



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:  
<http://www.zmo.de>  
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## 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, 16 February 2009, 5 pm

## An Ottoman Rashemon and the Telling of History: the Coalfield Town of Ereğli as seen through a Corruption Court Case

Lecture by Prof. Donald Quataert

In 1906, following months of local complaints, the imperial government in Istanbul sent an investigative official to the Black Sea town of Ereğli, a port town on the western edge of the important Ereğli-Zonguldak-Amasra coalfield. There, he summoned nineteen persons to explore charges against the top-ranking official in the district, one Emin Mahlas Bey, who had been at his post for more than a decade. Those testifying included members of the ulema, artisans, shopkeepers and powerful coal mine owners. Some boldly pointed to his gambling, drinking and financial manipulations while those further down the social ladder often feared to assert what they actually had witnessed. Their testimonies offer an entrée into a rich social history of the late Ottoman Empire.

**Pr. Donald Quataert** is Professor of Modern Middle-Eastern and Ottoman History at the State University of New York at Binghamton. He is a world renowned specialist in Ottoman Studies with a focus on Social and Labour issues. He published some of the most important works in this field including *Ottoman Manufacturing in the Age of the Industrial Revolution*, Cambridge University Press (1993), *The Ottoman Empire 1700-1922*, Cambridge University Press (2005), *Coal Miners and the State in the Ottoman Empire*, Berghahn Books (2006), with Suraiya Faroqhi, Bruce McGowan and Sevkettin Pamuk *An Economic and Social History of The Ottoman Empire 1600-1914*, Cambridge University Press.

### 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.