

Animal Power in the Age of Railroads: Transportation Technology and Hybrid-Camels in Late Ottoman Anatolia

Onur İnal (Vienna)

Abstract

This presentation focuses on the so far little explored animal dimension of the significant social, economic, and ecological transformations that occurred in Western Anatolia in the late Ottoman Empire. It focuses on how the use of the hybrid, one-humped “Turcoman” camel transformed the way in which trade and transport operated in the region. It suggests that the camel as important history-shaping actor was a visible yet often underestimated actor in the incorporation of Western Anatolia into global markets.

Bio

Onur İnal is a post-doctoral researcher at the Near Eastern Studies of the University of Vienna. His research focuses on the urban and environmental histories of the late Ottoman Empire and early republican Turkey. He is the co-editor of *Seeds of Power: Explorations in Ottoman Environmental History* (with Yavuz Köse) and *Transforming Socio-Natures in Turkey: Landscapes, State and Environmental Movements* (with Ethemcan Turhan). His academic work has also appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as the *Journal of World History*, *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Journal of Ottoman Studies*, *Journal of Urban History*, and *Environment and History*.