



Venue

Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin

Invitation

ZMO Work-In-Progress Talk

Thursday, 14 March 2019, 2 pm

The Goodells: Towards a Global History of a Missionary Family

Lecture by **Dr. Owen Miller** (Bilkent University, Ankara)

Over the past decade, the study of missionaries from the United States has grown in leaps and bounds. However, much of this work continues to presume that missionaries were always outsiders to the societies they evangelized. While this may be more or less true of the first generation of missionaries, the children of the missionaries often grew up speaking the local languages without a trace of an accent and seeing the world through local lenses. This process of acculturation signals that the work of conversion was often a two-way street, and that the experience of living abroad for several generations profoundly shaped different communities of missionaries. This process of acculturation differed widely from one place to another. In the Ottoman Empire, the American missionaries become involved in activities later associated with the Peace Corps, from building schools to carrying out famine relief. In Hawai'i, the American missionaries were involved in the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani and the annexation of the islands to the United States. Finally, in the south of the United States, in the aftermath of the Civil War, some missionaries built most of the historically black colleges and struggled against the racism of Jim Crow. My current research brings these various strands of missionary history together in the broader framework of world history.

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Owen Miller is an assistant professor of History at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. He received his doctorate in International and Global History from Columbia University in 2015. His work dwells on histories of migration, violence, and conversion. His first book project is tentatively entitled, *Religion and Violence at the Ends of Empire: The Ottoman Colonization of the Mountains*.