

Guest Lecture

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The Business Network of a Caravan Entrepreneur across the Middle Eastern Countryside (1880s-1920s)

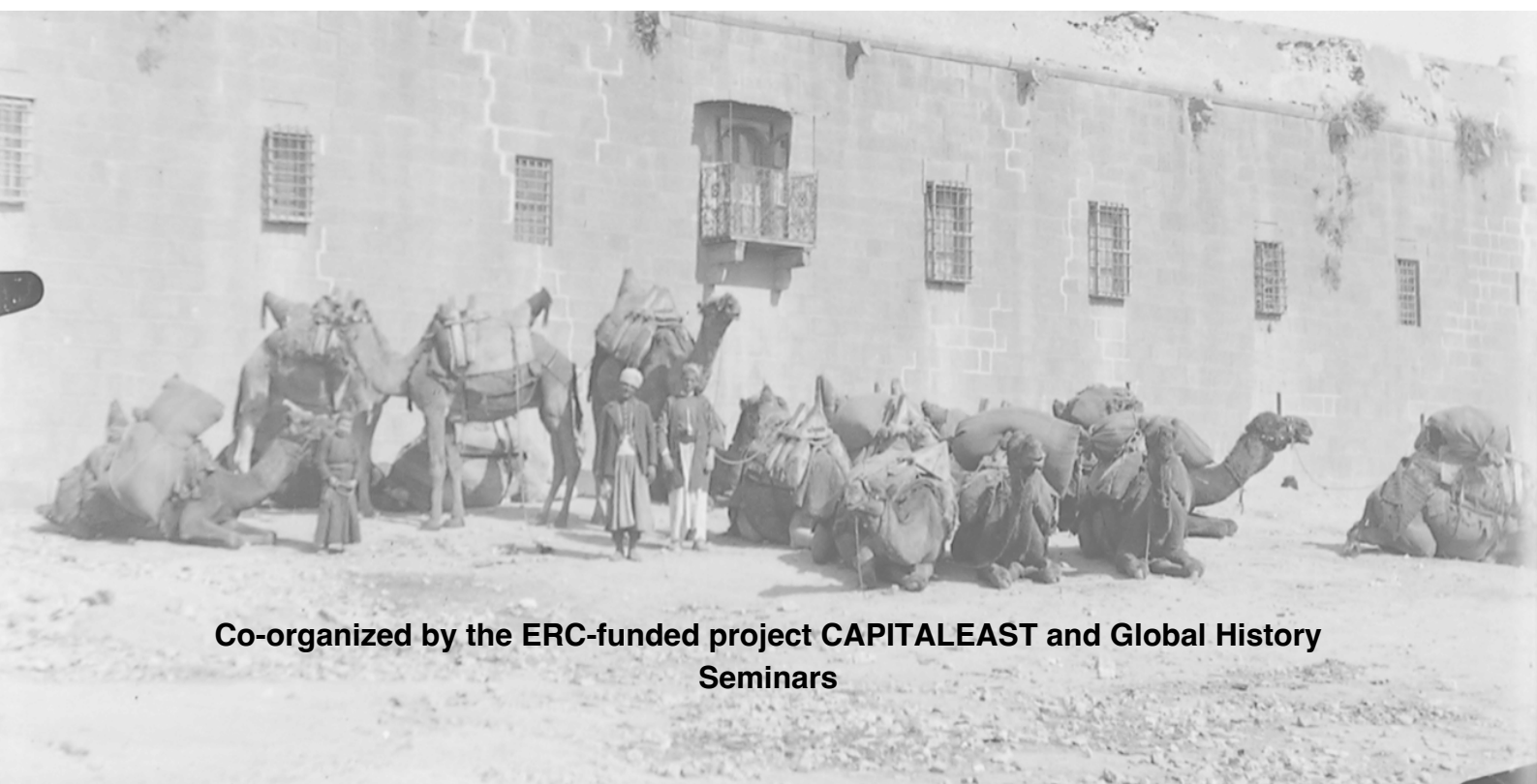
UCD School of History/Scoil na Staire UCD

Seminar Room K114

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16.00

From the 1880s to the late 1920s, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Bassam's life story takes us across the Middle Eastern countryside. As a caravan entrepreneur (the most famous of his kind between Syria and Iraq in the early 20th century) and as an investor in land holdings developing along railway lines and in new agricultural areas, his story illustrates the transformations in the Middle East's domestic economy. The documentary evidence he left behind highlights the methodological challenge posed by the history of the Middle East's interior. They reveal how rural areas, their animals, their inhabitants (sedentary farmers, nomadic herders), their political organisations and their economic institutions in the Middle East contributed to capitalist globalisation from the late Ottoman period to the spost-Ottoman era.



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