



Invitation

Thursday, June 9th, 2011, 6 pm

Reflections on the Arab *nahda* in Translocal Istanbul – Impact, Influence and Limits

Lecture by Prof. Nadia Al-Bagdadi

Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
Conference Hall

14129 Berlin

This lecture seeks to explore the position and significance of the Arab *nahda* in the Imperial Ottoman capital, a matter still only sparsely understood. Istanbul was a nexus of dense cross-cultural and international contacts between exiles, bureaucrats, merchants, professionals and others, coming from Europe, Russia, Iran and the Arab provinces of the Empire, and underwent profound transformations, intellectual, social and political. While the lecture will focus on one Arab resident in particular, the Lebanese Faris Ahmad al-Shidyaq (1804-1887), and his intellectual influence and milieu in Istanbul, it will widen the focus to encompass broader questions as well: To what extent and in what ways were Arab intellectuals and their *nahda* project present in Istanbul, and to what extent were they shaped by the city's intersection of different pathways of traveling scholars and ideas?

Nadia Al-Bagdadi is Director of the Religious Studies Program and Professor in the History Department, Central European University, Budapest. She studied Islamic Studies at the Free University, Berlin and held previously teaching positions at the FU, Berlin and AUB, Beirut.

Research interests: Socio-cultural and religious history of the nineteenth century in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean, with special interest on intellectual history, reform and reformism, the formation of the secular and religious; another research field is history and constructions of sexuality in the Middle East. The lecture presents part of her current research and book project (*Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq and Arab Modernity*, Edinburgh University Press).

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