



## Urban Studies Seminar 2011 - 2012

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi

**Annual theme: Urban Sociability and Urban Movements (Middle East, North Africa, Iran, Turkey)**

**Monday, April 16th, 2012, 5 pm**

### ZMO-EUME-Colloquium

Twice a month,  
Mondays 17:00-19:00

**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 Zentrum Moderner Orient  
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(EUME).

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For more information please visit

[www.zmo.de](http://www.zmo.de)  
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## The Role and Rise of the Urban Crowd of Dar Al Khilafeh in Tehran at the Time of the Constitutional Revolution (1906)

**Lecture by Fatemeh Masjedi**

The early twentieth century is usually noted as the beginning of urban uprisings in the Middle East, particularly in Persia. In this lecture Masjedi will turn the attention to the internal motivations for violence and continuous urban protests by different social classes in 1906. In particular, she will focus on bazars and their role in the Tehran uprising, with a special focus on contentious politics of spaces and on the way elite and non-elite actors used political violence as a key feature of resistance in order to impose their demands for changes. The lecture is based on the memoirs *Hayat-e Yahya* (the life of Yahya) by Yahya Dawlatbadi which constitutes the first chronicle of the constitutional revolution of 1906. Analyzing internal and external factors, he characterized the early uprisings of Tehran in 1906 also as echoes of the popular movement in Russia and of the flourishing political activities against the Tsarist regime which followed the 1904-1905 defeat against Japan. The debate about Qajar despotism and the lack of any form of rule of law was previously limited to Persian intellectuals and to discussions in private meetings, and then suddenly brought out to the bazars and mosques in Tehran.

**Fatemeh Masjedi** is a PhD candidate at Free University, and a research fellow at ZMO. She has received her BA from Tehran University in 1995 and her MA from Illinois State University in 2004. Among her published works are: a Persian manuscript *Tarikh-e Alam Araye Abbasi* (Safavid period) co-edited with Dr. Mohammad Ishmael Rezvani; an article on "The Feminist Historiography of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution (1905-1910)" in women studies journal at ISU; book reviews and articles in Persian, among which "Iranian women priorities in social and political life at the time of the Islamic revolution of 1979" on the feminist school website.