



Urban Studies Seminar 2014 - 2015

Twice a month,
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm

Venue:
Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Please register
at the following address:
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Annual Theme: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Marginality in Africa, the Middle East and Asia

Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi

Monday, December 8th, 2014, 5 pm

On the Margins of the City: Izmir Prison

Lecture by **Ufuk Adak** (ZMO, EUME Fellow)

Prisons emerged as "new" penal institutions with specific architecture and personnel in the second half of the nineteenth century in the Ottoman Empire. By offering a peripheral view of the history of Ottoman prisons, this case study examines the ways in which Ottoman prison reform was implemented in Izmir in the late Ottoman Empire through discussion of crime, punishment, urbanization, and imperial transformation. Izmir Prison represents not only the application of a new set of criminal codes and the centralization attempts of the Ottoman government but also allows us to re-think the margins of the city. In terms of the politics of space, Izmir Prison shifted from being on the margins of the city in the late nineteenth century to the 'marginal' spatiality within the new governmental and public space in the first decades of the twentieth century. How did the imperial governance affect prison administration in Izmir? What do local newspapers tell us about Izmir Prison? Do we see a shift of Smyrniots' perceptions regarding Izmir Prison from Abdülhamid II's era to the Second Constitution when the prison was more central to the city than before?

Ufuk Adak has recently completed his PhD dissertation in the Department of History at the University of Cincinnati. He also holds a BA and MA in History from Ege University in Izmir. His dissertation examines the modalities of the social and political transformations of the major port cities in the Eastern Mediterranean world by focusing on crimes, punishment, social control, and prisons in the late Ottoman Empire. Adak presented several papers on prisons and prisoners in the late Ottoman Empire in various venues including the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), the Middle East History and Theory Conference (MEHAT), and the Great Lakes Ottomanist Workshop (GLOW).

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