



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 2008-2009: Daily Life in Ottoman Towns

Monday, May 4, 2009, 5 pm

**Wood for Living and Timber for Fraud:
Everyday Politics of Corruption in Trabzon in
the late 19th Century**

Lecture by Dr. Selçuk Dursun

The basic aims of the 'rational' forestry that was developed in the Ottoman Empire in the second half of the 19th century were to protect the Empire's forests, to acquire sustainable revenue and to supervise the customary usufruct rights of peasants. Due to increasing unresolved problems, Ottoman forestry entered a rather critical phase in the 1880s and afterwards, in which the Forest Administration struggled to deal with various problems. These included the failure to record the inventory of forest resources, the unproductive forest management system, insufficient application of sustained yield principle, embezzlement, and finally the failure of forest survey. Analyzing a specific case in the province of Trabzon, this presentation will illustrate how the limits to forest management in the Ottoman Empire caused local administrative corruption.

Dr. Selçuk Dursun studied history at Middle East Technical University (METU) and the University of Texas-Austin before completing his Ph.D. in history at Sabancı University (Istanbul). He wrote his dissertation on the history of Ottoman forestry. His current research is on the environmental history of the Ottoman Empire, the Balkans, and the Middle East with emphasis on the use and management of natural resources. Dursun is currently the fellow of EUME. He is affiliated to the ZMO. He is the author of the transcription and facsimile edition of *The Ottoman Treasury Registers of the Year 1680*, 2 vols, Royal Asiatic Society Books. *Ibrahim Pasha of Egypt Series* (London and New York: RoutledgeCurzon, forthcoming), *A Call for an Environmental History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey: Reflections on the Fourth ESEH Conference* (Review Article), in: *New Perspectives on Turkey* 37 (Fall 2007): 211-222.

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, with a specific focus on daily life issues. This seminar is supported by the research program 'Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe' EUME with funds of the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.