

The aim of this two-day conference is to take a closer look at the interplay between charity and foundations in the Eastern Mediterranean in a *longue-durée*-perspective. By choosing a broad chronological and more narrow geographical perspective, we seek to bring together strands of research that have until now been looked at separately. Although the history of both charity and foundations has attracted significant attention in the last twenty years, studies have either privileged a certain religious tradition, a specific time frame or a more general spatial approach.

Rather than following a Western (colonial), Braudel-inspired, perception of the (Eastern) Mediterranean as a static and archaic space with only very few structural changes over time, we are interested in the continuities and ruptures of discourses, practices, structures and norms of philanthropy and foundations from Late Antiquity until the present day. Our aim is to explore examples of giving and endowing in, but also between, the three monotheistic traditions that were most prominent in the region and to contribute thereby, to borrow Peregrine Horden's and Nicolas Purcell's phrase, to the history of charity and foundations in, and not of, the Mediterranean. Our special interest is in certain conjunctures and turning points of these discourses and practices: both the charged religious landscape of the Crusades or the 1860s were historical moments in which Christian, Islamic and Jewish philanthropic institutions were created all around the Mediterranean. Although most papers will concentrate on a specific religious tradition at a concise time and geographical space, we encourage the contributors to endeavor to compare their case studies to other religious traditions and other geographical and temporal spheres, in order to find out more about the reciprocal influences of the development of charity and endowments in the Eastern Mediterranean.

**Venue:**

Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG)  
Alte Universitätsstraße 19, 55116 Mainz, Germany  
[www.ieg-mainz.de/en](http://www.ieg-mainz.de/en)

**Conveners and Contact:**

Dr. Zachary Chitwood, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, [zchitwoo@uni-mainz.de](mailto:zchitwoo@uni-mainz.de)  
Dr. Esther Möller, Leibniz Institute of European History, [moeller@ieg-mainz.de](mailto:moeller@ieg-mainz.de)

**Photos**

Photo Cover: *Haseki-Huerrem-Sultan-waqf\_Jerusalem (1556)*, source: Wikipedia  
Photo inside left: *Mosque in Ramallah with ICRC milk Distribution Center (1949/1950)*, source: ICRC Archives, photo taken by B.E. Lindroos, V-P-PS-E-00319  
Photo inside right: *Image of the Founder Theodoros Metochites in the Monastery of Chora (Constantinople)*

**In Cooperation with:**

Leibniz-WissenschaftsCampus Mainz *Byzanz zwischen Orient und Okzident* and the Forschungsschwerpunkt *Historische Kulturwissenschaften*



**23–24 May 2019**

**Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG)**

**Workshop**

**Philanthropy and Foundations in the Eastern Mediterranean: Christian, Jewish and Muslim Perspectives**





## Thursday, 23 May

14.30 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

15.00 Session 1:  
Discourses of Giving and Endowing  
Chair: **Noémie Duhaut** Mainz

Motivations and Misconceptions: Transnational Jewish Philanthropy 1918–1940  
**Sasha Goldstein-Sabbah** Leiden

My Church, My Association: A Constellation of Coptic Christian Charity (21st Century)  
**Mina Ibrahim** Gießen

16.30 Coffee break

17.00 Session 2:  
Practices and Structures of Charity and Endowing  
Chair: **Birgit Kynast** Mainz

Foundations in Byzantium from a Social-Historical Perspective  
**Johannes Pahlitzsch** Mainz

The Role of Islamic Charitable Endowments in the Provision of Health Services  
**Ignacio Sánchez** Warwick

18.30 Summary of the First Day's Discussion

18.45 Travel to Dinner Location

19.00 Dinner for Conference Participants

## Friday, 24 May

9.00 Session 3:  
The Legal, Political and Economic Dimension  
Chair: **Roman Shliakhtin** Mainz

»Religious« dimensions of charitable waqf making: Legal, political and economic implications  
**Astrid Meier** Halle

Slaves, Philanthropy and Foundations in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire  
**Veruschka Wagner** Bonn

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 Session 4:  
The Gender Dimension  
Chair: **Katharina Stornig** Gießen

Women Endowers and Choice of Beneficiaries: Comparative Examples from the Geniza to late Ottoman Times  
**Randi Deguilhem** Aix-en-Provence

The Testament of Kale Pakouriane: Charity and Memoria of a Byzantine Founder at the Time of the First Crusade  
**Zachary Chitwood** Mainz

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Session 5: The Regional Dimension  
Chair: **Stanislau Paulau** Mainz

»Michigan in Arabia« – a U.S. Student-led Charitable Endeavour to Shape the Future of Iraq beneficiaries: Comparative Examples from the Geniza to late Ottoman Times  
**Sarah Epping** Berlin

Between State Politics, International Relations and Local Charity Traditions: Humanitarian Aid in 20th Century Egypt  
**Esther Möller** Mainz

15.30 Summary of the Conference and Final Remarks

16.00 Departure of Conference Participants

