

Contact

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In order to attend please register

by Oct. 15, 2023, with

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RomanIslam
Center for Comparative Empire
and Transcultural Studies



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The entanglement of law, economy, and demographics is delicate and complicated. Looking at the growth of cities might provide a yardstick for intercultural comparison. Other factors such as political structures, geography, climate, and epidemics influence the growth of economies and populations, too. Thereby, the difference between pull and push factors seems often to be blurred. Undoubtedly, the 8th and 9th centuries were an extraordinarily prosperous time for the Islamic Empire, after which economy, population, and urbanism started to decline. On the other hand, the Latin Christian world gained momentum at around 1200 with an unprecedented growth until the Early Modern period. Altogether, available sources for a macroeconomic assessment and the demographics of both developments – narrative sources and the archival remains – do not easily lend themselves to comparison. Weber’s idea of autonomous mercantile cities as the cradle of capitalism, reformation, and protestant ethics places deficiencies on the side of the Islamic world, but does not answer why it was so successful to begin with. In that, Weber’s approach was flawed by the Orientalist discourse of the time.

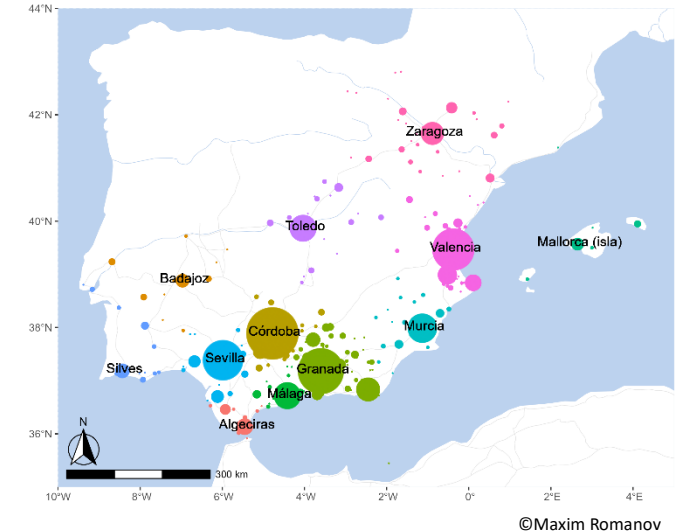
A systematic successful comparative view has not been undertaken yet. Here, the workshop is meant to open up a larger discussion. We so explore the economic foundations, economic and demographic trends, their measurement with proxy indicators, and also the reliability of such assessments. One factor deserves our special attention, that is the role of law in these processes, such as the establishment of Islamic law in the 8th and 9th centuries, and the legal revolution in 13th century Europe.

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Demography, Economy and Law in (Post-)Imperial Worlds, 800–1600: Latin Europe and the Western Islamic World in Comparison Workshop

Universität Hamburg, October 17, 2023



RomanIslam – Center for Comparative Empire and Transcultural Studies (Early Islam)

U+H
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Forschungsgemeinschaft
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Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Room 11, ESA 1,
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1,
Hamburg

13:30 Registration

Introduction and welcome

14:00 **Stefan Heidemann**
RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg

Hans-Bernd Schäfer
Bucerius Law School



Qadi of Ma'arra © wikipedia/Austrian National Library

Panel 1

14:15 **Hans-Bernd Schäfer**
Bucerius Law School
Fundamental Institutional Changes in Latin Europe from 1100 to 1300

15:00 **Rok Spruk**
School of Economics and Business,
University of Ljubljana
Islamic Law and the Roots of the Middle East's Long Divergence: A Comparative Investigation

15:45 Coffee break

Panel 2

16:00 **Stefan Heidemann**
RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg
Economic History and the Reach of the Empire

16:45 **Maxim Romanov**
Universität Hamburg
Arabic Biographical Collections as a Source for Modeling Social Transformations, Cultural Production, and Demography

Roundtable discussion

17:30 Roundtable discussion

- How adequate are the proxy indicators for population growth?
- The role of fiscal regimes and governance
- The role of legal systems and their enforcement

18:15 End of the workshop

19:30 Dinner at *La Pergola Due*



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