



# The Early Islamic Empire Lecture Series

## JEFFREY HAINES

HISTORY DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

### Overlapping Geographies: Monasteries and Rural Society in Early Islamic Iraq

The Early Islamic Empire had a vast Christian population, which formed the backbone of the crucial agricultural economy in the core of the Empire, Iraq. The key to their history are several East Syrian hagiographies written north of Mosul between the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> c. CE., which narrate how rural Christian populations imagined their place in the early Islamic world. Rather than seeing themselves as the backwater of the large Iraqi metropolises, the authors located themselves at the heart of several overlapping networks – local, sacred, and ecclesiastical – demonstrating both how lowland cities exerted a pull on groups in the countryside and how those groups themselves contextualized and reinterpreted that influence.



Al-Qosh, Iraq ©Creative Commons

**Tuesday June 18, 2019**  
**6:00 PM (c.t.),**  
**AS-Saal, ESA 1**  
**Hauptgebäude**

<https://www.islamic-empire.uni-hamburg.de/news-and-events/lecture-series/lecture-jeffrey-haines.html>