



Europa im Nahen Osten
Der Nahe Osten in Europa

Venue:

Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Participants are asked to register at the following address:

Dr. Nora Lafi
nora.lafi@rz.hu-berlin.de
Phone: (+49) (0) 30 80307- 0

The seminar is part of the activities of the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) and of 'Cities Compared: Cosmopolitanism in the Mediterranean and Adjacent Regions', a research field within 'Europe in the Middle East - The Middle East in Europe' (EUME), a research program of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.zmo.de>
<http://www.eume-berlin.de>
<http://www.h-net.org/mediter/>

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSFÖRDERUNG

Invitation ZMO-EUME-Colloquium**Ottoman Urban Studies Seminar**

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi
Annual Theme 2009 -2010: Post-Ottoman Cities

Monday, December 7 2009, 5 pm

Ottoman City/Colonial City? Jaffa, Tel Aviv and Struggle for Modernity**Lecture by Prof. Mark LeVine**

In the final decades of Ottoman rule the eastern Mediterranean port city of Jaffa experienced a significant period of economic growth and with it modernization. This development was, in many ways, a result of the gradual weakening of centralized Ottoman control over Palestine and the opening of the region to greater European trade, yet the continued Ottoman presence and authority in the town helped a cosmopolitan, non-colonial modernity emerge in Jaffa and its environs that offered a unique space for cross-cultural interaction among the indigenous and foreign Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities. In this presentation I discuss how the trajectory of this non-colonial modernity was impacted by the establishment of Tel Aviv in 1909, how the at first "friendly" competition between Tel Aviv and Jaffa to develop along the most modern lines quickly turned towards a more zero-sum struggle once Ottoman imperial rule was replaced by the rule of an imperial order, that of the British, that had a very different political agenda for the region, and discourse of development with which to continue the process of modernization begun in the last decades of Ottoman rule.

Prof. Mark LeVine is a professor of History at the University of California, Irvine. He is presently invited professor at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies (Lund University, Sweden). Among his publications : "Overthrowing Geography: Jaffa, Tel Aviv and the Struggle for Palestine", University of California Press (2005) and "An Impossible Peace: Oslo and the Burdens of History", Zed Books (2007).

Presentation of the Seminar

What is the historical experience of cities in the former territories of the Ottoman Empire - in the Balkans, Anatolia, the Middle East, and North Africa - in dealing with the impact of global changes and the transformation from Empire to nation States? How did people of different cultural, social and religious backgrounds live together? How are such examples of conviviality, conflict, migration, and urban regimes of governance and stratification conceptualized? And how have urban traditions been reinterpreted, and what bearing does this have on modern conceptions of civil society, multicultural societies, migration, or cosmopolitanism. These and other questions will be addressed in this year's Seminar in Ottoman Urban Studies.

This seminar is supported with funds of the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.