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.
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**  
(Frei 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

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 Jamshid and Their Appropriation in Pre-Industrial Islamicate Cultural History

15:30  Coffee Break

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**  
(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**  
(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 ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. Muʿāwiya 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

INFORMATION AND ABSTRACTS  