

# Hands-on-Data Workshop

Linking Persons and Places from Near Eastern History  
15–17 November 2024, Goethe University Frankfurt

Submit a project by  
October 18

Register for  
participation by  
October 28

## Call for Participation: Digital Projects, Researchers, & Students

✓ Submit/register now at  
<https://events.gwdg.de/e/Hist-ME24>

## Events

### November 1–14

Zoom orientation and  
activities for matching

→ **Connect places and persons.** Work asynchronously to link your dataset to those of other participating projects. If you don't have your own data to link, join in with the project most relevant to you.

### November 15–17 in Frankfurt

→ **Present your dataset in Frankfurt** with the challenges you faced, solutions you tried, and suggestions to improve the matching process.

→ **Discuss** with international scholars from DH projects.

### November 18–29

Zoom wrap-up and  
documentation

→ **Integrate your data.** Wrap up the matching and get your data into the World Historical Gazetteer or other Hist-ME channels.

→ **Help document the data.** Add your comments to data going into the World Historical Gazetteer or other Hist-ME channels.

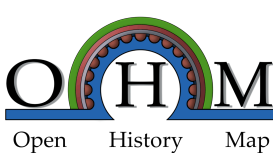
**Platforms** we'll use  
for matching include



World Historical Gazetteer



**Contributing datasets** include



Syriaca.org

## Background

Are you a scholar or student of the historic Middle East, Near East, or West Asia, familiar with its geography and willing to contribute your expertise to the scholarly community? Or do you yourself have data with historical places or persons related to the region, which you would like to enrich with identifiers, geolocation, additional languages and scripts, or alternate name forms? Join us in this match-a-thon!

Digital projects on the history of the Middle East can struggle to connect their data to a linked-open data architecture because identifiers may be lacking or incorrect in commonly used authorities such as the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) and Wikidata. Meanwhile, it can be difficult to locate related data among the mass of individual datasets from other projects working across a variety of languages and scripts. The Historical Middle East Data Alliance (Hist-ME) is an informal working group that exists to find ways of linking data from small projects together without extensive technical infrastructure on the projects' part. The goals of this meetup are (1) to match historical places and persons from attendees' projects, (2) to reduce the technical barriers to this kind of linking and reconciliation (including with algorithmic suggestions), and (3) to network existing and new members.

We welcome participants who are working on the Middle East/Near East/West Asia in any time period and language. We also welcome those interested in observing the technical and methodological challenges of linking data in a linguistically diverse domain.

Register at <https://events.gwdg.de/e/Hist-ME24>

Limited funding will be available to support the travel costs of junior and/or international researchers. Please indicate in your registration if this funding would enable your participation.

## Connect to Hist-ME

If you'd like to get announcements of our monthly online meetups and participate in other discussions, you can join our email list at <https://lists.lrz.de/mailman/listinfo/hist-me>.

## Contact

For questions about the event, please contact Nathan Gibson ([ngibson@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:ngibson@em.uni-frankfurt.de)).