

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DES ÉTUDES PRÉ –OTTOMANES ET OTTOMANES



2016 ARTICLE PRIZE WINNER

Dr. Michael Christopher Low

The CIEPO article prize is awarded for the best original article in a field of pre-Ottoman and/or Ottoman studies written and published by a young scholar. The prize is awarded once every two years and carries a cash prize of €1000.

**“Ottoman Infrastructures of the Saudi Hydro-State:
The Technopolitics of Pilgrimage and Potable Water in the Hijaz”**

Comparative Studies in Society and History, 57/4 (October, 2015): 942-974

The provisioning of potable water was a microcosm of the Ottoman state’s incomplete projects of technopolitical modernization on the Arab frontier. Water questions sat at the intersection between international pressures surrounding cholera, drought, Wahhabi and Bedouin disorder, and the inability of the state to impose its will on the semi-autonomous Amirate of Mecca. Through the lens of the technopolitical frontier this essay seeks to tell a larger story about the evolution of state building and development in Arabia, one that would otherwise be obscured without reference to both its late Ottoman and Saudi histories.

Estimation of the committee

A skillful combination of narrative and documentary sources, a well-written text, and a fascinating look at the interdependence of water and oil and a superb scholarly achievement of research, analysis and conceptualization, blending large ideas with careful examination of a variety of documents and literary sources.