

Online Event

Colonial Sanitation Workshop



2 June 2026

Program:

* Hours are according to Central European Time (CET), daylight saving time

Image: "Michael Faraday giving his card to Father Thames", *Punch*, 21 July 1855

09:30-10:00

Opening

10:00-11:30

Session I – Public Health

Lucia Carminati

Fecal Matters. Bringing Order to Ordure in Turn-of-the-Century Port Said

Gianluca Bo

Between Colonial Planning and the Management of Undesirable Individuals: Fascist Sanitation Policies in Italian Occupied Ethiopia (1936-1941)

Rabiul Molla

Public Health in Urban Modernity: Sanitation in Colonial Calcutta and the Role of Municipal Governance (1924–1947)

12:30-14:00

Session II – Regional Perspectives

Yaron Balslev

A Colonial Crusade: Urban Waste Treatment in Jerusalem and British Palestine

Erragab Eljanhaoui

'Naked Savages' or Desert Ecologists? Nomadic Sanitation in the Pre-Colonial Sahara through 19th Century Barbary Captivity Narratives

Ipek Ruacan

The Diplomacy of Sanitation: Cholera, Europe-Ottoman Encounters and the Creation of the World Health Organization

14:30-16:00

Session III – Ethnicity and Cleanliness

Anastasiia Zemskaja

Modernizing Kharkiv: Waste Management and Sanitary Infrastructure in a Provincial City of the Russian Empire in the Late 19th to Early 20th Centuries

Ahmad Mahmoud

How Nablus's transition from Ottoman to British control is reflected through the sense of smell

Mikhail Moosa

The Making of Racial Ecology: Sanitation, Segregation, and Urban Planning in Johannesburg, 1900-1920

16:30-18:00

Session IV – Urban Management

Kristin Brig-Ortiz

Spreading and Preventing Disease in Urban Drains, Pipes, and Populations

Prakash Kumar

"Sanitary Imperfections": A Colonial Drainage Scheme in India

Adebisi Alade

Africans and Colonial Sanitary Technologies: The Politics of Waste and Health in Lagos, 1900-20

18:00-18:30

Concluding Discussion

A few external participants could join the online event. If you have a special interest, please contact: aron.j.Balslev@uis.no

The workshop is part of the EU MSCA Project BLOCYP (grant no. 101150702) hosted at the University of Stavanger, Norway.

Colonial Sanitation Workshop

Meet the Speakers

Session I – Public Health



Lucia Carminati

Professor, University of Oslo, Norway

lucia.carminati@iakh.uio.no

Modern Middle East; Social and cultural history; Migration; History of Technology and Medicine



Gianluca Bo

PhD Candidate, University La Sapienza, Italy

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Modern European History, Colonial History, History of Fascism, Environmental History



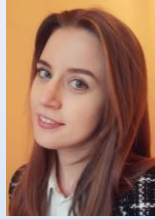
Rabiul Molla

PhD Candidate, Rabindra Bharati University, India

rabiulmolla.history@gmail.com

Urban Health History, History of Science and Medicine, Tribal, Gender and Minority Studies

Session III: Ethnicity and Cleanliness



Anastasiia Zemska

Lecturer, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine

a.khovtura@karazin.ua

History of Sanitation, Urban History, Environmental History, Social History



Ahmad Mahmoud

Postdoctoral Fellow, Tel Aviv University, Israel

ahmadmahmoud@tauex.tau.ac.il

Modern Middle Eastern History, Palestinian and Urban History, History of Sanitation and Modern Medicine



Mikhail Moosa

PhD candidate, Yale University, Connecticut, US

mikhail.moosa@yale.edu

Social History, Environmental History, Urban History

Session II – Regional Perspectives

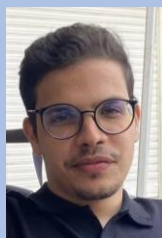


Yaron Balslev

Postdoc Fellow, University of Stavanger, Norway

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Environmental History, Historical Geography, Waste History, Middle Eastern History



Erragab Eljanhaoui

Ph.D. Candidate, Ibn Zohr University, Morocco / Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland, US

erragab.eljanhaoui.16@edu.uiz.ac.ma

Postcolonialism, ecocriticism, posthumanism, desert studies, comparative literature



Ipek Ruacan

Lecturer, MEF University, Turkey

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International Relations, Diplomacy, International Society Tradition, Europe-Ottoman Relations

Session IV: Urban Management



Kristin Brig-Ortiz

Lecturer, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, US

kristinb@wustl.edu

Environmental History, History of Medicine and Science, African History, Colonial History.



Prakash Kumar

Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University, US

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Colonial and postcolonial history, modernization, science and technology, epidemic and agrarian history



Adebisi Alade

Assistant Professor, University of Victoria, BC, Canada

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African History, Health and medicine in the colonial world