



**Centre d'études et de documentation  
économiques, juridiques et sociales**

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On Tuesday October 22, 2024 at 11am at CEDEJ **Amr Khairy** will be presenting his research **Industrie and Al-Industriya: The Origins of Capitalism between Rifāʿa al-Tahtāwī and Saint-Simonian Engineers.**

In the spaces of encounters and interactions between some of the first secularly-educated Egyptians of the nineteenth century and their contemporary Saint-Simonians – some of which were in Egypt in the 1830s – resides potential for making sense of how capitalism, the industrial revolution, and the Anthropocene evolved conceptually between Egypt and France; the 1820s and the 1860s. In Egypt, Rifāʿa al-Tahtāwī (1801-73) was among the forty students Mehmed Ali Pasha sent for secular education in France in 1826 to help build a modern army and state. By the 1860s, when he had become a prominent man of letters and educator, he wrote a treatise – *Manāhij al-albāb* – that fleshed out modern macro-economic concepts of industrialization, property rights, and a labor theory of value, at a time of imperial-thinking during the early years of Khedive Ismail (1863-79) whose ambitions relied heavily on credit from France and England. In 1834, le Père Enfantin, the Saint-Simonian spiritual leader, landed in Egypt with a dozen of his followers. By the early 1830s he had written a new New Testament with his fellows the economist Michel Chevalier and mining engineer Charles Lambert, which spoke of connecting the two hemispheres through maritime canals, crisscrossing the Mediterranean with steamboats and establishing hundreds of miles of railways. This seminar, presenting a work in progress, will explore some of the ways Tahtāwī's *Manāhij* overlaps with Saint-Simonian writings and acts, by focusing on the concepts of industrie, industrie coloniale, and the place of steam technology in connecting the world commercially and financially.

**Amr Khairy Ahmed** holds a PhD in human ecology (Lund University). He researches social and cultural histories of energy and technology in nineteenth-century Egypt, from the interdisciplinary perspective of Anthropocene History. His PhD thesis “Egypt Ignited: How Steam Power Arrived on the Nile and Integrated Egypt into Industrial Capitalism (1820s-76)” presented a social history of the arrival of fossil fuels to Egypt, through industrialisation, agrarian production, debts, and colonialism across the nineteenth-century. His ongoing projects include questions of solar energy for agriculture in contemporary arid environments, and the conceptual history of macroeconomics and engineering in Egypt.