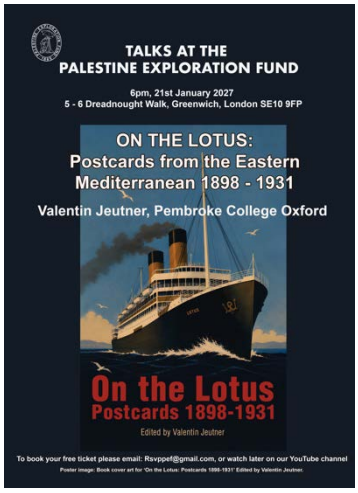
PEF EVENT

Thursday 21st December 2027, 6pm

ON THE LOTUS: POSTCARDS FROM THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN 1898 - 1931

- Valentin Jeutner, Oxford University
- PEF, 5-6 Dreadnought Walk, Greenwich, London SE10 9FP
- Free, please email rsvppef@gmail.com to reserve your ticket/s



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Summary

Between 1898 and 1931, passengers aboard the *S.S. Lotus*, a French passenger ship connecting Marseille with the great ports of the Eastern Mediterranean, including Alexandria, Port Said, Jaffa, Beirut, Smyrna and Constantinople, sent postcards recording their experiences and impressions. Written by pilgrims and poets, soldiers and scholars, royals and revolutionaries, these messages offer rare glimpses into everyday life during one of the most transformative periods of modern history. Bringing together more than 150 such postcards, the book *On the Lotus* explores the people who travelled aboard the ship, the places they encountered and the traces of their journeys that survive. Drawing on this collection, the talk introduces the postcards as micro-(his)stories of the Mediterranean before turning to the ship's unexpected legal afterlife as the vessel at the centre of the famous *Lotus Case* of 1927, which remains one of the most important decisions in the history of international law. A digital version of *On the Lotus* is available open access here: https://archive.org/details/on-the-lotus/mode/2up

About the Speaker

Valentin Jeutner is Professor of International Law at Lund University and Retained Lecturer in Law at Pembroke College, Oxford. His research explores foundational questions of international law and its intersections with philosophy, theology, technology, art, and history. At Lund, he directs the Museum of International Law, an initiative that uses objects and material culture to make international law tangible and accessible. The Museum houses the *Lotus Collection*, comprising historical postcards and other artefacts documenting journeys aboard the *Lotus* across the Eastern Mediterranean between 1898 and 1931. His books include *The Reasonable Person: A Legal Biography* (CUP 2024), *The Sovereign Human Being* (Bloomsbury 2024), *Irresolvable Norm Conflicts in International Law* (OUP 2017), and *On the Lotus: Postcards 1898–1931* (Lund 2026).

HOW TO FIND US

The PEF is situated on the south bank of the River Thames, a short walk away from Cutty Sark DLR station, Greenwich train and DLR station and Greenwich Pier (Riverbus).

