

Contact

Prof. Dr. Stefan Heidemann

DFG Center for Advanced Study

“RomanIslam – Center for Comparative Empire and Transcultural Studies”

Universität Hamburg

E: stefan.heidemann@uni-hamburg.de

Katharina Mewes

DFG Center for Advanced Study

“RomanIslam – Center for Comparative Empire and Transcultural Studies”

Universität Hamburg

Phone: +49 40 42838-2994

E: katharina.mewes@uni-hamburg.de

In order to attend online or in presence please register by **December 4, 2023** with katharina.mewes@uni-hamburg.de

More: www.romanislam.uni-hamburg.de



How can objects reveal processes of cultural and social change in the Early Islamic period? Any ‘object’, in the broadest possible meaning, is the material result of complex entangled social, economic, and even transcultural processes that lead to its creation, use, and disposal. Disentangling these, or in a way retro-engineering these processes, can shed light on the agency of craftsmen, consumers, patrons, and users, and thus also on its larger social embeddedness. The ‘object’ would not exist without a culture of professional training, a legal system, labor laws, monetary exchanges, transport infrastructure, or simply the prevailing taste. In order to unravel the ‘object’ as a historical source, it needs contextualization with a wide assortment of literary sources, and scholarly methods.

The workshop is organized along two axes. The first centers on ‘object biographies’, tracing the life story of objects from their inception on. The second axis stresses the social embeddedness of objects, of what they reveal to us regarding the individual agents in these processes, and how their life cycles are influenced by religious, legal, and economic patterns.



Anthropology of the Object Hybrid Workshop

Universität Hamburg
December 7–8, 2023



Bowl with Griffin, Egypt, 11th century CE
© The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

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



Thursday, December 7, 2023

AS, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, Hamburg

10:00 Registration

10:15 **Stefan Heidemann, Kurt Franz**
(RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg)
Introduction and Welcome

10:30 **Wendy Shaw**
(Freie Universität Berlin)
For the Birds? Seeds for an Islamic Museum

11:15 **Stefan Heidemann**
(RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg)
Anthropology of Objects – Case Study: Coins as
Objects in Circulation and their Social
Embeddedness

12:00 Coffee Break



Casting model for jewellery, c. 10th century CE
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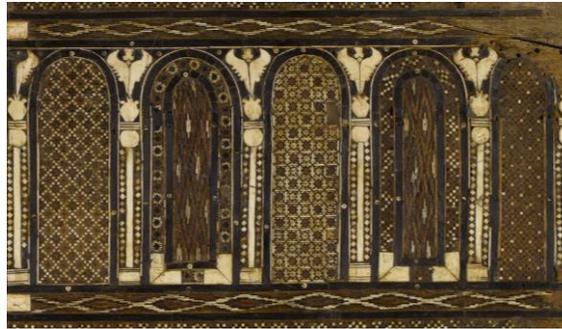
12:15 **José C. Carvajal López**
(Instituto de Ciencias del Patrimonio, Santiago)
Islamization in Flows: From Object Biographies
to Non-Object Flows

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 **Jorge Elices Ocón**
(Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
Agents of Spoliation: Transcultural Circulation
and Meanings of Ancient Spolia in Medieval
Mediterranean Societies

14:45 **Georg Leube**
(Universität Bayreuth)
The Spatiality of a *lieu de mémoire*: The Ruins of
the Achaemenid *tachara* at Persepolis/Takht-i
Jamshīd and Their Appropriation in
Pre-Industrial Islamicate Cultural History

15:30 Coffee Break



Wood panel, Egypt, 7th century CE
© The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

15:45 **Hagit Nol**
(Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main)
Dipinto Jars from the Southern Mediterranean,
6th–8th Centuries: Archaeological Thoughts
about Object Lifecycles and Innovations

16:30 **Ramzi Rouighi · online**
(University of Southern California, Los Angeles)
A Bundle of Clothes in a Sufi Pickle

17:15 **Stefan Heidemann, Kurt Franz**
(RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg)
Conclusions, Day One

19:00 Dinner

Friday, December 8, 2023

AS, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, Hamburg

10:00 **Nicolas Mias**
(Universidad del País Vasco – EHU, Álava)
Power and Construction: Large Ashlar Masonry
in Early Medieval Architecture in the Ebro Basin

10:45 **Amira Bennison · online**
(University of Cambridge)
Jewels, Silks and Artefacts: The Provenance and
Meaning of Medieval Maghribi Procession Pieces

11:30 Coffee Break

11:45 **Abigail Balbale**
(New York University)
The Lead Seal of ‘Abd al-Raḥmān b. Mu’āwiya al-
Dākhil and the Beginnings of Umayyad al-Andalus

12:30 **Stefan Heidemann, Kurt Franz**
(RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg)
Roundtable: Object Biographies and Social
Embeddedness

13:15 End of the Workshop

14:00 Lunch



Bowl, 10th century CE, glazed and painted earthenware with luster
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INFORMATION AND ABSTRACTS

<https://www.romanislam.uni-hamburg.de/events-news/news/anthropology-of-the-object.html>