

Introduction

The Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg of Mamluk Studies at the University of Bonn and the Mamluk Studies programs of the Middle East Documentation Center at the University of Chicago have worked closely together since the founding of the Kolleg by Stephan Conermann in 2011. As the Kolleg enters its final two years of funding by the German Research Foundation, we thought it appropriate to contribute an issue of *Mamlūk Studies Review*, celebrating this collaboration and highlighting the contributions that the Kolleg is making to the field through the research of its fellows, visitors, and staff. I am, as always, grateful to Marlis Saleh for her vision and enthusiasm for new things, which resulted in the invitation to guest edit this special issue.

The contributors to this volume have been affiliated with the Kolleg at some point in the last five years. Many of them are publishing in *MSR* for the first time, and this was one of our goals. They represent the range of specializations and career stages that constitute the Kolleg community. The papers in this issue are a deliberately eclectic mix of intellectual, social, economic, environmental, and art histories and collectively illustrate three ways in which our field has developed in recent years, and which have been encouraged and cultivated by the Kolleg: pushing the disciplinary boundaries of our field, asking new questions, and finding ways to answer them with new (and frequently hybrid) methods.

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