

**Urban Studies Seminar  
2015 - 2016**

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

**Annual Theme: Refugees in the City****Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi****Monday, November 16th, 2015, 5 pm****Refugees, Foreigners, and non-  
Muslims: Nationalism and Xenophobia  
in Interwar Istanbul.****Lecture by Erol Ülker (ZMO, EUME Fellow)**

Istanbul, the cosmopolitan capital of the Ottoman Empire, remained under Allied occupation for almost five years after World War One. However, the Turkish national regime was gradually formed in the city before the occupation formally ended. The nationalist seized control of Istanbul in November 1922 and abolished the Ottoman Sultanate in the context of mounting tensions between the Muslim and Christian elements. In his lecture, Ülker will discuss how this process was accompanied by the sharp increase of xenophobia towards the foreign nationals living in Istanbul and the non-Muslim Ottoman subjects that formed a significant proportion of the city's population at the time. In particular, he will pursue the impact of this xenophobic attitude on the nationalist labor policies implemented in interwar Istanbul. Ülker will consider how the nationalists' efforts to Turkify the labor market influenced the urban conditions of the refugee communities, especially the White Russians who took refuge in Istanbul to escape the Bolsheviks and the civil war.

**Erol Ülker** is currently a fellow of "Europe in the Middle East - The Middle East in Europe" (EUME), a research program at the Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien. He works as assistant professor of history at Istanbul Kemerburgaz University. His research interests include nationalism, labor and social movements in Middle Eastern, Ottoman and Turkish history. Ülker obtained his B.A. in International Relations from Istanbul University (1999). He holds two M.A. degrees from the Political Science Department of Boğaziçi University (2003) and the Nationalism Studies Program of Central European University (2004). He received his PhD in History from the University of Chicago in 2013, with a dissertation entitled "Sultanists, Republicans, Communists: The Turkish National Movement in Istanbul, 1918-1923."

EUME is a program at:

**Forum  
Transregionale  
Studien**