



Dr. Nora Lafi
Dr. Florian Riedler
Dr. Malte Fuhrmann
Prof. Dr. Ulrike Freitag

Migration and Urban Institutions in the late Ottoman Reform Period

Urban Government in the Ottoman Empire

Dr. Nora Lafi

nora.lafi@rz.hu-berlin.de

The project investigates new forms of urbanity that came into being in cities like Istanbul, Salonica, Izmir, Jeddah or Tunis during the reform period of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. On the one hand this urbanity was conceived and formed by traditional and new urban institutions; on the other hand it was an expression of profound changes in the city that were linked to migration. By viewing together both perspectives the project tries to gain a deeper understanding of the processes of modernisation in late Ottoman cities.

This part of the project examines the structures of urban government in the Ottoman Maghreb and the Middle East during the reform period. The aim is to consider the work of Ottoman and local urban reformers in connection to that of traditional local elites and guilds in creating a modern town-administration. How did ideas of reform travel between Europe, the Ottoman centre and its periphery and how were these ideas adapted to a changing urban society represented mainly by migrants?

"Where all the streets are paved with gold..." Seasonal Workers from Anatolia in late Ottoman Istanbul

Dr. Florian Riedler

florianriedler@gmx.net

For centuries seasonal migrants from different geographical, ethnic or religious backgrounds have been coming from Anatolia to Istanbul to work as porters, rowers or construction workers. This part of the project examines how the lives of these migrants and their interaction with the city administration changed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. How were they affected by the reform policy of the Ottoman government and what was their contribution to the modernisation of the capital? Moreover, what influence did the changing structure of the city have on the relationship between different groups of workers?

'European' and Balkan Working Migrants in the late Ottoman Port Cities

Dr. Malte Fuhrmann

malte.fuhrmann@rz.hu-berlin.de

Far from the major destinations of 19th century emigrants, a small but not insignificant number of members of the lower classes of West and Central Europe tried their luck in Ottoman port cities such as Istanbul, Izmir, and Salonica. While their relationship to their 'mother countries' remained loose, internal migrants from the Balkan hinterland were linked to their places of origin by means of a tightly knit network. Starting around the mid-19th century, these two groups were put under pressure by their countries of origin and the Balkan nationalist movements respectively. The migrants were supposed to support their aim to dominate the Ottoman cities. The focus of this study lies on the impact of the national consulate's and representative's demands on the translocal life-forms of the 'European' and Slavonic-speaking migrants from the Central Balkans on the one hand and on the shaping of late Ottoman maritime urbanity on the other.

Migration and the Constitution of Urbanity in Jeddah in the 19th Century

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Freitag

zmo@rz.hu-berlin.de

As "gateway to Mecca", Jeddah was not only a transit point for thousands of pilgrims annually, but also the major Red Sea port of the Arabian Peninsula. How did the city adjust to the increase in and changing directions of the traffic in people and goods in the second half of the 19th century, which were, to mention only the most significant, affected by steamshipping, the opening of the Suez Canal and European expansion. How did this affect the urban fabric and institutions?



Street of the Franks, Izmir/Smyrna, 1884



City Gate/Bab Medina, Jeddah 1937



Boatmen in the harbor of Istanbul/Constantinople



Document with the seals of the notables of Tunis (ANT), 1865/1866