

**ZMO-EUME-Colloquium**

Twice a month,
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm

Venue:

Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Please register
at the following address:
Dr. Nora Lafi
nora.lafi@zmo.de
Phone: (+49) (0) 30 80307- 0

EUME is a project at:

**Forum
Transregionale
Studien**

which is funded by:



Senatsverwaltung
für Wirtschaft, Technologie
und Forschung

Urban Studies Seminar 2013 - 2014

Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi

Annual Theme: The City and its Margins

Monday, July 14, 2014, 5 pm

**When the Margin Becomes the Center:
Suburbanization in the Ottoman East**

Lecture by Ali Sipahi (University of Michigan)

Mezre emerged in the 1830s as a suburb of a medium-size town, but it gradually swallowed the town itself and turned into a medium-size city in the 1950s. This shift of the city center was neither a natural process, nor was it dictated by economic transformation only. Cultural choices of the well-off strata of the provincial Ottoman society seem to have brought about suburbanization in its strict sense in the places far away from commercial cities. Several towns in the Eastern provinces of the empire went through a similar process of spatial transformation as an index of class and status differentiation. In all examples, the new margins have become the new centers whereas the old centers have been marginalized, ruined, and turned to historic districts. This lecture discusses the process itself and its underlying connections to economy, state formation and internal colonization. In the long run, the project aims to historicize waves of urban transformations, including today's.

Ali Sipahi is a PhD candidate in the Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. In 2013-14 academic year, he is writing his dissertation in Berlin as a visiting scholar at ZMO. His work is about the emergence and development of a small town, Mezre, in the Eastern provinces of the late Ottoman Empire. He is also co-editing a collection on the nineteenth-century Ottoman East (I.B.Tauris, forthcoming in June 2015).