MULOSIGE Modules:
Cultural Imaginaries of Mid-Nineteenth Century Beirut as "City of the World"

Reading List Description

The reading list addresses the mid-nineteenth-century cultural-geographical dynamics that constructed Beirut as a 'city of the world' and helps us to consider how its production forms both a 'crisis of representation' and a 'representation of crisis'. Regarding a pivotal period in the city's development from 1858 to 1876, this reading list explores transnational and transhistorical perspectives: in the output of mid-nineteenth-century Beiruti intellectuals and missionaries (including newspapers, public lectures, the encyclopedia, and the memoir), alongside mid-nineteenth-century photography and cartography by military and civilian visitors to Beirut, as well as in twenty-first-century Lebanese historical literature that recreates mid-nineteenth-century Beirut as an overdetermined representational space shaped by the city's more recent post-war transformations.

This reading list developed out of a talk given at SOAS "Imagining Mid-Nineteenth-Century Beirut as a 'City of the World'" on the 10th January 2018.

Reading List contributor:

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Part I: Geopolitical, sociocultural and urbanistic frameworks (crisis, modernity, and development)

Readings

Abou-Hodeib, Toufoul (2017), A Taste for Home: The Modern Middle Class in Ottoman Beirut, Redwood City, CA: Stanford University Press.

Al-Bustānī, Butrus (2019 [1860]), The Clarion of Syria: A Patriot's Call against the Civil War of 1860, Introduced and Translated by Jens Hanssen and Hisham Safieddine, Oakland, University of California Press.

Gebhardt, Hans (ed.), History, Space, and Social Conflict in Beirut, Beiruter Texte und Studien vol. 97, Würzburg: Eckhart and Orient Institut Beirut.

Fawaz (Tarazi), Leila (1984), 'The city and the mountain: Beirut's political radius in the nineteenth century as revealed in the crisis of 1860', International Journal of Middle East Studies, 16:4, pp. 489–95.

_____ (1983), Merchants and Migrants in Nineteenth-Century Beirut, Harvard Middle Eastern Studies 18, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Freitag, Ulrike, Fuhrmann, Malte, Lafi, Nora, and Riedler, Florian (eds) (2011), The City in the Ottoman Empire: Migration and the Making of Urban Modernity, London and New York: Routledge.

Hanssen, Jens (2005), Fin de Siècle Beirut: The Making of an Ottoman Provincial Capital, Oxford: Clarendon.

Kassir, Samir (2003), Histoire de Beyrouth, Paris: Fayard.

Kolluoğlu, Biray and Toksöz, Meltem (eds) (2010), 'Mapping out the eastern Mediterranean: Toward a cartography of cities of commerce', in Cities of the Mediterranean: From the Ottomans to the Present Day, London: I.B. Tauris, pp. 1–13.

Makdisi, Ussama (2000), The Culture of Sectarianism: Community, History, and Violence in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Lebanon, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

_____ (2002), 'After 1860: Debating religion, reform, and nationalism in the Ottoman empire', International Journal of Middle East Studies, 34:4, pp. 601–17.

Ozveren, Yasar Eyup (1990), 'The making and unmaking of an Ottoman port-city: nineteenth-century Beirut, its hinterland and the world economy', dissertation, State University of New York.

Rowe, Peter G. and Sarkis, Hashim (eds) (1998), Projecting Beirut: Episodes in the Construction and Reconstruction of a Modern City, New York: Prestel.

Saliba, Robert (2004), '1840–1940: The genesis of modern architecture in Beirut', in J. Abed (ed.), Architecture Re-introduced: New Projects in Societies in Change, Geneva: The Aga Khan Award for Architecture, pp. 23–34.

Schayegh, Cyrus (2017), The Middle East and the Making of the Modern World, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Sharif, Malek (2013), Imperial Norms and Local Realities: The Ottoman Municipal Laws and the Municipality of Beirut (1860–1908), Beiruter Texte Und Studien vol. 105, Würzburg: Ergon-Verlag and Orient Institut Beirut.

Sheehi, Stephen Paul (2000), 'Inscribing the Arab self: Butrus al-Bustānī, and paradigms of subjective reform', British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, 27:1, pp. 7–24.

Zachs, Fruma (2005), The Making of a Syrian Identity: Intellectuals and Merchants in Nineteenth Century Beirut, Leiden: Brill.

Part II: Missionary Intervention

Readings

Bliss, Daniel (1920), The Reminiscences of Daniel Bliss (ed. and supplemented by his eldest son), New York: Fleming H. Revell.

Davie, Michael (2016), 'Local and western educational institutions in Beirut: Topographical and symbolic dominations', in J. Hauser, C. B. Lindner and E. Möller (eds), Entangled Education: Foreign and Local Schools in Ottoman Syria and Mandate Lebanon (19-20th Centuries), Beiruter Texte und Studien vol. 137, Würzburg: Ergon Verlag and Orient Institut Beirut, pp. 49-72.

Elshakry, Marwa (2007), 'The gospel of science and American evangelism in late Ottoman Beirut', Past & Present, 196, pp. 173–214.

Jessup, Henry H. ([1910] 2002), Fifty-Three Years in Syria, 3 vols, Reading: Garnet.

Khalaf, Samir (2012), Protestant Missionaries in the Levant (1820–1860): Ungodly Puritans, Routledge Studies in Middle Eastern History, London: Routledge.

Kuri, Sami (1996), Une histoire du Liban à travers les archives des jésuites 1863–73, Beirut, Dar el-Mashreq.

Libois, Charles (2009), La Compagnie de Jésus au 'Levant': La Province du Proche-Orient. Notices historiques, Beirut: Dar el-Mashreq.

Verdeil, Chantal (2007), 'Un Etablissement catholique dans la société pluriconfessionnelle de la fin de l'Empire ottoman', Cahiers de la Méditerranée, 75, pp. 28–38.

_____ (2009), 'Religion et colonisation au Proche-Orient', in Dominique Borne and Benoît Falaize (eds) Religions et colonisation, XVIe-XXe siècle: Afrique-Amériques-Asie-Océanie, Paris: Editions de l'Atelier, pp. 177–84.

Part III: Photographic Imagination

Readings

Debbas, Fouad (2001), Des photographes à Beyrouth: 1840–1918, Paris: Marval.

Hannooch, Michèle (2016), 'Practices of photography: Circulation and mobility in the nineteenth-century Mediterranean', History of Photography, 40:1, pp. 3–27.

Part IV: Cartographical Projection

Readings

Akerman, James R. (ed.) (2009), 'Introduction', in The Imperial Map: Cartography and the Mastery of Empire, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 1-9.

Davie, Michael (1987), 'Maps and the historical topography of Beirut', Berytus, 35, pp. 141–63.

Part V: Twenty-First-Century Historical Literature

Readings

Jabir, Rabīʿ (2003–07), Bayrūt madīnat al-ʿālam ('Beirut: City of the world'), 3 vols, Beirut: Dar al-Adab.

Najjar, Alexandre (2005), Le Roman de Beyrouth, Paris: Plon.