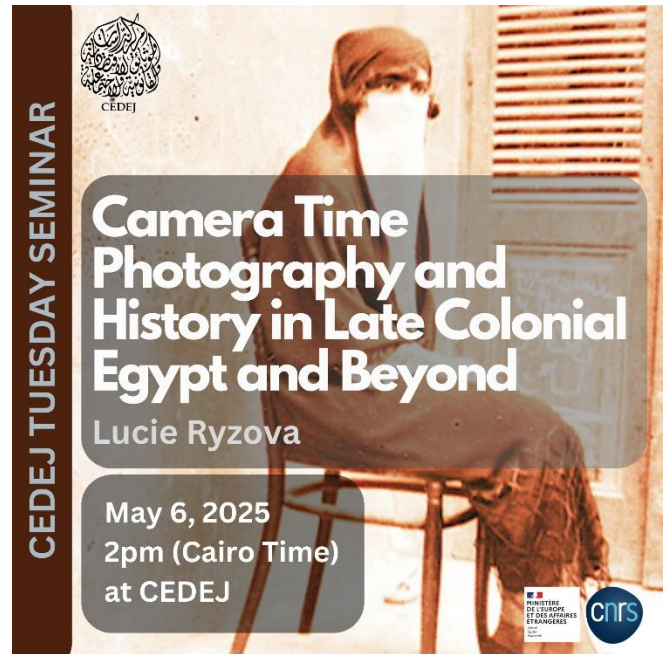


**CEDEJ Tuesday Seminar**  
**Camera Time: Photography and History in Late Colonial Egypt and Beyond**

On May 6, 2025 at 2pm  
at CEDEJ

23 Gamal Eldin Abou ElMahassen St., Garden City - Cairo

In the early decades of the 20th century, personal photographic practices spread like wildfire across Egypt. Affordable commercial studios opened their doors in major Egyptian cities; ambulant photographers toured the provinces, and consumer cameras (“Kodaks”) became widely available to Egyptians on middling incomes. Countless young urban men and women used their cameras to snap themselves and their friends in homes, gardens and on rooftops; and composed often elaborate photographic albums curating their adolescent lives. The resulting photographs are as fascinating



as they are, often, deeply repetitive, mimetic, and even “boring.” How can historians use this vast archive of personal photography to gain new insights into some of the key questions of modern Egyptian social and cultural history? What was the role of photography in the production of modern forms of selfhood? What can thinking with photographs possibly tell us about larger questions of time, space, gender, or the senses; and specifically, about how these were transformed or reconfigured under conditions of modernity? Approaching photographs as historical agents, as traces of (often novel) social practices, and using them as historiographical “think spaces” (Edwards 2021), this talk will address these questions.

**Lucie Ryzova** is a social and cultural historian of modern Egypt, with particular interest in Egyptian popular culture, vernacular modernity, and the history of photography. She is the author of *The Age of the Efendiyya: Passages to Modernity in National-Colonial Egypt* (Oxford University Press, 2014), and a number of articles and book chapters. She holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford (2009); and is the recipient of the Royal Historical Society’s Gladstone Prize (2015) and the Philipp Leverhulme Prize in History (2017). She taught modern Middle East history at the University of Birmingham, U.K. between 2014-2025.