

## **“Reconstruction the Commercial Networks of the Ilkhanate with Digital Database”**

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Many scholars who have studied the commercial networks of the Ilkhanate (the Mongol state in Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan 1260-1335) focused mainly on a few famous merchants and their involvement in specific regional trade networks namely the trade networks of the Ṭībī family and the Chinese merchants via the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean; the commercial activities of the Italian merchants in the Black Sea; and the Mediterranean trade networks via Tabriz and Armenian-controlled Cilicia. Furthermore, the commercial networks that operated between the Ilkhanate and Western as well as Central Asia did not receive sufficient attention in the research literature.

This paper aims to reconstruct the commercial networks of the Ilkhanate, both within and beyond its frontiers, through a prosopographical analysis of data, obtained from biographies of 255 merchants who lived and worked under the Ilkhanate, that were uploaded to the digital database of the ERC research project “Mobility, Empire and Cross Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia”. The aforementioned digital database enables the usage of sources from various languages (e.g., Arabic, Persian, Chinese, Syriac, Armenian and Latin) in order to locate relevant data on the individual merchant as well as on the merchants as a group. The accumulated information on these merchants, obtained from both primary sources and secondary literature, will be put together, indexed, analyzed and visualized through the use of this digital database, thereby enabling me to reconstruct the commercial networks of the Ilkhanate.

Reconstruction of the above commercial networks will provide a better understanding of the relations among the Ilkhanate and the Mamluk Sultanate (1250-1517) of Syria and Egypt, the Chaghadaid Khanate (1260-1678) of Central Asia, the Golden Horde (1260-1480) of Eastern Europe, the Yuan dynasty (1271 -1368) of China, as well as South East Asia, India , Africa, Yemen, Anatolia, Cilicia, Western Europe and the Italian city-states of Genoa and Venice, thereby manifesting the full scope of Mongol trade.