"Sea of Obligation: Debt, Law and Commerce in the 19th century Indian Ocean"

a talk by Ph.D. Candidate Fahad Bishara,
part of the Islam in the Global Context Speaker Series

March 22 | 6pm | FedEx Global Education Center | Room 1005

In his talk, Duke University Ph.D. Candidate in History Fahad Bishara will offer his reflections on how to re-imagine the economic history of the Indian Ocean through the prism of the written deed, weaving a narrative of a commercial world structured by debt and obligation. Through debt, Indian Ocean economic actors forged long chains of obligation – chains that stretched across deserts, oceans and jungles, while remaining firmly grounded in law. By focusing on commercial writing, Fahad will explore the sinews of commercial life in the Indian Ocean, moving along the frontier between a world of obligation on the one hand and a long genealogy of Islamic commercial jurisprudence on the other.