The inter-university association Routes de l'Orient, in partnership with the Institut du Monde Arabe and Archaïos, is organizing an international symposium entitled “On the Roads of Arabia: Itineraries by Land and Sea”, to be held at the Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris) on the 12th, 13th and 14th December.

The aim of the symposium is to study the overland and maritime routes of the Arabian Peninsula and the exchanges they made possible, through archaeology, history, philology, religion and life sciences. This topic will be addressed in the longue durée, from the Bronze Age to the Islamic period. The symposium will also examine the networks of exchanges with border regions such as the Indian subcontinent, the Horn of Africa and Egypt, as well as the empires of the Ancient Near East, and the Greek and Roman empires.

This wide-ranging, interdisciplinary and diachronic theme, will be of interest to researchers, lecturers and doctoral students from various international institutions. This symposium is also intended as a meeting place for senior scholars, young researchers and students. It will encourage exchanges between disciplines, in line with current scientific methodologies.

We invite papers from archaeologists, historians, art historians, epigraphists, ceramologists, philologists, ethnologists, anthropologists, biologists, archaeozoologists and others.

In this way, we hope to provide a comprehensive overview of the movement of goods and people across the Arabian Peninsula from the Bronze Age to the Islamic period.

During the three days of the symposium, the following themes will be addressed:

• The structures associated with land and sea routes: caravanserais, roads, post houses, trading posts and ports, etc. This theme focuses on the archaeological study of the structures necessary for the movement of goods and people;

• The actors involved in the movement of goods in and around the Arabian Peninsula: traders, buyers, patrons, producers, travelers, camels, etc. From the production of goods to their transport, from the reception of travelers to the financing of expeditions, this theme will explore the identity and function of the actors involved in these commercial, cultural and religious flows;

• Pilgrimage routes: ancient and Islamic pilgrimages. From pre-Islamic sanctuaries to religious practices in the trading outposts of the 1st millennium, from the Darb Zubayda to the Hijaz railway, this theme looks at pilgrimage routes and the practices of pilgrims;
• **From coastal shipping to navigation on the high seas:** maritime routes, pilots and nautical knowledge. This theme looks at the use of maritime spaces as a means of spreading goods and cultures;

• **Circulation of goods, materials and techniques:** dissemination and exchange of know-how and raw materials. This theme seeks to better understand the spread of certain craft techniques, *chaînes opératoires*, raw materials and finished products such as ceramics, metallurgy and glass;

• **Leaving one’s imprint, quantifying goods or making a dedication:** linguistic and epigraphic diffusion. This theme seeks to understand the linguistic circulation in the Arabian Peninsula.

**Conditions for submissions:**

**Deadline:** Friday 17th May 2024

Contributions will take the form of a 20-minute lecture followed by 10 minutes of questions. An abstract of no more than 300 words should be sent as an attached file (.docx) to surlesroutesdarabie@gmail.com by Friday 17th May 2024. This file must also include the full name, email address, status and affiliation of the author(s), the title of the paper and the chosen topic. Papers can be submitted in English or French.

The proceedings of this conference will be published digitally in a special issue of our journal Routes de l'Orient.

In line with the objectives and values of Routes de l'Orient, we strongly encourage young researchers (masters, doctoral and post-doctoral students) to submit their contributions.

**Scientific Committee:**

Dr. Nasser Al-Jahwari - Sultan Qaboos University  
Dr. Abdulrahman Alsuhaibani - The Royal Commission for AlUla  
Dr. Julie Bonnéric – Institut Français du Proche-Orient  
Mme. Marianne Cotty - Musée du Louvre  
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