



International workshop

Visible and Invisible Urban Boundaries in the Ottoman and Post-Ottoman World from a Comparative Perspective

22-23 May 2014

Zentrum Moderner Orient, Kirchweg 33, 14129 Berlin
Conveners: Ulrike Freitag, Nora Lafi and Florian Riedler

One common characteristic of cities in the Ottoman world – Anatolia, the Balkans, the Middle East, North-Africa and adjacent regions – was the diversity of their inhabitants. Ottoman urban studies have acknowledged this diversity studying its effects on city life as well as the challenges of managing it. Within this framework of research the central focus was often either on the peaceful coexistence or the violent conflicts among different groups.

This workshop aims at taking a fresh look on the cities and towns of the Ottoman world in order to try and gain a better understanding of their social condition, their cultural and political life, as well as their own representation and image of themselves by focussing on their internal boundaries. Questioning what sort of boundaries characterised different cities of the Ottoman world, be they functionally defined as borders between different parts of the city or between the city and its margins is the central object of the workshop. Boundaries are understood here as both social and morphological between different communities, classes or groups of inhabitants and as signs, which are visible in the urban semiotic or even more implicit and pertaining in the symbolic dimension of urban life.

It is the aim of the workshop to put urban boundaries into a historical perspective by asking about the processes of when and how they came into being and how they changed over time. This question is especially pertinent for the time of Ottoman modernisation in the nineteenth century and the transition from empire to nation state that followed different timelines in the regions under consideration. How did political borders that increasingly cut up imperial space impact internal urban boundaries? What happened to established urban boundaries during these transformations? Were they themselves transformed to continue to exist in a different form or to re-emerge later as phantoms? By examining such phantom borders inside cities more thoroughly, historical research can be linked with present-day concerns about city life. Such questions are at the centre of the research network «*Phantom Borders*» in *East Central Europe* in the framework of which this workshop is organised.

Academic Programme

22 May 2014

9:00 Coffee and Welcome

9:30 Introduction by the Conveners: *Visible and Invisible Urban Boundaries in the Ottoman and Post-Ottoman World*

10:00-13:00 **Session 1**

Factional, Communal and Social Boundaries in Ottoman Cities

Discussant: Malte Fuhrmann

James A. Reilly

Ottoman Hama: Visible and Invisible Boundaries in the Eighteenth Century

Yuval Ben-Bassat and Johann Büssow

Factional Boundaries in Late Ottoman Gaza, c. 1875-1914

Gürer Karagedikli

Boundary Within Boundary in the 'Ottoman City': The Jewish Space Between the Ottoman mahalle and the Jewish qahal in Early Modern Edirne

Sinan Dinçer

Extramural Istanbul: A Space for Social Mobility

14:00-17:00 **Session 2**

Living Together/Managing Separation: A Micro-History of the Urban Space

Discussant: Ali Sipahi

Michelle Campos

Rabbinical Rulings, Rental Sub-Lease, and Confessional Urban Boundaries in Ottoman Jerusalem

M. Erdem Kabadayi

Changing Neighbors and Neighborhoods in Ankara, Bursa and Salonika from the Ottoman Empire to Nation States: Urban Fabrics Compared Across Time and Space, 1845-1945

Christian Sassmanshausen

Titles, Clothes and Social Distinction in Late Ottoman Tripoli

23 May 2014

9:30-12:30 **Session 3**

**The Religious and Ideological Construction of Communal Boundaries
Between Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Times**

Discussant: Hannes Grandits

Stefan Rohdewald

*Constitution in Competition: Celebrations of National Saints in Plurireligious
Urban Spaces of Ottoman Europe in the Long 19th Century*

Aris Anagnostopoulos

*From 'Tourkopolis' to 'Metropolis': Transforming Urban Boundaries in Late 19th
Century Iraklio, Crete*

Guillaume Vareilles and Vincent Lemire

Jerusalem in the 20th Century: A History of Borders?

13:30-16:30 **Session 4**

**Microcosms of Diversity: Displacement, Migration and the Challenge to
Urban Boundaries**

Discussant: Axel Havemann

David Do Paço

*Urban and Historiographical Boundary-Breaking: Geography of Urban Integration
and the Investment of 18th-century Vienna by the Ottoman Merchants*

Maria Pandevska

*The Ottoman Prison Kurshumli Han in Skopje at the End of the 19th Century:
Prison Walls and Bridging Ethnic Boundaries*

Paris Papamichos Chronakis

*Boundaries Drawn, Boundaries Crossed. Refugees, Relief Work, and the
Nationalization of an Ottoman Port-City*

16:30-17:00 General Discussion and Conclusion by the Conveners