



Twice a month,  
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm

**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 a joint activity of  
the Zentrum Moderner Orient  
(ZMO) and 'Europe in the Middle  
East – The Middle East in Europe'  
(EUME).

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Wissenschaft und Forschung

For more information please visit

[www.zmo.de](http://www.zmo.de)  
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## Urban Studies Seminar 2012 - 2013

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi

Annual Theme: **Cities as Laboratories of Change**

**Monday, November 12th, 2012, 5 pm - 7 pm**

### **We Don't Care for Victories! Give Us Bread!': Gender, Society, and Culture - Wartime as Laboratory of Change in Ottoman Cities**

**Lecture by Yiğit Akin**

The First World War was arguably the most formative experience for the generation of Ottomans who lived through this period of Ottoman history. The war lasted nearly four years and required the most comprehensive mobilization of men and resources in the history of the empire. The violent nature of the war had far-reaching consequences also for people who were not directly engaged in the fighting. Millions throughout the empire suffered heavily from its devastating consequences. Despite the increasing interest in the First World War in recent years, the Ottoman home-front experience has been largely ignored, even though it fully replicated and in many respects exceeded the experiences of other belligerent nations. This presentation shifts the focus from the battlefield to the home front and examines the impact of the war on the empire's civilian population. By exploring major aspects of urban life during the war, it aims to discuss the complexities of Ottoman wartime experience in cities and provide a new perspective on the disintegration process of the empire.

**Yiğit Akin** is Assistant Professor of History at the College of Charleston. Currently, he is a Europe in the Middle East-the Middle East in Europe (EUME) fellow at the Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien. He received his PhD from Ohio State University. His dissertation, entitled "The Ottoman Home Front during World War I: Everyday Politics, Society, and Culture," examines the social and cultural dimensions of Ottoman society's catastrophic experience of the First World War. He is the author of *Gürbüz ve Yavuz Evlatlar: Erken Cumhuriyet'te Beden Terbiyesi ve Spor* [Robust and Vigorous Children: Physical Education and Sport in Early Republican Turkey] (2004). His other publications include "The Dynamics of Working Class Politics in Early Republican Turkey: Language, Identity, and Experience," *International Review of Social History* (2009) and "Reconsidering State, Party, and Society in Early Republican Turkey: Politics of Petitioning," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (2007).