

Third Conference of the School of Mamlūk Studies
University of Chicago
June 23–25, 2016

Dear Participant,

Following please find information for organizing your travel to Chicago and for presenting your paper, as well as preliminary information on the conference schedule, which will be updated in the coming months. Please contact Marlis Saleh at the conference email (sms2016chicago@gmail.com) with any questions.

We look forward to welcoming you to Chicago in June.

Marlis J. Saleh
University of Chicago

On behalf of the organizing committee:
Frédéric Bauden
Université de Liège

Antonella Ghersetti
Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia

1. Conference Fees

The conference registration fee is \$40 for participants and attendees. If you would like to attend the farewell dinner on Saturday, June 25, the cost is \$50. Payment must be made in advance through this website:

<http://sms2016-chicago.ticketleap.com/smsregistration/>

The deadline for payment is April 30, 2016.

2. Travel

Chicago is served by two airports, O'Hare and Midway.

Getting to the University from O'Hare: Via public transit, the trip from O'Hare to Hyde Park takes the better part of two hours and costs \$5.25. From the baggage claim level, follow signs for the CTA Trains. In the station, buy yourself a CTA card; you'll use this to transfer from the train to the bus. With a CTA card, available through machines at the airport and at most train stations, bus and train fare is \$2.25, and a transfer costs 25 cents. If you don't purchase a CTA card, only buses accept cash, and they require exact change. Unlimited-ride visitor passes also are available for one, three, and seven days. For more information, visit www.transitchicago.com.

Board the Blue Line downtown and get off at Jackson, a roughly 45-minute ride. From here you'll head upstairs to street level, walk a block east to Jackson and State Streets, and catch the #6 bus, using your CTA card. This bus will take you straight to Hyde Park via the beautiful Lake Shore Drive. (You would get off at 57th Street to go straight to the conference [as shown here](#))

Alternatively, a taxi from O'Hare to Hyde Park costs \$40 to \$50 and takes about 45 minutes—except during rush hour, when it may take twice as long.

Getting to the University from Midway: Follow signs for the CTA Trains, which will also lead you to the CTA buses. Board the #55 bus to Hyde Park, get off at 55th Street and Ellis Avenue, and walk to the library [as shown here](#)

A taxi from Midway to Hyde Park costs about \$30 and takes about half an hour.

For both airports: The Chicago Transit Authority has [a helpful website](#) with details about airport transit. The Chicago Department of Aviation also has [a website](#) with details about airport terminal layouts and transportation options.

It is also possible now to use Uber to and from the airports: <https://www.uber.com/cities/chicago>
Available airport limo/shuttle services include
<http://www.airportexpress.com/>
<http://www.windycitylimos.com/>

Getting around Chicago: Downtown Chicago is known as “the Loop.” The quickest way to get from there to Hyde Park is to take the Metra Electric commuter rail or the #6 bus. To get to the conference site at Regenstein Library, get off at 57th Street and then walk west [as shown here](#).

To get anywhere beyond the Loop, the quickest route is to take the “L” trains (known as such whether they’re underground or elevated). From Hyde Park, take the #55 or the #59 bus west to where these streets intersect with the Green or the Red Line. Use [CTA Bus Tracker](#) to find out when the next bus is due.

[Thanks to MEHAT for permission to borrow and adapt this and other information from [their website](#), where further information on Hyde Park is available]

3. Accommodations

We have made arrangements for booking at the following options:

Hotels in Hyde Park:

Hyatt Place South (\$229)

Reserve online at

<http://chicagosouthuniversity.place.hyatt.com/chizugsmsc2016.html>

Or call the 24 hour reservations line at (800) 233-1234 and reference the School of Mamluk Studies Conference.

Reservations must be made by May 22, 2016

LaQuinta Inns & Suites (\$149)

<http://www.laquintachicagolakeshore.com/>

For reservations contact the hotel at 773-324-3000 or email eadams@hotelmanagersinc.com and reference the School of Mamluk Studies Conference

Reservations must be made by May 8, 2016

Other, Inexpensive Options in Hyde Park:

For all of these, the earlier you reserve, the better

Disciples Divinity House (\$75-85)

<http://ddh.uchicago.edu/resources/guest-room.shtml>

The house, which is affiliated with the University of Chicago Divinity School, has two guest rooms available for short-term stays. Each guest room has two twin beds and a private bathroom. Guest room rates are \$75 per night for one guest, and \$85 per night for two. To make a reservation, please call (773) 643-4411, or email Daette Lambert t-9daett@uchicago.edu and mention the School of Mamluk Studies Conference at the University.

Quaker House (\$60)

<http://www.57thstreetmeeting.org/ReservationInfo>

This is a good, inexpensive option for a self-organized group. The room in question has two full and two twin beds, a shared bathroom and a shared kitchen. The Quaker House is right in the heart of campus, a

very good and convenient location, 5615 S. Woodlawn Ave. To check availability please fill out the [Reservation Form](#) or call (773) 288-3066.

McCormick Seminary (\$60 single/\$90 double)

<http://mccormick.edu/content/guest-housing-facilities>

Another excellent inexpensive option. To reserve, contact Monica N. Williams, Coordinator of Guest Housing, by e-mail at mwilliams@mccormick.edu or by phone at (773) 947-6275.

In the Loop:

Club Quarters (\$162 single/\$180 double)

<http://clubquartershotels.com/chicago/wacker-at-michigan>

Reservation link:

<https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Chain=14601&Hotel=58315&template=CQmain&shell=CQH&locale=en-US&hotellist=WEB&group=UCL622>

When you select the correct dates the special group information will appear.

You may also email Memberservices@clubquarters.com and mention the group code UCL622, or call Club Quarters Member Services at (203) 905-2100 from Mon.-Fri. 7a-11p, Sat. 9a-5p and Sun. 10a-6p (EST).

Reservations must be made by 5/22/16

J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Hostel (\$34-129)

<http://www.hiusa.org/illinois/chicago/chicago>

There are several hostels in Chicago but HI-Chicago is the closest option. While still rather far away from the University of Chicago campus, it is accessible by the #6 Bus.

4. Conference Venue

The conference will be held in Room 122 of the Joseph Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago
1100 East 57th Street

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/reg/>

The room is to your left as you come in the front door, before passing through the turnstiles into the library.



Information for getting around the campus area:

[Buses around campus](#)

5. Conference Organization

Themed day: each paper is allotted 20 minutes. There will be sessions of two to three papers, each session having a chair and a discussant. The roles of the chair are (1) to make sure that the time allotted to each speaker and to the whole session is respected; (2) to lead the discussion that takes place at the end of each session. A

discussant (to be designated by mid-May) will engage in a debate with the presenters for about 15 minutes. The remaining time (about 15 minutes) will then be devoted to questions and remarks coming from the audience. Participants are kindly reminded that they must send their paper to their discussant by June 9.

Panels: each paper is allotted 20 minutes. The roles of the designated chair are (1) to make sure that the time allotted to each speaker and to the whole session is respected; (2) to lead the discussion that takes place at the end of each session. Discussion, questions, remarks are made at the end of each panel. 30 minutes are allotted for the discussion, regardless of the number of papers within a panel.

Technical: Powerpoint presentations are welcome. Though a computer will be available, it is recommended that you bring your own in order to avoid technical problems (fonts, images, etc.).

6. Program Listing

A detailed schedule will be circulated subsequently.

Themed day: Exchange in the Mamluk Sultanate: Economic & Cultural

June 23

Housni Alkhateeb Shehada (Levinsky College of Education; Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), “Mamluk Acquisition of Horses and Slaves: A Comparative Approach”

Hannah Barker (Rhodes College), “Boys Like Gold Coins: The Trade in Mamluks for the Mamluk Sultanate”

Stuart Borsch (Assumption College), “Exchange Systems, Human Capital, and Technological Regression”

Malika Dekkiche (University of Antwerp), “The Right of Embassy: Pattern of Exchanges and Recognition in the Mamluk Sultanate”

Amina Elbendary (American University in Cairo), “Food and Social Exchange in Ibn Tawq’s Diaries”

Rania Elsayed (Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan University), “The Pureblood Horse as a Currency of Exchange in the Mamluk Sultanate”

Nathan Hofer (University of Missouri), “Baraka and Commodity Fetishism: A Study in Mamluk Political Economy”

Milana Iliushina (National Research University Higher School of Economics [HSE]), “Concubines, Daughters and Wives: Family Ties inside the ‘Dynasty’ of Circassian Sultans”

Mustafa I. Kaya (University of Chicago), “Difficult Deal: Mystics, Rulers and the Terms of Patronage in the Early 14th Century”

Ellen Kenney (American University in Cairo), “Makers On-the-Move: Mobility and Artistic Exchange in Mamluk Material Culture”

Adeline Laclau (Aix-Marseille University), “Economic and Cultural Exchanges between Mamluks and Ilkhanids: The Example of Manuscript Productions”

Fadi Ragheb (University of Toronto), “Mamlūk-Timurid Embassy Exchanges and the Gifting of a Mātūrīdī Tafsīr: a Historical and Bio-bibliographical Inquiry”

Rebecca Sauer (Heidelberg University), “The Penbox (Dawāt): an Object between Everyday Practices and Mamlūk Courtly Gift Culture”

Panels

June 24–25

Aesthetics and Performance of Knowledge: The Social and Courty Roles of Scholarship in Mamluk Cairo

Chair: Elias G. Saba (University of Pennsylvania)

Yehoshua Frenkel (University of Haifa), “The Social Role of Knowledge and Scholarship”

Christian Mauder (University of Göttingen), “From Quizzing to Religious Policy: Kalām Debates in Sultan al-Ghawrī’s Majālis”

Matthew L. Keegan (New York University), “Legal Riddles, Levity, and the Law: From Alghāz to Furū’”

Elias G. Saba (University of Pennsylvania), “Forms of Law: Ritual Purity in the Works of Jamāl al-Dīn al-Asnawī”

Between Narrative Representation of Individuals and Discursive Production of Identities

Chair: Kristof D’hulster (University of Ghent)

Kristof D’hulster (University of Ghent), “Looking at Mamluk Biographical Dictionaries through the Lens of Physiognomy”

Stephan Conermann (University of Bonn), “Baybars and his Amirs as Depicted by Izz al-Dīn Ibn Shaddad (d. 1285) in his al-Rawd al-Zahir fī Sirat al-Malik al-Zahir—Fact or Fiction?”

Mohammad Gharaibeh (University of Bonn), “Biographical Dictionaries in the Service of the Intellectual Agenda of Religious Scholars”

Anna Katharina Angermann (University of Bonn), “From Othering to Appropriation? Representing Mongols, Muslims and Muslim Mongols”

Beyond Cairo and Damascus: Archaeological Contributions to the Study of Mamluk Frontiers

Chair: Bethany J. Walker (University of Bonn)

Bethany J. Walker (University of Bonn), “What is a ‘Village’?: A Comparative Study of Village Society and Land Use in Mamluk-Era Bilād al-Shām”

Reem Samed Al Shqour (University of Bonn), “The Economics of the Rural and Urban Khān Markets of Mamluk Jordan”

John P. Cooper (University of Exeter), “Mamluk Manzala: Reconfiguring a Landscape”

A. Asa Eger (University of North Carolina at Greensboro), “Patronage and Commerce on the Northern Frontier at the Twilight of Mamluk Rule”

Endowments as Source for Mamluk Social History

Chair: Yossef Rapoport (tentative) (Queen Mary University of London)

Munther El-Sabbagh (University of California, Santa Barbara), “Sāra b. Ibn al-Mūzallaq’s (c. 890s/1490s) Waqf Management in Perspective: Elite Women’s Use of Waqf-Sourced Credit as a Means of Social Currency in Late Mamluk Damascus”

Amenah F. Abdulkarim (Queen Mary University of London), “Mamluk Endowment Deeds and the Regulations of Building Craft”

Sarra Hilali (University of Chicago), “Towards a Reexamination of the Role of Mamluk Women in Madrasas and Ribats”

Literature in Mamluk Times Revisited—Poetry, Prosimetrum and Poetics

Chair: Hakan Özkan (University of Münster)

Syrinx von Hees (University of Münster), “Sorry, but This is Not White Hair Excuse-Poems—a Special Rhetorical Device as Presented by aṣ-Ṣafadī”

Stephan Toelke (University of Münster), “Ibn Nubāta’s Anthological Composition of Prose and Poetry in his Fürstenspiegel Sulūk Duwal al-Mulūk”

Hakan Özkan (University of Münster), “Why Stress Does Matter—New Material on Zajal-Metrics”

Makings of the Military and Political Elite in the Mamluk Sultanate

Chair: Nobutaka Nakamachi (Konan University)

Takao Ito (Kobe University), “Slave Traders and Mamluks”

Wakako Kumakura (University of Tokyo), “Reconsideration of the Mamluk Iqṭā‘ System on the Basis of an Ottoman Register”

Nobutaka Nakamachi (Konan University), “The Life of a Quasi-Mamluk, Ibn al-‘Aynī: Was He a Military Man or a Civilian?”

Mamluk Patronage: An Expansion of a Traditional Concept

Chair: Iman R. Abdulfattah (University of Bonn)

Iman R. Abdulfattah (University of Bonn), “From Behind the Scenes: Amir Sanjar al-Shujā‘ī’s Involvement in Building the Complex of Qalawūn”

Noha Abou-Khatwa (University of Toronto), “Continuity and Change: Quran Manuscripts of Sultan Faraj ibn Barqūq”

Hani Hamza (Independent Scholar), “Small is Beautiful: Zawiyya of al-Nāṣir Faraj (811/1408)”

Dina Ishak Bakhoun (Université Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne), “The Comité de Conservation des Monuments de l’Art Arabe and its Members: Patrons of the Study of Mamluk Architecture in Egypt”

Mamluk Receptions

Chair: Adam Talib (American University in Cairo)

Elias Muhanna (Brown University), “The European Reception of Mamluk Encyclopedias in the 17th-18th Centuries”

Adam Talib (American University in Cairo), “Mamluk Literature for Modern Tastes: Ibn al-Wardī’s Poem Rhyming in Lām as a Tracer”

Ahmed El Shamsy (University of Chicago), “The Rediscovery of Mamluk Encyclopedias in Modern Egypt”

Joel Blecher (Washington & Lee University), “Trustees across the Ocean: The Afterlife of Mamluk Hadith Commentary in India”