



Twice a month,  
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm

**Venue:**

Conference Hall  
Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33  
14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Please register  
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**Annual Theme: Refugees in the City**

**Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi**

**Monday, 6 June, 2016, 5 pm**

**Refugee Children in Ottoman Cities:  
Public Order and Philanthropy in the  
Late Ottoman Empire**

Lecture by **Prof Dr Nazan Maksudyan** (Kemerburgaz University, Istanbul)

In the nineteenth century, the 'dangerous child' began to occupy a significant place in international public opinion. There was public anxiety about street urchins, abandoned children, and underage beggars occupying newly expanding urban public spaces. The Ottoman administrators of the 1860s and 70s were convinced that vagrant children and beggars in the streets, who were considered both "in need of protection" and as "abetted into crime" were mostly of refugee origin, who came with the waves after the Crimean and Russo-Ottoman Wars. Children were perceived as a form of threat for the order and security of the cities and their inhabitants. In that respect, the urban space should be cleared off them. Claiming that "a modern state" should both protect children from danger and protect society from dangerous children, there was a compulsive and brutal activity of "child collection" and incarceration in the second half of nineteenth century in major cities of the Empire.

Primarily based on the Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives, Ottoman Educational and Provincial Yearbooks, French diplomatic archives, and Ottoman press, this paper discusses the late Ottoman state's approach to the issue of refugees by focusing on both the mechanisms of order and measures of philanthropy targeting children. As a point comparison, the paper touches upon the situation of Armenian refugee children in Istanbul after 1919.

**Nazan Maksudyan** is Associate Professor of History at Istanbul Kemerburgaz University. She received her undergraduate and MA degrees from the Political Science Department of Boğaziçi University and her PhD from the History program at Sabancı University. She continued her research in Berlin as a EUME Fellow at Zentrum Moderner Orient and with consecutive postdoctoral scholarships from the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung. Her research focuses on the history of children and youth during the 19th and 20th centuries. Her prominent publications include *Orphans and Destitute Children in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Syracuse University Press, 2014), *Women and the City, Women in the City* (ed.) (New York: Berghahn, 2014), "Orphans, Cities, and the State: Vocational Orphanages (Islahhanes) and 'Reform' in the Late Ottoman Urban Space", *IJMES* 43 (2011) and "Foster-Daughter or Servant, Charity or Abuse: Beslemes in the Late Ottoman Empire," *Journal of Historical Sociology* 21 (2008).