physicians of Foreign Origin and their Impact on Medicine and the Medical Profession

13:00-14:00 Lunch

Chair Henning Sievert (Bonn)

14:00-14:45 Michael Winter (Tel Aviv)
Sufism in the Mamluk Empire as a Focus for Religious, Intellectual and Social Networks

14:45-15:30 Torsten Wollina (Berlin)
News and Rumours – Sources of Local Knowledge on the Great Wide World

15:30-16:00 coffee break

16:00-16:45 Mohammad Gharaibeh (Bonn)
It’s all about Connections – The Importance of Personal Networks in the Life of Ibn Hajar

16:45-17:30 Miriam Frenkel (Haifa)
Medieval Jewish Pilgrims as Transmitters of Knowledge

Sunday 9th December

Chair Richard McGregor (Nashville)

09:30-10:15 Georg Christ (Manchester)
Beyond the Network – Connectors of Networks. Venetian Agents in Cairo and in the Red Sea

10:15-11:00 Yakov Josef (Tel Aviv)
Cross-Boundary Hatred: (Changing Attitudes towards Mongol and ‘Christian’ Mamluks in the Mamluk Sultanate

11:00-11:30 coffee break

11:30-1215 Yehoshua Frenkel (Haifa)
The Turks among the Nations. Mankind, Genealogy and Islamic ‘Herrschaft’

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Departure/Excursion