

# “In search for a hidden group: Where are the *awlād al-nās*?”

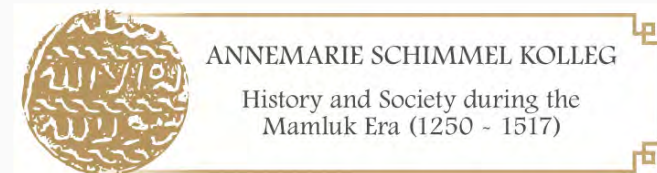
(17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December 2020)

With the *awlād al-nās*, this conference focuses on a group still awaiting the academic interest it deserves. *Awlād* have often been characterized as cultural brokers and a middling group between the Mamluks and Egyptian society. Whether in the field of military service (*ajnad al-halqa*), in the administration of state land or pious foundations, as scholars, historiographers, or tradesmen; *awlād al-nās* participated in many key areas of Mamluk society. However, we still wait for a social history of this group.

This conference, and the conference proceedings, will for the first time unite research focusing on this fascinating group. We will discuss existing sources, open questions and perspectives and challenges for future research. Together, we aim at approaching the *awlād* and their impact on society from different angles and on the basis of a broad range of source material.

Starting from several key questions, the discussions will also serve to define a common approach that allows joining forces in future research.

- In which fields could *awlād* develop agency and exert influence?
- In which social networks were they integrated, and what functions did they fulfil in them?
- Was there any understanding of a social group of the Mamluk descendants at all, and if so, what did it look like?
- In which contexts and in which fashion was the position of the *awlād* addressed?
- How did *awlād* themselves define and characterize their status?



## Organization

*Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann*  
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*Dr. Anna Kollatz*  
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## Venue

Online via Zoom

To register for the event, please send an email to Anna Kollatz. Registration is open until Monday, December 14, 2020.



# Timetable

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

10:00-10:40 Stephan CONERMANN (Bonn)  
*Opening Remarks*

Jo van STEENBERGEN (Gent)  
*Where are the awlād al-nās?  
Exploring the politics of a  
polysemous concept.*

11:00-11:40 Chair: Anna Kollatz

Amir MAZOR (Haifa/Jerusalem)  
*Turks or Arabs? Cultural Identity as  
Reflected in the Writings of awlād al-  
nās Historians*

Koby YOSEF (Ramat Gan)  
*The term awlād al-nās and “the rise  
of a new class”*

12:00-12:40 Chair: Reuven Amitai

Mustafa BANISTER (Gent)  
*The House of Shāhīn: Divergent  
Trajectories of a Grandfather,  
Father, and Son*

Noha ABOU KHATWA (Cairo)  
*The Muḥsinī Brothers: A Case Study  
in the Contribution of awlād al-nās  
to Cairo’s Material Culture in the  
Fourteenth Century*

13:00-13:40 Chair: Stephan Conermann

Amalia LEVANONI (Haifa)  
*Awlād al-nās in the Mamluk halqa*

Rihab BEN OTHMEN (Gent)  
*A View from Within: Assumptions of  
Identity and Group Solidarity in Ibn  
Taghrībirdī’s Accounts of the Sīdīs*

**Please note:**

**The schedule of this event is in  
Central European Time (CET).**

# Timetable

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

10:00-10:40

Chair: Abdelkader Al Ghouz

Daisuke IGARASHI (Tokio)

*The descendants of Mamluks in waqf documents*

Yehoshua FRENKEL (Haifa) *Awlād al-Nās in Mamlūk Jerusalem: an inquiry of unpublished documents from the Ḥaram*

11:00-11:40

Chair: Anna Kollatz

Takao ITO (Kobe)

*After the reign of al-Nāṣir Ḥasan: The lives of the awlād al-nās during the “mamlukization“*

Koby YOSEF (Ramat Gan)

*The status and identity of mamlūks' descendents who were amirs in Egypt according to the jarīda iqtā‘iyya of the year 777/1376*

12:00-13:00

Anna KOLLATZ, Stephan CONERMANN

*Final Discussion, Outlook on the book and future research*

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