



Mapping Historical Environments in the Indian Ocean World

AN INDIAN OCEAN WORLD CENTRE CONFERENCE

May 20 & 21 2026, Online

All times are in Eastern Standard Time (EST)

Please email iowc@mcgill.ca for access to the Zoom link if you wish to attend

Wednesday 20 May (Day 1)

PANEL 1: Mapping Slavery, Indenture, and Abolition

CHAIR: Gwyn Campbell

- 9:00 am** Welcome from the organizers
- 9:05 am** Alessandra Cianciosi (University of Venice), “Islands of Confinement: Digital Mapping of Quarantine Landscapes in the Indian Ocean World”
- 9:30 am** Musa Kazim Azimili (University of Virginia), “Putting Slavery Back in the Map: A Spatial History of the Ottoman Imperial Slave Market”
- 9:55 am** Discussion and Questions
- 10:20 am** Break
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PANEL 2: Mapping Lived Experiences and Cultures in Urban Centres

CHAIR: Philip Gooding

- 11:00 am** Hiba Ali (University of Oregon), “Mapping Sonic Ecologies of the Indian Ocean: Spiral Networks of Remembrance and Elation”
- 11:25 am** Nafeesah Allen (University of Witwatersrand), “The Cartography of Colonization: A Review of Historical Maps of Maputo Bay, Mozambique”
- 11:50 am** Discussion and Questions

Thursday 21 May (Day 2)

PANEL 3: New Approaches to Geographical Methods in Historical Contexts

CHAIR: Sofia O'Reilly

- 9:05 am** Veysel Simsek (McGill University), "Overland Travel in the Ottoman Empire in the early Nineteenth Century"
- 9:30am** Liam Rosborough, Griet Vankeerberghen, and Raja Sengupta (McGill University), "Bridging the When and Where: Applications of Cultural Rule-Based Modelling in the Western Han Dynasty of China"
- 9:55 am** Jon Unruh (McGill University), "The Waqf Adjacency Effect: Environmental Sustainability and Spatial Spillovers in Rural Landholding"
- 10:20 am** Discussion and Questions
- 10:45 am** Break
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PANEL 4: Mapping Historic Rural Change: Food, Forests, and Cash Crops

CHAIR: Roland Ndiadia

- 11:15** Matthew Hannaford and Pascoal Gota (University of Nottingham), "Mapping Deep Histories of Food Systems in Eastern Africa from Historical Documents"
- 11:40** Ethan Key (Boston University), "The Town of Naqamte and the Home for Elephants: the Political Economy of Environmental Transformation and Town Development in the Horn of Africa, c. 1850-1930"
- 12:05** Discussion and Questions
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We look forward to inviting participants to submit their papers to the Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies (JIEWS)