

Geographical Societies, Exploration, and African Collections *between Egypt, Italy, and the Horn of Africa*

23-25 June 2026
Cairo, Egypt

📍 **Egyptian Geographical Society**
109 Shari' al-Qasr al-Ayni
Cairo, Egypt

Organised within the AHRC-funded project:

*Reassessing (Hi)stories of Early Italian Colonialism: The Afterlives of
Luigi Robecchi Bricchetti's African Collections in Italy and Beyond*

Tuesday
23
JUNE
2026

13:00 – 14:00 Registration & Welcoming

14:00 – 15:00 Opening Remarks

Mohamed Zaki Al Sdemy
President of the Egyptian Geographical Society

Emma Bond
University of Oxford

Takele Merid
Addis Ababa University

Amir Remedan
Harari Culture, Heritage and Tourism Bureau

Antonio M. Morone
University of Pavia

15:00 – 17:00 Panel 1 – *The Egyptian Geographical Society, Cartography, and the Production of Imperial Knowledge*
Chair: Emma Bond (University of Oxford)

Ismail Y. Ismail, Mohamed Zaki Al Sdemy, Mohamed Alkhuzamy Aziz, Gihan El-Bayoumi, Oussama A. Himid
*Territorial expansion and cartographical results.
The Khedivial experience in Africa (1870–1878)*

Oussama A. Himid, Abdallah Allam, Ismail Y. Ismail, Adel El Sadany
*The earliest detailed topographical maps of Eritrea:
Their production (Cairo, 1883–1884) and reproduction
(Florence, 1888), and why falling into oblivion*

Teweleda Abdosh, Amir Remedan, Mohammedrabi Mohammed
*The Afterlives of Harari Collections: The EGS Ethnographic
Museum, Shared Heritage and Collaborative Access*

Antonio M. Morone
Luigi Robecchi Bricchietti, Its Exploration and Network

Wednesday
24
JUNE
2026

09:00 – 11:00 Panel 2 – African Societies, Italian Explorers and European Colonialism

Chair: Antonio M. Morone (University of Pavia)

Fleur Martin

“The Italian Stanley”? The journeys, collections, and imperial legacy of Vittorio Bottego

Takele Merid, Nicola Camilleri

Ethiopian anti-slavery stances and the Italian explorers in Northeast Africa in the late 19th century

Chiara Pagano

Producing Empire in the Khedivial Geographical Society: Egyptian Agendas and the Politics of Geographical Knowledge

Federica Ferrero

Negotiating Empire in the Khedivial Geographical Society: Italian Expertise and Colonial Competition in Northeast Africa in the 1890s

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:30 Panel 3 – Archive, Knowledge, and the Production of Colonial Order

Chair: Federica Ferrero (University of Pavia)

David Atkinson

‘Colonial science’ and the production of space and its afterlives in Italian North Africa

Nuraddin Aman

Modern Colonial Archives in Ethiopia: Records of the Italian Occupation (1936–1941) at the Woldemeskel Archive

Wafaa A. Raouf El Beih

Geographical and Exploratory Publications and the Shaping of the Italian Presence in Africa

Abdel Ghani Ziada

Foreign Communities in Egypt and Their Role in the Egyptian Geographical Society

13:30 – 14:45 Lunch Break

Wednesday

24

JUNE

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15:00 – 17:00 Panel 4 – *Museums, Material Culture, and Curatorial Practices*

Chair: Chiara Pagano (University of Pavia)

Ismail Y. Ismail, Mohamed Zaki Al Sdemy, Oussama A. Himid
The Egyptian Geographical Society Ethnographic Museum: Milestones in its Development and its Present Status

Kawkab Tawfiq

Salvage Ethnography, Material Culture, and the Construction of Cultural Continuity: Talismanic and Musical Objects in the Egyptian Geographical Society Museum

Sean Wyer

“Like a Thief in the Night”: The Proto-Colonial Origins of an Anthropological Collection

Eloisa Morra

Afterlives and Co-Production: Curating Italian Colonial Collections in Contemporary Perspective

17:00 – 18:30 Guided Visit to the Egyptian Geographical Society and the Ethnographic Museum

08:30 – 10:00 Partner Meeting (Project partners only)

10:00–12:00 Panel 5 – *Agents of Influence between Egypt, Italy, and the Horn of Africa: Explorers, Migrants, Missionaries, and Journalists*

Chair: Nuraddin Aman Jarso (Addis Ababa University)

Abdel-Azim Abdel-Azim

The efforts of Pietro Antonelli and Luigi Robecchi Bricchetti in Enabeling Italian influence in the Horn of Africa: A comparative study

Mohamed Refaat El-Emam

The Civilizational Role of Armenians in Ethiopia and Sudan During Modern and Contemporary History

Nourhan Raafat Abdel-Mawla, Mohamed Taha Abdel-Gaber
Language, Knowledge, and Power in Foreign Mission Reports to Africa: A Study in Light of Postcolonial Theories

Tarek Ahmed

La Stampa Italofona in Egitto: Laboratorio Politico, Scientifico e Culturale (1892–1930)

Thursday

25

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**12:00 – 14:00 Panel 6 – *Exploring, Mapping, Preserving:
The Evolving Role of Geographical Societies***

Chair: Takele Merid (Addis Ababa University)

Lotfy Kamal Azaz

A Look at the Transforming Role of Geographical Societies in Geographical Discoveries Through the Use of Modern Technologies to Explore Remote Areas

Mousa Fathi Atlam, Ahlam Shokry Gaafar

Towards The Evolution of Geographic Knowledge Preservation Methods in the Egyptian Geographical Society: From Paper Maps to Digital Maps

Karim Moustafa Essa Arfan

Explorers, Geographical Societies, and the Historical Construction of Knowledge on the Nile Headwaters: Re-reading the Kivu Lake–Edward Lake Connection

Gamal Attia

The Role of the Royal Geographical Society, Egypt, in Discovering the Sources of the Nile: A Study in the Geography of Power

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break

15:00 – 17:30 Panel 7 – *Beyond Exploration: Institutions, Memory and International Cooperation*

Chair: Ismail Youssef (Egyptian Geographical Society)

Attia M. El-Tantawi, Wael M. Al-Metwaly

Natural constraints on the mobility of the Geographical explorations in the Nile Basin

Gihan El-Bayoumi

Areas of cooperation between the Egyptian Geographical Society and university geography departments

Najeh Ahmed Hassan

The Role of European Explorers in Geo-archaeological Studies In Africa and the Horn of Africa

El Sayed Mekkawi

Egyptian-Italian Relations: A Historical and Strategic Perspective

Esmat Khamis Alsayed Abd-allatif

From Digital Revival to Public Memory: The Role of Specialized Museums in Reintroducing Geographical Exploration Collections to Contemporary Audiences

17:30 – 18:00 Closing Remarks

Ismail Youssef (Egyptian Geographical Society)

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