

Workshop  
**Rethinking Rural Communities and Tribalism in Islamic Lands**  
*(6<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> centuries)*  
**Provisional Program**

**Venue:** Ghent University, Blandijnberg 2, 6<sup>th</sup> floor

**Date:** 17 and 18 December 2025

**Organising committee:** Prof. Jo Van Steenberghe (Ghent University), Prof. Malika Dekkiche (Antwerp University), Dr. Zacharie Mochtari de Pierrepont (Ghent University)

**Day 1 – Conceptualising Tribalism and Rural Communities**

**08:50 | Welcome**

**09:10–09:20 | Opening Remarks** – Zacharie Mochtari de Pierrepont (Ghent University)

**Session 1: Concepts and Frameworks of Tribal and Rural Societies**

*Chair:* Frédéric Bauden (Liège University) : tbc

**09:20–10:10 | Yossef Rapoport (Queen Mary University of London)**

*Should we still speak about tribes? Arabic terms for families, clans, and tribes in medieval Islamic sources*

**10:10–11:00 | Amira Bennison (University of Cambridge)**

*The Reconfiguration of Rural Communities and Tribes in the Thirteenth-Century Western Maghrib*

**11:00–11:15 | Break**

**11:15–12:05 | Boris James (Montpellier-3 University, Montpellier)**

*Tribal Cast or Military Aristocracy: What are Medieval Kurdish Groups Made Of?*

**12:05–13:30 | Lunch**

**Session II – Rural–Urban networks, state formation and political authority**

*Chair:* Malika Dekkiche (Antwerp University)

**13:30–14:20 | Zacharie Mochtari de Pierrepont (Ghent University)**

*“Rural communities, elites and power in the Rasūlid sultanate” (title to be confirmed)*

**14:20–15:10 | Elise Voguet (CNRS)**

*“Nomads and Settlers in the Touat: Local Authority and Taxation in the Sahara (14<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> Centuries)”*

**15:10–15:25 | Break**

**15:25–16:15 | Michael Hope (Yonsei University)**

*Rural elites and the State under the Ilkhanids: negotiating power on the Mongol imperial western frontier (title to be confirmed)*

**16:15–16:30 | End of day 1, concluding remarks** – Jo Van Steenberghe (Ghent University)

**Day 2 – Case studies & comparative perspectives**

**08:50 | Welcome**

**Session III – Tribes, Rural Societies, and Imperial Strategies**

*Chair:* John Latham Sprinkle (Free University Brussels)

**09:00 | Georg Leube (University of Bayreuth)**

*“Petrieved Social Infrastructure? Monumental Epigraphy as an Interface Structuring Urban–*

*Rural Entanglements in the Qaraqyunlu and Aqqyunlu 'Turkmen' Realms of the Fifteenth Century CE*

**09:50 | Yoan Parrot (Aix-Marseille University)**

*"A nomadic landscape: Turkmen's domination over rural areas (Syria, Anatolia and Caucasus, 14th-15th century)"*

**10:40–10:55 | Break**

**10:55–11:45 | Nicolas Michel (Aix-Marseille University)**

*"Bedouin/'Urbān in Sixteenth-Century Egypt: What We Know, What We Don't"*

**11:45-12:00 | Closing Remarks – Jan Dumolyn (Ghent University)**

**Session IV – Comparative and connected perspective: toward a new conceptual and practical framework?**

**14:00-16:00: Round Table**

**17:00-17:15 | Final Remarks – Zacharie Mochtari de Pierrepont (Ghent University)**