



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:

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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.

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**Fritz Thyssen Stiftung**
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSFÖRDERUNG

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

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi
Annual Theme 2010 -2011: Urban Violence

Monday, March 21st, 2011, 5 pm

Urban Mobs in Early Nineteenth-Century Istanbul: The Beşiktaş (September 1807) and the Çardak Incidents (May 1808)**Lecture by Aysel Yıldız**

Ottoman history of the first decade of 19th century is marked by chaos and violence, particularly in Istanbul. A serious uprising broke out May 1807, creating five days of bloodshed and disorder. It ended with a change in the throne, but did not bring stability to the capital. The rebellion was followed by a longer period of chaos, which mainly characterizes the reign of the new sultan, Mustafa IV (r.1807-1808). Frequent dismissals and appointments, political purges and tension between various cliques exemplify the chaotic situation in the imperial army on campaign around the Danube as well as at the capital.

Most of the disorder was radiating directly from the former rebels. Due to an official written promise made by the Sultan, they were not punished but instead ended up as a very strong pressure group throughout the reign of Mustafa IV, who was abused by various factions or cliques for their own interests. Moreover, being unharnessed, they turned into a dangerous part of the urban mob. Despite frequent warnings of the center, they wandered around the streets of Istanbul in full arms and disturbed daily lives of the people, including the Muslims, non-Muslim Ottoman subjects and the foreigners. The residents of the city were frightened by their unruly acts and there happened several minor or major incidents illustrating their excesses. The Beşiktaş and Çardak incidents, however, proved to be the most serious ones.

The breakdown of the political system with the forced change in the throne and the elimination of the former ruling elite during the May 1807 Kabakçı uprising had created a political vacuum, which required time for the installment and stabilization of new cadres. The consequent political vacuum created a free atmosphere for the former rebels, increased disorder and also undermined the imperial legitimacy of Mustafa IV.

Aysel Danacı Yıldız is a post-doctoral researcher at Sabancı University, Istanbul. Her Ph.D. dissertation is titled "Vaka-yı Selimiyye or the Selimiyye Incident: A Study of the May 1807 Rebellion" (Sabancı University: 2008). She is editor of a book titled *Asiler ve Gaziler: Kabakçı Mustafa Risalesi [Rebels and Gazis: the Pamphlet on Kabakci Mustafa]* (Istanbul: Kitap Yayınevi: 2007).

Presentation of the Seminar

What is the experience of cities in the former territories of the Ottoman Empire - in Asia, Europe and adjacent regions, 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 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? This year's Seminar will focus on questions of Urban Violence.

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