



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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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, April 20 2009, 5 pm

Linguistic diversity and Everyday Life in Ottoman Cities of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans (late 19th – early 20th cent.)

Lecture by Dr. Johann Strauss

This presentation is an attempt to describe the linguistic situation and its characteristic features of some major urban centres in Europe, Asia and Africa during the last decades of Ottoman rule. Major languages of urban communication, used by locals as well as by foreign residents, were in the late 19th century Turkish, Greek, French and – in the Arab provinces – Arabic. After dealing with the role played by language in Ottoman urban culture in general, the issue of the "dominant language" shall be discussed. As shall be seen, the linguistic situation in most Ottoman cities was complex and variegated. In some of them, the position of the Turkish language was rather precarious.

Dr. Johann Strauss graduated at the University of Munich, where he studied German, Romance languages and Turcology. Johann Strauss did his PhD in 1987 with a thesis on a 17th Century Ottoman chronicler. He taught at the Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des Nahen Ostens sowie für Turkologie (1985-1987), at the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman & Modern Greek Studies of Birmingham University (1990-1992), and the Orientalisches Seminar of Freiburg University (1992 - 1997). Between 1988-1989, he was research associate at the Orient Institut of the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft in Istanbul. Since 1997, he is maître de conférences at the Turkish Department of Strasbourg University where he teaches, among other things, History of Turkish and Ottoman literature, History of the Turkish language and Ottoman Turkish.

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.