



CEDEJ's Tuesday seminar

**Surveying Egypt: Public Debt and
the Politics of Statistics in the
Imperial Age (1875-1922)**

Malak Labib

In this talk, Malak Labib will present her newly published book *Recenser l'Égypte, Dette publique et politiques de la quantification à l'ère impériale* (2024). In the decade preceding the British occupation (1882), Egypt was placed under international financial control, in the context of the debt crisis. European emissaries, diplomats and bankers conducted surveys with the aim of investigating the country's economic resources. Malak Labib's study takes these surveys as a starting point for a broader exploration of the history of

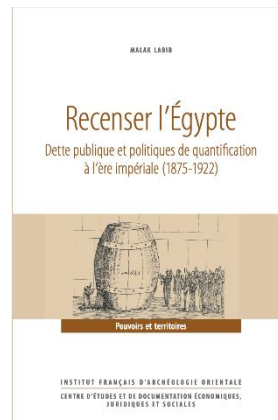
statistics and quantification in Egypt in the era of the first financial globalization. Combining sources from Egyptian, British and French archives, the book shows how the evaluation of public resources became a contested terrain where political struggles intersected with technical and scientific debates about

measurement
procedures.

Recenser l'Égypte offers a political history of public debt in Egypt and situates the

Egyptian case within the global history of quantification.

Malak Labib is a social and economic historian of Egypt. She received her doctorate from Aix-Marseille University. Her dissertation and first book examined the politics of public debt and statistics in late nineteenth



and early twentieth century Egypt. Her current research interests focus on the global history of development as well as the trajectories of postcolonial state formation. She is currently a research fellow of the Gerda Henkel Foundation at the EUME program and the Centre March Bloch, Berlin. She is also a research associate at the IFAO in Cairo.

Date: On June 24, 2025

Time: 2pm (Cairo local time)

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