



Europa im Nahen Osten
Der Nahe Osten in Europa

Venue:

Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

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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.

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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, June 28 2010, 5 pm

Intellectual Dimensions of Continuity and Transformation in Post-Ottoman Istanbul**Lecture by Prof. M. Sait Özervarlı**

The city of Istanbul, as the imperial capital of the Ottomans and the cultural center of the Republican Turkey, observed certain crises, reforms, resistances, and transformations from the Ottoman to post-Ottoman periods. The urban/cultural history of the late Ottoman and early Republican years in Istanbul, as it is recorded in the sources, is quite interconnected, and therefore similarities or differences need to be observed comparatively in a longer phase. I will discuss the intellectual perspective of this journey focusing mainly on tradition and transition of scholarship with an emphasis on the Darulfunun, the modern Ottoman University, which continued to exist until 1933. During this time one can observe intellectual transformation of scholars, teachers from classical Ottoman to more modern understanding, while at the same time find the roots of their historically cultural characteristics. Scholars, while overcoming the difficulties of the world-war circumstances and adjusting themselves to the developing conditions, eagerly expressed their opinions, criticisms, and suggestions regarding intellectual questions, shortcomings, and expectations. This atmosphere of scholarly activity although represented a lively dynamism among various circles, it also reflected a degree of uncertainty about future prospects as well as awaiting methodological requirements. In this lecture I will try to analyze several aspects of this transitional complexity through the writings of some personalities of the period and major debates among intellectual movements.

M. Sait Özervarlı is Professor and Chair in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Yıldız Technical University in Istanbul, Turkey. He completed his PhD at Marmara University, did his Post-doctoral studies at Harvard University, and was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ during 2002-03. His research is mainly on Islamic intellectual history, Ottoman philosophy, East-West interactions, and alternative modernization theories. His most recent book is *Aspects of Ottoman Intellectual History: From Classical Period to Modern Discussions* (Istanbul: Kent, 2009). His other books include *Ibn Taymiyya's Methodology of Thought and His Criticism of the Mutakallimun* (Istanbul: ISAM, 2008, in Turkish). He also contributes to Turkish Encyclopedia of Islam and the new edition of the Ueberweg's *Grundriss der Geschichte der Philosophie*.

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.