

107th KUASS

Kyoto University African Studies Seminar



Prof. Irit Back

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Tel Aviv University, Israel

Sufis from West Africa in Jerusalem: Dynamics of Religious Exchange during Colonial Times

Jerusalem has been a site of Sufi pilgrimage and worship since early times. During the Umayyad period, Jerusalem was a part of the hajj circuit for many Muslim pilgrims, including West Africans Muslims, whose presence in Jerusalem there can be traced back to the thirteenth century. This lecture examines the interwoven connections between the performance of the hajj and Sufi affiliation among West Africans who arrived at Jerusalem and settled there in the British Mandate period (1917-1948), a period when they numbered several thousands. As their story has not yet attracted much research attention, by examining their Sufi affiliation, this lecture contributes to the body of knowledge of that community and adds another layer to our understanding of the role of Sufi affiliation in creating the Diaspora of West Africans Muslims during the colonial era. At the same time, this study integrates their story within the history of Sufi life in Jerusalem during the British Mandate period. As such, this lecture also reveals little known chapters of the history of the diasporic community of West African Sufis during colonial times, and of the broader history of the vivid Sufi life in Mandatory Jerusalem.



Wednesday, March 15, 2023,

15:00 - 17:00 (JST)



Hybrid Meeting On Site + Zoom (Online)

Room #318 (CAAS Seminar Room)

3F, Inamori Foundation Memorial Hall,

Kyoto University

TO REGISTER

Submit your name, affiliation and email address here:

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