

# Anthropology of the Middle East

## Call for Papers

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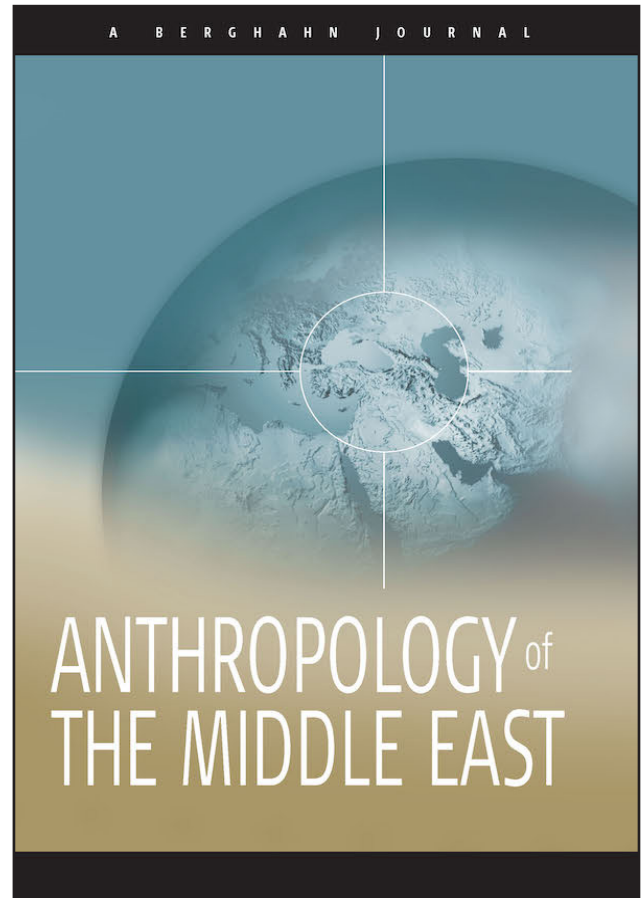
### Economic Anthropology in the Middle East

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Guest Editor

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Ethnographic works in economic anthropology of the Middle East are scarce. In her essay, "Roads Less Traveled in Middle East Anthropology—and New Paths in Gender Ethnography," Inhorn (2014) noted the neglect of the domain of economic anthropology in Middle East studies and challenged anthropologists of the region to engage seriously with such key issues as urban and rural livelihood systems, poverty and human dignity, formal and informal economies, finance and entrepreneurship, globalization and development, and modern technologies. Likewise, in 1989, Abu-Lughod asked anthropologists to go beyond traditional "prestige zones" of ethnography and "zones of theory" that framed much of Middle Eastern anthropology since the 1960s, and to engage in the study of political economy and class. Since then, there has been some ethnographic interest in economic anthropology in the Middle East, but much more anthropological work remains to be done on the region's dynamic and changing economies, given the large and growing body of literature on economic anthropology from other regions of the world.

We seek papers that explore different historical and spatial "sites" where themes of economics and anthropology intersect in powerful ways. The objective of this special issue is to consider the theoretical constructions and empirical research that economic anthropologists use to reflect on the economic implications of social and cultural change before and after colonialism. Potential themes for exploration include, but are not limited to:

1. How have the traditional economies of pastoral nomadism, peasantry, fishing, and cities responded and adapted to economic changes before and after colonialism? How have these economies responded and adapted to the paradigms of modernization, development, and globalization?
2. How do forms of exchange such as gifting regulate and establish social and economic relationships between states and classes, and within classes? How are these forms of exchange and reciprocity practiced today?
3. How have colonial and post-colonial neoliberal economic policies affected indigenous communities' access to land, water, and common property?
4. How are the increasing economic inequalities and disparities being regulated by the larger society? What leveling mechanisms are being used to regulate these inequalities? How are people using secular and religious ideas of justice, kinship, and ideological views of life and death to contest or make sense of these disparities?
5. How do today's informal economies in rural, urban, and virtual space fit production of handicraft and women's economic responsibilities?
6. How have migration flows inside and outside the Middle East affected sending communities? How have migration flows affected such core anthropological concepts as community, ethnicity, identity, kinship, and local politics?
7. How have global flows of tourism and tourism development affected national economies and local communities?
8. How have investment strategies of petro-dollar countries affected local communities and their access to resources in non-oil-producing states?
9. How have healthcare systems been affected by different economic and management strategies before and after colonialism? How have healthcare systems that were once based on local charitable institutions such as *waqf* or *vaqf* responded and adapted to modern systems of insurance and other practices? How has privatization affected access to healthcare?
10. How has Islamic banking and finance affected economic activities?
11. How have information and communication technologies (such as the mobile phone) affected markets and economic activities in rural, urban, and virtual spaces?
12. With the decolonization turn and search for ethno-history or ethno-economy alternatives in anthropology, what are some of the economic contributions of such foundational thinkers and ethnographers as Ibn-Khaldun, Ibn Battutah, Nasser Khosrow, and Rashid ed-Din Fazlollah to the study of society and economy?

## Submission

Authors should submit a title and abstract (200–300 words), along with their name, title, and institutional affiliation to guest editor Dr. Hsain Ilahiane ([hsain.ilahiane@anthro.msstate.edu](mailto:hsain.ilahiane@anthro.msstate.edu)) as soon as possible. We also invite reports on books, films, conferences and exhibitions that deal with the above issues.

**Deadline for submitting articles: 15 July 2022**

More information, including the style guide, can be found at [www.berghahnjournals.com/ame](http://www.berghahnjournals.com/ame).