Jeddah: An Indian Ocean Port
From the 18th to the 20th Century
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About the lecture

This lecture considers the history of Jeddah with special reference to its connectivity to the Indian Ocean realm. As a hub of pilgrimage (to Mecca) and international trade, the city’s population, some urban institutions, and most markedly perhaps its culture reflect closely its connections to the Mediterranean, but also to the eastern shores of Africa, the Gulf, and South and Southeast Asia. The development of a nation state dominated by a specific formulation of Arabness, coupled with hypermodern notions of urbanism, raises questions as to what extent Jeddah’s historical legacy can survive beyond a tourism-marketing strategy.