



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.

For more information please visit:  
<http://www.zmo.de>  
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 Fritz Thyssen Stiftung  
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSFÖRDERUNG

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

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi

Annual Theme 2008-2009: Daily Life in Ottoman Towns

Monday, 12 January 2009, 5 pm

**News and Popular Opinions in Mid-Nineteenth Century Ottoman Empire****Lecture by Cengiz Kirli**

The Ottoman state began an all-encompassing surveillance of its subjects through an unprecedented spying activity in Istanbul in the 1840s. The reports recorded by spies and informers in charge of listening to anything said in public places in Istanbul in the 1840s provide a rare opportunity to "recover" the voices of the ordinary people. The topics and conversations recorded in the reports were wide-ranging. Among many topics, a substantial portion of the reports contains popular opinions on uprising in the Balkans and the anxiety, restlessness, and hope they created among the Muslim and non-Muslim inhabitants of Istanbul. My paper seeks to present how contemporaries, Muslim, non-Muslim, Ottoman, non-Ottoman felt towards each other and talked about the problems and uprisings in the Balkans in a crucial period immediately following the declaration of the Tanzimat reforms and at a time when separatism, dissent, and resistance were particularly widespread throughout the Empire. The paper will also deal with some methodological and historiographical issues and problems in "recovering" the voices of the past, namely the job of the historian in translating the multi-layered and incoherent everyday conversations into a coherent and orderly historical narrative.

**Dr. Cengiz Kirli** is assistant Professor at Bogazici University (Ataturk Institute for Modern Turkish History). His current research is on public space in ottoman towns.

Among his publications: "Coffeehouses: Public Opinion in the Nineteenth Century Ottoman Empire," in: Armando Salvatore and Dale F. Eickelman (eds.) *Public Islam and the Common Good*, Brill Academic Publishers, Leiden, May 2004

**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, with a specific focus on daily life issues. This seminar is supported by the research program 'Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe' EUME with funds of the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.