The Maghreb and Iberian Peninsula witnessed major political and cultural developments between Late Antiquity and the Early and Middle Islamic Period. In some regions, tribes became virtually autonomous, and in others, emirates arose that were integrated into broader, cross-African networks. As the region’s relationship with the political entities of the western Mediterranean changed, so too did its connections with the eastern Mediterranean world and sub-Saharan Africa become denser and more complex.

This workshop seeks to understand how these shifts in the post-conquest political order of the Islamic West were reflected in trade routes and commercial hubs across the region. It also asks how researchers can use material culture as a source for understanding these shifts. The study of objects and their contexts reveals not only the changes in taste, but also the mobility of craftsmen, the movement of goods, and finally the changing urban and commercial dynamics across time and space.

We invite the participants to take an interdisciplinary approach, using both material culture and literary evidence to investigate four main topics:

- Impact of Trade
- Administration of the Circulation of Goods and Merchandise
- Axes and Routes of Trade
- Objects and their Mobility
Thursday Oct. 5, 2023

AS-Saal, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, 20146 Hamburg

9.00 Registration

9.30 Stefan Heidemann (RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg). Introduction and Welcome

9.50 Antonia Bosanquet (University of Utrecht), Nouri Boukhchim (Université de Tunis), Meriem Marzouki (Université de Tunis). Conference Introduction

10.10 Ramzi Rouighi (University of Southern California). Keynote Speech “What is a North African Region?”

11.00 Coffee Break

Panel 2. Axes and Routes of Trade

14.45 Tarek Kahlaoui (Mediterranean School of Business). The Idrisian Mediterranean as Part of Roger II’s Conquest Project

15.30 Ahmed El Bahi (Université de Kairouan, Tunisia). Une route prédésertique inconnue reliant le Jebel Dimmir à Oued Souf durant le Haut Moyen Age

16.15 Coffee Break

16.30 Kurt Franz (RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg). Trans-Saharan Trails on the Eve of Aghlabid Rule, 184/800

19.00 Conference Dinner

Friday Oct. 6, 2023

AS-Saal, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, 20146 Hamburg

Panel 3. The Administration of the Circulation of Goods and Merchandise

9.30 Mohammed Ben Abbès - online (Université de Tunis). Le commerce tribal au Maghreb entre la fin de l’Antiquité et le début du Moyen-Age

10.15 Mohamed Ghodhbane - online (Université El Manar, Tunisia). Sijilmassa dans la politique fatimide au IV/Xe siècle : atelier monétaire fournisseur de l’or

11.00 Coffee Break

Panel 4. Objects and Their Mobility

11.15 Susana Gómez Martínez (University of Evora, ECS - School of Social Sciences, Department of History). Évidences du commerce dans « le Garb al-Andalus » au XIIème siècle : la céramique

12.00 Chokri Touihri - online (Institut National du Patrimoine). Circulation des céramiques de l’Ifriqiya en méditerranée au lendemain de la chute de Carthage : Un premier bilan d’une continuité ?

12.45 Lunch Break

Roundtable Discussion

14.15 Antonia Bosanquet, Nouri Boukhchim, Stefan Heidemann, Meriem Marzouki. Future Outlook

15.00 End of the Conference

19.00 Dinner

INFORMATION AND ABSTRACTS