Combining Social and Cultural with Digital History
Methodological Challenges and Practical Strategies

8-10 March 2023
Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Veranstaltungszentrum, Saal 1

International kick-off workshop of the research project
“Late Ottoman Palestinians: Social and Cultural Dynamics in an Eastern Mediterranean Society during the Age of Empire, 1880-1920 (LOOP)”

A hybrid event, hosted by Prof Johann Buessow (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
For participation, online or in person, please register
with Ms. Giselle Milloch (giselle.milloch@rub.de)

This event is part of the project LOOP that has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. Grant agreement No.101044105.
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WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH

7.00 pm: Short walk through downtown Bochum, dinner at restaurant ‘Yamas’, Bochum  
(Meeting point: the lobby of the Mercure Hotel, 6.45 pm)

THURSDAY, 9 MARCH

9.00 am – 10.00 am: Johann Buessow, Olaf Berg, Sarah Buessow, Nils Riecken (RUB):  
Opening Remarks and Questions from the Research Project “Late Ottoman Palestinians”

10.00 am – 11.00 am: Keynote speech by Beshara Doumani (Birzeit University/Brown University)

- Coffee -
11.30 am – 1.00 pm: Panel 1 – The History of Censuses and Censuses as a Source (Chair: Sarah Buessow)

Michelle Campos (Pennsylvania State University): Methodological Challenges for Reconstructing Social ‘Mixing and Unmixing’ in Late Ottoman Jerusalem

M. Erdem Kabadayi (Koç University): Developing Computer Vision Applications for Ottoman Studies: Can Information Retrieval from Handwritten Texts, Historical Maps, or Aerial Photos Be Automated?

- Lunch -

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm: Panel 2 – Economic History (Chair: Nils Riecken)

Jörg Baten (University of Tübingen): New Evidence on Numeracy Development in Palestine and South Eastern Europe: An Economic History Perspective

Mohamed Saleh (London School of Economics): A “New” Economic History of the Middle East and North Africa: Novel Data and Revisionist Historical Narratives

- Coffee -

3.50 pm – 5.20 pm: Panel 3 – Historical Geographical Information Systems (HGIS) (Chair: Johann Buessow)

Motti Zohar (University of Haifa): Advancing Historical Research Using GIScience and Visual Sources: The Study of Late Ottoman and British Mandate Palestine as a Test Case

Yuval Ben-Bassat (University of Haifa): Several Case-Studies from Late Ottoman Bilad al-Sham in which GIS Usage Can Help Historical Research

- Break -

5.30 pm – 6.00 pm: Joint discussion – What Are the Prospects of OCR for Arabic Script Documents? (Chair: Olaf Berg)

8.00 pm: Dinner at restaurant ‘NhyStar’, Bochum (Meeting point: the lobby of the Mercure Hotel, 7.45 pm)

FRIDAY, 10 March

9.00 am – 10.00 am: Keynote speech by Silke Schwandt (University of Bielefeld): Modelling History: Digital History Methods and Practices

- Coffee -

10.30 am – 12.00 pm: Panel 4 – Digital Humanities I: State of the Art, Recent Advances, and Debates (Chair: Olaf Berg)

Hugo Barbosa (University of Exeter): Mobility and Socioeconomic Segregation in Cities
Till Grallert (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin): Computational Approaches to Mundane Texts in Under-Resourced Languages: The Case of Arabic Periodicals

- Lunch -

1.00 pm – 2.30 pm: Panel 5 – Digital Humanities II: State of the Art, Recent Advances, and Debates (Chair: Johann Buessow)

Moshe Lavee (University of Haifa): Geo-Temporal Mapping in the Digital Humanities: Pipelines and Initiatives

Maxim Romanov (Universität Hamburg): Algorithmic Analysis into Social History

2.30 pm – 3.00 pm: Closing Discussion (Chair: Erdem Kabadayı)

- Transfer back to the hotel; brief stop for those who take part in the field trip -

4.00 pm: Field trip to ‘Zeche Zollverein’ in Essen (Meeting point: the lobby of the Mercure Hotel, 3.45 pm)

5.00 pm: Guided tour through the ‘Zeche Zollverein’ coal mine

6.30 pm: Dinner at restaurant ‘The Mine’, Essen