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

Cities, Objects, and Circulation of Goods in the Maghreb and the Iberian Peninsula

Universität Hamburg 5-6. October 2023

“RomanIslam – Center for Comparative Empire and Transcultural Studies” (Early Islam)
Panel 1. The Impact of Trade on the Birth, Rise and Demise of Cities

11.15 Dominique Valérian (Université Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne) Les ports et leur hinterland dans le Maghreb de la fin du Moyen Âge

12.00 Abdallah Fili (Université Chouaib Doukkali) Les données historiques et archéologiques de Sijilmassa en lien avec le commerce transsaharien

12.45 Ahmed Maouloud el-Hilal (Université de Nouakchott, Mauretanie) Cités caravanières au moyen-âge dans l’Ouest Saharien : présence des marchands maghrébins

13.30 Lunch Break

Panel 2. Axes and Routes of Trade

14.45 Tarek Kahlouei (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-Âge

10.15 Mohamed Ghodhbane (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

13.15 Susana Gómez Martínez (University of Evora, ECS - School of Social Sciences, Department of History) Évidences du commerce dans le Garbal-Andalus au XIe siècle : la céramique

14.00 Chokri Touihri (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 ?

14.45 Coffee Break

Roundtable Discussion

15.15 Antonia Bosanquet, Nouri Boukhchim, Stefan Heidemann, Meriem Marzouki Future Outlook

15.45 Stefan Heidemann Closing Words

16.00 End of the Conference

19.00 Dinner

INFORMATION AND ABSTRACTS