

CASI Seminar Series
Spring 2024

Monsoon Voyagers: An Indian Ocean History

In partnership with Legal History Workshop, South Asia Center, and Dept. of South Asia Studies

Thursday, May 2 | 12 pm

Fahad Ahmad Bishara is an associate professor in Indian Ocean History and the Rouhollah Ramazani Associate Professor of Arabian Peninsula and Gulf Studies at the University of Virginia. He specializes in the economic and legal history of the Indian Ocean and Islamic world. His book, *A Sea of Debt: Law and Economic Life in the Western Indian Ocean, 1780-1950* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) is a legal history of economic life in the Western Indian Ocean, told through the story of the Arab and Indian settlement and commercialization of East Africa during the nineteenth century. It was the recipient of the J. Willard Hurst Prize (awarded by the Law and Society Association), the Jerry Bentley prize (awarded by the World History Association), and the Peter Gonville Stein book award (given by the American Society for Legal History). He is currently writing an Indian Ocean history told from the deck of a twentieth-century dhow, drawing on the archives of a number of merchant and dhow captain families from Kuwait. The project (essentially a microhistory that unfolds over a broad canvas) takes on issues of global capitalism, international law, empire, and mobility in historical writing.



Penn Legal History
Workshop