



WORKSHOP

# YEMEN'S LIVING HERITAGE

## TRIBES AND TRIBALISM INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



**ORGANIZER:**

New Frontiers Group Project “Deciphering Local Power Politics in Northwest Yemen”  
at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

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Photo: Marieke Brandt

# PROGRAMME

## FEBRUARY 14, 2018 – WEDNESDAY

- 09:15–09:30 **Introduction**
- Panel 1: The Concept of Tribe in Yemen**
- 09:30–10:00 **Najwa Adra**  
*"Qabyala", or what does it mean to be tribal in Yemen?*
- 10:00–10:30 **Daniel Mahoney**  
*Understanding Yemeni Tribalism: A Temporal Perspective*
- 10:30–11:00 COFFEE BREAK
- Panel 2: Tribal Law**
- 11:00–11:30 **Paul Dresch** (in absentia)  
*Some Principles and Continuities of Tribal Law*
- 11:30–12:00 **Laila al-Zwaini**  
*There Is No Custom But Shari'a: A Yemeni "shahāda" of Tribal Doctrine in an Islamic Frame*
- 12:00–13:30 LUNCH (at Pizza Quartier, Karmelitermarkt 96, 1020 Vienna)
- Panel 3: Tribes and Agriculture**
- 13:30–14:00 **Daniel Varisco**  
*"Qabila" and "Jirba": The Role of Agriculture in the Northern Highlands of Yemen*
- 14:00–14:30 **Zachary Lentsch**  
*Uprooting the Qat-Tribe Nexus in the Sharqi Haraz*
- 14:30–15:00 COFFEE BREAK
- Panel 4: Tribes and Borders**
- 15:00–15:30 **Andre Gingrich**  
*Munebbih's north western borders across the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Temporality and agency in territory-related contracts under changing conditions of regional hegemony*
- 15:30–16:00 **Lisa Lenz**  
*The Yemeni Border Guard: Roles and interests of the Yemeni border tribes in securing the Yemeni-Saudi border*

## FEBRUARY 15, 2018 – THURSDAY

- 09:15–09:30 **Introduction**
- Panel 5: Conflict Management**
- 09:30–10:00 **Nadwa al-Dawsari**  
*Tribal Women's Role in Conflict Mitigation in Yemen*
- 10:00–10:30 **Marieke Brandt**  
*Some remarks on blood revenge ("tha'r") in contemporary Yemen*
- 10:30–11:00 COFFEE BREAK
- Panel 6: Eastern Yemen**
- 11:00–11:30 **Elisabeth Kendall**  
*Tribal Dynamics in eastern Yemen's al-Mahra Region*
- 11:30–12:00 **Mikhail Rodionov**  
*Social Re-Stratification in Hadramawt during the last 25 years: An Anthropological Outlook*
- 12:00–13:30 LUNCH BREAK (at Leopold, Große Pfarrgasse 11, 1020 Vienna)
- Panel 7: Societal and Political Dynamics**
- 13:30–14:00 **Steven C. Caton**  
*Tribes, Poetry and the Change Revolution*
- 14:00–14:30 **Marie-Christine Heinze**  
*"Thuwwam, 'iswab" and 'dense daggers': The enduring political potency of the "janbiya"*
- 14:30–15:00 COFFEE BREAK
- Continuation Panel 8: Societal and Political Dynamics**
- 15:00–15:30 **Helen Lackner**  
*A few observations on the changing role of tribes in Yemen's political economy in the past half century*
- 15:30–16:00 **Alexander Weissenburger**  
*The Role of Tribes in Huthi Framing*
- 16:00–17:00 **General discussion and closing remarks**
- 19:00 **Dinner** (at Gasthaus Pfudl, Bäckerstraße 22, 1010 Vienna)