



Urban Studies Seminar 2018–2019

Annual Theme: The Urban Spatialities of Religion in the Middle East, Africa and South-East Asia

Monday, 15 July 2019, 5 pm

Islam and the Urban Space in Ottoman Tunis

Lecture by **Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saadaoui** (Faculté des Lettres, des Arts et des Humanités de l'Université de La Manouba, Tunis)

Venue

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In cooperation with:



This lecture proposes to examine the official religious architecture in Tunis in a comparative perspective with Tripoli and Algiers from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century. Focusing on large mosques built by the Ottoman authorities, it intends to illustrate how religious architecture was part of a communication, or even propaganda, programme, reflecting the ideology of the power. The aim of the lecture is also to examine how regime changes affected architecture and its decorum. The lecture will be articulated along three main focuses: 1. A study of the identity, role, ideology and work of the commissioners, of the architects and of the management of the mosques built by the Ottoman authorities. 2. An architectural study of the mosques (the religious complexes and their components, the morphology of the buildings, the insertion into the urban landscape. 3. A study of ornaments and decors (calligraphy, marble, earthenware, stucco, etc.). The aim of this approach is to interpret the specificities of the relationship between Islam and the urban space during the Ottoman period.

Ahmed Saadaoui is a professor at the Faculté des Lettres, des Arts et des Humanités of La Manouba University in Tunis since 1989. He is currently the director of the Laboratoire d'Archéologie et d'Architecture Maghrébines. He holds a PhD from the Université Paris-Sorbonne and a habilitation à diriger des recherches from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. Among his publications: *Testour du XVIIe au XIXe siècle, histoire architecturale d'une ville morisque de Tunisie*, Tunis 1996; *Tunis, ville ottomane: trois siècles d'urbanisme et d'architecture*, Tunis 2001; *Tunis au XVIIe siècle: des actes de waqf de l'époque des deys et des beys mouradites*, Tunis 2011; *Tunis à l'époque de Husayn b. Ali et de Ali Pacha (1705-1756)*. He also published more than 50 scholarly articles in academic journals.