

The Trouble with Taxation: Tax Revolts and Discourses against Fiscal Policies

University of Cambridge, 3-4 March 2025

Workshop
Cripps Meeting Room 5, Magdalene College, 1-3 Chesterton Road

Programme

Monday, 3 March 2025

09:30-10:00: Marie Legendre (Edinburgh) & Hannah-Lena Hagemann (Hamburg): Welcome and Introductory Remarks

10:00-11:00: Andrew Marsham (Cambridge): “Further Observations on Nile Floods, the Delta, and Tax Revolts”

11:00-11:30: Coffee Break

11:30-12:30: Noémie Lucas (Edinburgh): “The Caliphal Perceptions of the Egyptian Fiscal Revolts in the Abbasid Period”

12:30-1:30: Lunch

1:30-2:30: Petra Sijpesteijn (Leiden): “Trouble with the Taxman – As Reported in Arabic Papyrus Letters”

2:30-3:00: Coffee Break

3:00-4:00: Alasdair Grant (Hamburg): “The Cold War Legacy: Marxist Readings of Early Islamic Taxation”

4:00-4:30: Coffee Break

4:30-5:30: Response to Day 1 (Amira Bennison, Cambridge) and general discussion

7:00 Dinner (*speakers and discussants*)

Tuesday, 4 March 2025

09:30-10:30: Hannah-Lena Hagemann (Hamburg): “*Kharāj* and *Khurīj*, II: Khārijite Revolt and Fiscal Policy, 7th-9th Century CE”

10:30-11:00: Coffee Break

11:00-12:00: Ed Hayes (Leiden): “A Shi‘i City State? Taxation and Resistance in the *Tarikh-i Qum*”

12:00-1:00: Geoffrey Khan (Cambridge): “The *Baqṭ* Treaty”

1:00-2:00: Lunch

2:00-3:00: Marie Legendre (Edinburgh): “The Trouble with the Census”

3:00-3:30: Coffee Break

3:30-4:30: Nik Matheou (Edinburgh): “Taxation, Commercialisation & Elite Rebellion: South Caucasia in the Abbasid and Mongol Moments”

4:30-5:00: Coffee Break

5:00-6:00: Response to Day 2 (Antoine Borrut, University of Maryland) and general discussion

7:30 Dinner (*speakers and discussants*)

Joint workshop organised by the ERC project “The Finances of the Caliphate” (Edinburgh) and the DFG research group “Social Contexts of Rebellion in the Early Islamic Period” (Hamburg), with the generous support of the “Balzan Seminar on the Formation, Maintenance, and Failure of States in the Muslim World before 1800” (Princeton University). The workshop is hosted by the Cambridge Centre of Islamic Studies; the organisers thank Amira Bennison and Andrew Marsham in particular for their support in the planning of this event.