



Europa im Nahen Osten  
Der Nahe Osten in Europa

**Venue:**

Conference Hall  
Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Participants are asked to register at the following address:

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The seminar is part of the activities of the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) and of 'Cities Compared: Cosmopolitanism in the Mediterranean and Adjacent Regions', a research field within 'Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe' (EUME), a research program of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

For more information please visit:  
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**Fritz Thyssen Stiftung**  
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSFÖRDERUNG

**Invitation ZMO-EUME-Colloquium****Ottoman Urban Studies Seminar**

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi

Annual Theme 2008-2009: Daily Life in Ottoman Towns

**Monday, May 18, 2009, 5 pm**

**Ethno-Religious Contours of West African Households in the Ottoman Regency of Tunis, 1738-1860s ca**

**Lecture by PhD Ismael M. Montana**

While the trans-Saharan slave trade and its impact on religious practices of former enslaved blacks in the Maghreb (North Africa) has been subject of scholarly scrutiny for last few decades, its social and demographic implications such as, suburbanization and the development of slaves' ghetto-like colonies in urban settings have received comparatively very little attention. This presentation will examine the evolution of enslaved West Africans' households in the 18th and 19th-centuries Tunis within the context of the slave trade. Viewing the origins and evolutions of these households as a historical process rather than fixed urban structures, the presentation will situate them within the wider configuration of the spatial dynamics and the inter-communal relationships that characterized 18th and 19th-centuries Medina in the city of Tunis. Hence a diasporic and cosmopolitan relationship between the West African inhabitants of these households and the city of Tunis will be explored.

**PhD Ismael M. Montana**, E.U.M.E fellow at ZMO, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Northern Illinois University. He received his Ph. D in African history - from York University (Toronto 2007). His dissertation project: "The Trans-Saharan Slave Trade, Abolition of Slavery and Transformations in the North African Regency of Tunis, 1759-1846," explores the interplay between the caravan slave trade, abolition of slavery and economic and political processes in the late eighteenth and mid-nineteenth century-Tunisia, and the western Mediterranean region more generally. His research interest focuses on West African communities in Tunisia and other parts of Ottoman-North Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries. His publications on this research include a forthcoming volume with Paul E. Lovejoy and Behnaz Mirzai Asl, entitled: Slavery, Islam and Diaspora which is being published by Africa World Press and "The Trans-Saharan Slave Trade of Ottoman-Tunisia, 1574 to 1782," The Maghreb Review, Vol. 33, 2, 2008.

**Presentation of the Seminar**

What is the historical experience of cities in the former territories of the Ottoman Empire - in the Balkans, Anatolia, the Middle East, and North Africa - in dealing with the impact of global changes and the transformation from Empire to nation States? How did people of different cultural, social and religious backgrounds live together? How are such examples of conviviality, conflict, migration, and urban regimes of governance and stratification conceptualized? And how have urban traditions been reinterpreted, and what bearing does this have on modern conceptions of civil society, multicultural societies, migration, or cosmopolitanism. These and other questions will be addressed in this year's Seminar in Ottoman Urban Studies, with a specific focus on daily life issues. This seminar is supported by the research program 'Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe' EUME with funds of the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.