



Workshop

Empire, Capital and Rurality in the Modern Middle East

23-24 April 2026

Humanities Institute
Seminar Room H204
University College Dublin

Organized by the ERC-funded project CAPITALEAST, School of History, UCD



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Thursday, 23 April 2026

09.30-10.00 - Opening

M. Talha Çiçek (University College Dublin)

10.00-11.00 - Panel I: Early Modern Ottoman Period

Chair: *Abdulhamit Kırmızı (University College Dublin)*

- *Habib Saçmalı (Marmara University)*
Between the Desert and the State: Administrative Hybridity and Tribal Agency of the Mawali Confederation (17th – Mid-18th Centuries)
- *Faisal Husain (Helena Rubenstein University Endowed Fellow in the Humanities/Penn State University)*
Hydro-Capitalism in Eighteenth-Century Iraq

11.00-11.30 - Coffee Break

11.30 -13.00 - Panel II: Imperial Trade Commodities I

Chair: *Sohee Ryuk (University College Dublin)*

- *Sevde Bolat (University College Dublin/ Istanbul Medeniyet University)*
Power, Identity, and Diplomacy along the Shatt al-Arab: Date Gardens of as-Sabah Family
- *Şule Aksu (University College Dublin)*
Global Trade and the Environment: The transformation of the Ledjah Highland
- *Abdulhamit Kırmızı (University College Dublin)*
The Ottoman Pastoral Commodity Frontier: Tribal Economies and the Regulation of Livestock Exports

13.00-14.15 - Lunch Break

14.15-15.45 – Imperial Trade Commodities II

Chair: *Tylor Brand (Trinity College Dublin)*

- *Joan Chaker (Harvard University/Orient Institute Beirut)*
Mules, Tobacco, and the Limits of Imperial Capital: Commodification and Rural Agency in Ottoman Mount Lebanon
- *Hatice Kamali (University College Dublin)*
Navigating the Tigris: Steamships, Local Agency, and the Wool Commodity Frontier in Ottoman Iraq
- *M. Talha Çiçek (University College Dublin)*
The Camel in the Modern History of the Middle East: War, Commerce and Politics

Friday, 24 April 2026

10.00-11.00- Panel IV: Landed Property, Sovereignty and Protection

Chair: *Ramazan Hakkı Öztan (Trinity College Dublin)*

- *Salma Hargal (Sciences Po Lyon)*

An Algerian community in Palestine (1871-1914): Resettlement, land tenure and French-Ottoman legal quarrels

- *Safiah al-Salameen (University of Jordan)*

Commodifying Security: Tribal Protection of the Ottoman Syrian Hajj Caravan (Late Nineteenth–Early Twentieth Centuries)

11.00-12.00 - Panel V: Tribes, Economy and State-building

Chair: *Jennifer Keating (University College Dublin)*

- *Yener Koç (Kadir Has University)*

Nomadic Tribes and Ottoman Provisionist Policies: The Politics of “Enforced Labour” in Central and Western Anatolia during the Early Tanzimat Era

- *Laura Stocker (University College Dublin)*

Livestock as National Commodity: Bedouin, Borders, and the Making of Post-Ottoman Middle East

Lunch: 12.00-13.15

13.15-13.45 - Concluding Remarks

Ayhan Aktar (Istanbul Bilgi University)

13.45-15.15 - Final Discussion