**Ecologies of Capital in the Middle East**

**Friday, April 28, 2017**

**McKinney Conference Room, Watson Institute, 111 Thayer Street**

9:00-9:30 AM Breakfast

9:30-9:45 AM Opening Remarks by Elizabeth Williams (Brown University)

9:45-12:00 AM **Panel I: Ecology, Capital, and the Politics of Empire**

Nora Barakat, New York University-Abu Dhabi, “Land, Cultivation and Mortgage in Ottoman Syria”

Elizabeth Williams, Brown University, “Imperial Rule and Ecologies of Finance: Capitalizing the Rural in Late Ottoman and French Mandate Syria”

Aaron Jakes, The New School, “Crisis, ‘Real Wealth,’ and the Ecology of Interest in Egypt”

Discussant: Beshara Doumani

12:00-1:30 PM Lunch

1:30-3:00 PM **Panel II: Resources, Development, and Decolonization**

Charles Anderson, Western Washington University, “Colonial Development and the Origins of Mass Landlessness in Arab Palestine: A Regional Perspective”

Ahmad Shokr, Swarthmore College, “In the Tracks of Empire: Railways, Energy, and Decolonization in Egypt”

3:00-3:30 PM Coffee Break

3:30-4:30 PM **Roundtable Discussion**

4:30-4:45 PM Concluding Remarks