This workshop explores the economic sectors that thrived in the Trucial Coast before the advent of oil. They include: pearling, animal husbandry and nomadism, date farming, fishing and hunting, transportation and commerce, and governance. Participants discuss the emergence of modernity in the twentieth century as an economic, political, and cultural system that affected the UAE, as it did other local indigenous communities in the world. The workshop principally seeks to uncover both the joy and the hardship of the UAE’s pre-oil society.