



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:
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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 2009 -2010: Post-Ottoman Cities

Monday, November 16 2009, 5 pm

The City, the Valley, and the Nation: On a post-Ottoman 'Land Settlement' in Mandate Palestine**Lecture by Dr. Munir Kamal Fakher Eldin**

The paper addresses the following major question: How did the liberal Palestinian national leadership use the term "Nahda" in the early years of British rule? The core of my answer is to discuss the Nahda as a project of universalizing civil society, understood as both an ideational content and a political strategy within social and governmental processes. The Nahda which we know of as a project of correcting the beliefs and cultural norms of the nation, will thus appear in a new light. In particular, the universalistic propensity of civil society will be questioned. Focusing on a case of a British settlement of land tenure problems on estates previously owned by Sultan Abdulhamid II (r. 1876-1908), through which an attempt to universalize the rule of private property in Palestine was carried out, I argue that it was this governmental project and its colonial predicament, rather than an inner ideational coherency of the idea of civil society, that propelled the Nahda project in Beisan. In doing so, the paper offers insights on the historical transformation from an Ottoman imperial framework of rule to British colonial governance and politics in Mandate Palestine in the early 1920s.

Dr. Munir Fakher Eldin received his doctorate from New York University in 2008 in History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. He served as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Skidmore College for one year before moving to Berlin as a fellow of "Europe in the Middle East--The Middle East in Europe" (2009/10). His main research project examines the emergence of the colonial geography of Palestine from the perspective of the late Ottoman and British-introduced land regimes (1858-1948). Through this project he raises questions about political agency (both elite and popular), as well as the intersections of liberalism and colonial governance.

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.