Fourth Conference of the School of Mamlūk Studies
American University of Beirut
May 11-13, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

This circular contains information for organizing your travel arrangements to and accommodations and transportation in Beirut, as well as preliminary information on the conference schedule, which will be updated in the coming months. Please contact John Meloy at the conference email (sms2017beirut@gmail.com) with any questions.

We look forward to welcoming you to Beirut in May.

John Meloy, American University of Beirut
On behalf of the organizing committee:
Frédéric Bauden, Université de Liège
Antonella Ghersetti, Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia
Marlis J. Saleh, University of Chicago

1. Conference Fees
The conference registration fee is $50 for participants and attendees. Payment must be made in advance through this website operated by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of the American University of Beirut:
https://fasstore.aub.edu.lb/
The website will be open for payment on February 15, 2017. Please note that the deadline for payment is April 1, 2017. A reminder will be sent when the website is open.
Reservations for the farewell dinner on Saturday, May 13 may be made on the same website: details will be announced soon. Please note that the registration fee and the architecture course fee do not include the farewell dinner.

2. Conference Venue
The conference will be held in Auditorium B1 of College Hall at the American University of Beirut. College Hall is the university's main administration building, easily distinguished by its clock tower, accessed from the Main Gate of the university on Bliss Street.

3. Accommodations
Beirut offers a range of hotel accommodations, ranging from luxurious to frugal. The following hotels are located in the neighborhood of AUB, within short walking distance to the university and offer convenient access to restaurants, coffee shops, and bars. The higher- and medium range hotels offer breakfast, wifi, etc. Information on other hotels in the neighborhood can be provided as well.

Higher range: ca. $110 to $130/night:
The Crowne Plaza Beirut:
www.cpbeirut.com; +961-1-754755
Conference attendees who wish to stay in the Crowne Plaza need only state that they are attending the Mamluk studies conference to secure the university's corporate rate.

The Gefinor Rotana Beirut:
https://www.rotana.com/rotanahotelandresorts/lebanon/beirut/gefinorrotana?awsa_c=BPNALLON&awsa_k=brandterm&ckibe=PPCRO&pk_campaign=BPNALLON&gclid=CNyRgO6a4tECFRKeGwodbOIANA; +961-1-371888

Conference attendees who wish to stay in the Gefinor Rotana are requested to notify the conference organizer who will send the names to the hotel to secure the university's corporate rate.

Medium range: ca. $65 to $80/night:
The Mayflower Hotel:
http://www.mayflowerbeirut.com/; +961-1-340680
Conference attendees who wish to stay in the Mayflower need only state that they are attending the Mamluk Studies conference at AUB to secure the university's corporate rate.

The Plaza Hotel:
reservations@plazabeirut.com; +961-1-755777

Lower range: ca. $40 to $50/night:
The University (no breakfast; charge for wifi):
www.university-hotel.net; +961-1-365390/1/2

Napoli Hotel (no breakfast; no wifi)
napolihotel@yahoo.com; +961-1-355030

4. Money.
Please note that Lebanese pounds ($1=LL1508; 1 Euro=LL1611) and US dollars may be used in transactions in Lebanon. When dollars are used in day-to-day transactions, a rate of $1=LL1500 is considered standard. Change will usually be made in Lebanese currency, but sometimes also in dollar notes. Automated teller machines offer both types of currency.

5. Food.
Regarding daily expenses, depending on one's appetite for *falafil* and *mana'eesh*, a meal can range from a couple dollars to meal prices and types comparable to those in Europe and North America. Bliss Street, which runs along the south side of the university, offers a variety of convenient lunch possibilities ranging from restaurants to coffee shops to sandwich stalls. Tea, coffee, and snacks will be offered during conference breaks.

6. Transportation in Beirut.
The most efficient way to get into the city from the Rafic Hariri International Airport is by a reserved taxi. The hotel where you stay can arrange this service for you at a rate of about $25 to $30 per trip. There are also a number of companies that provide this service, including the following:
Allo Taxi http://www.allo.taxi/home/
Charlie Taxi https://charlietaxi.charlie-group.com/index.php

The rates will be about $25-$30 one way. Depending on traffic, the trip will take about twenty minutes.
Another possibility is Uber:
https://www.uber.com/en-LB/cities/beirut/
Please note that the "Airport" taxis that wait curbside at the airport are somewhat more expensive.

Getting around Beirut: Transportation within Beirut is also available from these companies at fixed rates. Also, note that to get around the city, independent taxis and collective taxis (*servees*) are ubiquitous but require a certain amount of negotiation. Taxi fares will be LL10,000 to LL20,000, depending on various factors; a standard *servees* fare is LL2,000. A bus system operates here, but information on routes is best acquired locally; transfer by public bus from the airport to the city is not convenient or regular.

7. Travel to Lebanon.
Concerning visa and passport requirements, all attendees should consult with Lebanese consular officials in their country of residence well before departure. In some cases, officials may ask visa applicants for an invitation letter, which can be supplied upon request.

8. Conference Organization
Themed portion: each paper is allotted 20 minutes. There will be two sessions of 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-April) 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 April 27.

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. About 30 minutes are allotted for the discussion, regardless of the number of papers within a panel.

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

9. Program Listing.
A detailed schedule will be circulated subsequently.

Thursday, May 11
Themed papers: *Time.*

Fien De Block (Ghent University), "*Al-zīj al-jadīd* as an Instrument for Timekeeping in Early Fifteenth Century Cairo."

Jan Hagedorn (St Andrews University), "Time, Age, and Experience in the Working Lives of Slaves."

Milana Iliushina (National Research University Higher School of Economics), "How Long before Obtaining the Throne? The Factor of Time in Mamluks' Careers under the Circassian Sultanate."

Christian Mauder (University of Bonn), "Only Once Every One Hundred Years? The Concept of Cyclical Renewal *(tajdīd*) in Late Mamluk Political Culture."

Cihan Yüksel Muslu (University of Houston), "The Impact of Time on Ottoman-Mamluk Relations."

Torsten Wollina (Orient-Institut Beirut), "Time in Muḥammad Ibn Ṭūlūn's (d. 955/1548) Historical Corpus."

Panels

New Perspectives on Late Medieval Arabic Historiography: History, Order, and Truth in/of the Cairo Sultanate.
Chair: Konrad Hirschler (Freie Universität Berlin).

Jo Van Steenbergen (Ghent University), "From the Court in Cairo to the Kingdoms of the Franks: Political Order and World-Making in 15th-Century Egyptian Chronicles."

Josephine Van den Bent (University of Amsterdam), "Wanderers, Miraculous Births, and Blacksmiths: Mongol Origin Stories in Mamlūk Histories."

Mohamad El-Merheb (SOAS, University of London; London), "'Les Lieux de Mémoire' of 13th Century Shāfiʿī Political Thought in Late Medieval Arabic Historiography."

Nathan Hofer (University of Missouri), "Mamluk Biographical Dictionaries as Expressions of Class Consciousness."

Declining or Rejuvenate? Some Glimpses of Reassessment on Late Mamluk Metalwork.
Chair: Carine Juvin (Louvre Museum).

Shireen El Kassem (Bonn University), "Late Mamluk Helmets: Innovation or Inspiration?"

Sami L. Di Giosa (University of Oxford), "A Sultana Made of Brass: Fatima Khawand and Her Metalworking Style."

Carine Juvin (Louvre Museum), "Civilian Elite and Metalwork: A View from the Edge."

Friday, May 12

Documents and Archives in the Mamlūk Period.
Chair: Konrad Hirschler (Freie Universität Berlin).

Tamer El-Leithy (Johns Hopkins University), "The Traveling Documents of Late-Mamlūk Damascus: The Circulation of Private Legal Documents (1480-1500 AD)."

Garrett Davidson (College of Charleston), "Paratextual Reading and Audition Notices in Mamluk Manuscripts."

Daisy Livingston (SOAS, University of London), "The Archival Value of the Waqf-Related Documents of Mamlūk Cairo: The Case of *istibdāl*."

Konrad Hirschler (Freie Universität Berlin), "Documentary Life-Cycles: Reuse of Mamluk Legal Documents."

Negotiating and Performing Communal Identities: New Texts on Christian and Muslim Clerical Élites and in Relation to the Mamluk State.
Chair: Jo Van Steenbergen (Ghent University).

Luke Benson Yarbrough (NYU Abu Dhabi Institute), "New Fatwas on Syrian Monks, Poll Tax, and Churches from the Early Eighth/Fourteenth Century."

Mohamed Saad Maslouh (Ghent University), "What is the Church and Who Are the Copts? The Coptic Patriarch's Definition of the Church's Authority, and Organization of Its Relations with the 'State' in the Late Fifteenth Century."

Gowaart Van Den Bossche (Ghent University), "Destroying Churches by Performing Knowledge: A Social Discursive Reading of Ibn al-Rifʿa's *Kitāb al-nafā'is fī adillat hadm al-kanā'is*."

The Uncovering of Mamluk Beirut.
Chair: May Farhat

Howayda al-Harithy (American University of Beirut), "Connecting the Dots: Tracing Beirut's Mamluk Urban Layer."

Warren Schultz (DePaul University) "The Sūqs of Medieval Beirut: The Numismatic Evidence."

May Farhat (University of the Holy Spirit, Kaslik), "Beirut's Great 'Umari Mosque: A Contested History."

Pierre Moukarzel (Lebanese University), "Beirut's Church of Saint Savior under the Mamluks."

Women in Mamluk and Early Ottoman Documentary Sources.
Chair: Daisuke Igarashi

Daisuke Igarashi (Chukyo University), "Father's Will, Daughter's Waqf."

Wakako Kumakura (Waseda University), "From Beneficiaries to Landowners: Patterns of Landholding and Women's Involvement."

Takao Ito (Kobe University), "A Princess and Her Endowment."

Saturday, May 13

Ibn Taymiyya's Impact on Mamlūk Religion and Society.
Chair: Caterina Bori

Jon Hoover (University of Nottingham), "Ibn Taymiyya's Impact on Early 14th Century Mamlūk Ashʿarism."

Arjan Post (Utrecht University), "Ibn Taymiyya versus the Shādhiliyya: A Refutation and Its Impact."

Abdelkader Al Ghouz (Annemarie-Schimmel-Kolleg, Bonn University), "The Cociology of Arabic Philosophy in 14th Cairo: Shams al-Dīn al-Iṣfahānī (d. 1348) and His Scholarly Network."

Caterina Bori (University of Bologna), "Defending the Right to Acknowledge Ibn Taymiyya as Shaykh al-Islām: Ibn Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Dimashqī's *al-Radd al-Wāfir* and Its Concerns."

Aṣ-Ṣafadī as Critic and Commentator.
Chair: Matthew Keegan

Matthew Keegan (New York University), "What is an Author? Theories of Authorship in al-Ṣafadī's *Nuṣrat al-Thāʾir*."

Elias Muhanna (Brown University), "Paronomastic Play in al-Ṣafadī's *Jinān al-jinās*."

Adam Talib (American University in Cairo), "Emblematic or Exceptional? aṣ-Ṣafadī's *Ghayth* and ad-Damāmīnī's *Nuzūl*."

The Oral and the Written: Cultures of Transmission across the ʿulūm.
Chair: Anthony T. Quickel

Ahmad Nazir Atassi (Louisiana Tech University), "Analyzing the Interest in Transmitting Ibn Sa'd's *Kitāb al-Ṭabaqāt al-Kabīr* during the Early Mamluk Period."

Torsten Wollina (Orient Institut Beirut), "The Transmission of Ibn Ṭūlūn's *taʿālīq*."

Mariam Sheibani (University of Chicago), "Authorship and Textual Transmission in Medieval Islamic Law: ʿIzz al-Dīn b. ʿAbd al-Salām's *Qawāʿid al-aḥkām*."

Christopher Bahl (SOAS, University of London), "The Transregional Circulation of Arabic Grammar Books during the Late Mamluk Period."

Medicine in Mamluk Times: From Professionals to Daily Life
Chair: Thomas Thiemann

Syrinx von Hees (Muenster University), "Medical Care for the Elderly: What Can We Learn from Biographies?"

Stephan Toelke (Muenster University), "Plagued by the Plague and Not Much Time? Read this Quick Guide! Ibn Abī Ḥağalah's *Ṭibb al-masnūn fī dafʿ aṭ-ṭāʿūn*."

Thomas Thiemann (Muenster University)
"Narcotics in Mamluk Egypt: Not Everything is Hashish."