

Port-cities

As transportation, communication, and trade accelerated in the 19th century, maritime entrepôts needed to better their port facilities and connect them to their countryside. For Egyptian and Middle Eastern coastal towns and transportation hubs, for example, that necessity had become pressing by the turn of the century. The growth of port-cities brought prospects or at least promises of job opportunities or side hustle jobs, such as prostitution or contraband. Members of different immigrant groups constantly rubbed elbows. They clashed and/saw opportunities in the complex play of inter-ethnic and inter-religious interactions. At once, official decrees and regulations, echoing the accounts of contemporary travelers, described port-cities' urban space as chaotic, overcrowded, and foul-smelling. Out of the pressing concern to clean, order, and discipline, new notions of public health and theories of domestic hygiene developed.

- Middle Eastern urban history
- Mediterranean history
- History of prostitution
- History of public health ideas & policies
- Sensory history