



Invitation ZMO-Kolloquium Summer 2009

Thursday, 9 July 2009, 6 pm

Towards a cultural history of Arab Nationalism: performance and popular action during Yasin al-Hashimi's funeral in Damascus in January 1937

Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

Lecture by Dr Peter Wien

Peter Wien, currently a visiting fellow at the ZMO, will present a case study from his work in progress on a cultural history of Arab Nationalism. Conflicting public representations and rituals will feature centrally in this study. Yasin al-Hashimi's funeral in Damascus in January 1937 is a case in point for the conflict between politicians' attempts to develop a hegemonic nationalist narrative, and populist resistance against this form of domination. Yasin was a former Iraqi Prime Minister and Arab nationalist hero who died in exile in Beirut after he had been toppled in a military coup in 1936. His death and funeral coincided with a culmination of public protest against plans by the Mandate power France to cede the Sanjak of Alexandretta to Turkey. The streets of Damascus were the staging ground for a confrontation between the bourgeois nationalist government trying to exploit Yasin's funeral to build its own nationalist credentials, and the young protesters, who accused the same government of selling out Syria to the Mandate power.

Dr Peter Wien is an Assistant Professor for Middle Eastern History at the University of Maryland in College Park, USA. He received his PhD in 2003 from the University of Bonn, Germany, and a Master degree in 2000 from the University of Oxford, Great Britain. He has previously taught at Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, and was a fellow of the ZMO in Berlin from 2001 to 2003. In 2006, Routledge published his book *Iraqi Arab Nationalism: Authoritarian, Totalitarian and Pro-Fascist Inclinations, 1932-1941*. Peter Wien's research interest is in the role of nationalism and religion in the transformation of modern Arab societies in general, and Iraq and Morocco in particular.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

Next event:

Thursday, 17 September 2009, 6 pm, ZMO

"The Saudi Pot: Melting or Boiling! National Identity, Power Structure and Future Prospects in Saudi Arabia"

Lecture by Prof Saad A Sowayan, King Saud University, Riad