



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
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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, April 27th, 2015, 5 pm

Kayes Marginalised Histories of Slavery: Telescoping of Memories, Telescoping of Meanings

Lecture by **Marie Rodet** (SOAS London)

The history of Kayes and the surrounding villages, which nowadays form the rural council of Liberté-Dembaya, are closely linked with the history of slave emancipation in the region: the villages of Liberté-Dembaya and the district of Kayes-Liberté in Kayes were all founded by former slaves who escaped slavery and the villages of their former masters in the first twenty years of the twentieth century to build independent communities. Most of these villages are nowadays Bambara-speaking communities in a region of predominantly Maninka and Soninke speakers. With highly significant names such as Kayes-Liberté, Liberté-Dembaya or Diambourou-bougou, they constitute the memoryscapes of this history. Yet, memories of emancipation are little remembered in Kayes. They've been marginalised in the public discourse at the local, regional and national level. They have often been obscured by other processes of memorialisation such as colonisation. My paper explores the complex processes of telescoping of memories and meanings of the history of slavery and its marginalisation in Kayes and how descendants of slaves in the city have used this to overcome marginalisation and stigmatisation linked to the legacies of slavery

Marie Rodet is a Lecturer in African History at the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London). Her principal research interests lie in the field of migration history, gender studies and the history of slavery in West Africa in the 19th and 20th Centuries. She has written a number of articles on post-slavery in Mali, including "Listening to the History of Those Who Don't Forget" published in *History in Africa* (2013). She is currently working on her second monograph on slave resistance in Kayes, Mali.

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