



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>
<http://www.eume-berlin.de>
<http://www.h-net.org/mediter/>

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, January 11, 2009, 5 pm

**The Housing Question
in Post-Ottoman Izmir and the Population
Exchange with Greece, 1924-30****Lecture by Ellinor Morack**

In January 1923, the governments of Greece and Turkey, who were negotiating a peace treaty in Lausanne, agreed upon an exchange of their Muslim and Orthodox- Christian populations. 1,5 million Greeks, most of whom had already been forced to leave Anatolia, were "exchanged" against 0,5 Million Muslims from mainland Greece and Crete. The mentioned treaty included a sophisticated compensation scheme according to which every person affected by the population exchange was supposed to be compensated for the property they had left behind. Neither Greece nor Turkey ever fulfilled the demands of this compensation scheme.

In her talk at ZMO, Ellinor Morack will present first results of her PhD project on the politics of housing and compensation in Post-Ottoman Izmir; a once thriving city large parts of which had been reduced to ashes by a devastating blaze in September 1922. In the course of these events the Republican government faced a situation in which not only the recently arrived refugees, but also many local people demanded to be given houses which had formerly been "Greek" landed properties.

The presentation will trace the construction of belonging, citizenship and nationality in discourses revolving around the distribution of these houses. It will illuminate how this material part of the Ottoman heritage – tellingly called "emval-I milli" (national property) - became an important reference point in the local construction of these categories.

Ellinor Morack studied history, turcology and philosophy in Berlin and Istanbul. She is currently working on her PhD project at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Societies and Cultures.

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.