

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 4 FELLOWSHIPS FOR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Working Group *Modernity and Islam* (Berlin)

General informations:

The Working Group *Modernity and Islam*, as an interdisciplinary research network, funded by the State of Berlin, is striving to tie area studies more closely to other disciplines. In several independent projects the attempt is being made to expand Europe's history, its present, and its culture. This fellowship program is especially trying to enhance cooperation with Turkish scholars, and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research. For further information, please see: http://www.wiko-berlin.de/Information/eakmi_i.htm.

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Place: Berlin.

Deadline: April 25, 2003.

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For the academic year 2003/04, the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin's Working Group *Modernity and Islam* in cooperation with the Center for Modern Oriental Studies Berlin, the Interdisciplinary Centre *Socio-Cultural History of the Middle East* at Free University Berlin and the Institute of the German Oriental Society in Istanbul invites scholars to apply for four post-doctoral fellowships for the theme: *New Approaches to the History of Merchant Cities in the Ottoman Empire and its Successor States*.

The question of whether, and if so how, multicultural environments function is one that concerns modern day politicians as much as urban planners observing the processes of segregation between different population groups along lines of class and ethnicity. In this context, the development of historical urban centres, notably during the 18th to 20th centuries, might provide an interesting comparison and contrast. The proposed project focuses on the development of merchant ports in the Ottoman Empire and its successor states. The cosmopolitanism of Ottoman port cities and their tolerance of non-Muslim merchants has been retrospectively celebrated and plays a considerable role in a certain nostalgia for the pre-1918 order. Ottoman merchant and port cities have been the subject of important studies which gave attention to those groups which are well documented in the archives, such as state representatives, notables, affluent merchants and Europeans.

Building on these studies, this project seeks to investigate the processes of interaction involving broader strata of society, including the transient groups of merchants, sailors, temporary labourers and others, on the one hand, and the somewhat more established local society, on the other. When do individuals and groups become part of local society, and even start to establish their own »sub-communities«? How do they articulate their interests and affiliations? How do they interact with political authority? What imprint, if any, do they leave on the urban texture? How and under what conditions do such processes of integration take place, and how do they unravel again? How are integration and/or marginality understood and defined by the actors themselves?

This focus on the socially less privileged groups raises questions about methodology and sources. Colonial archives and local chronicles or biographical collections will be of less value than in writing the history of the merchant elites. Court records might provide valuable insight into very different social groups. It is in this domain that much new insight is to be expected from younger scholars working in the Ottoman archives and other public and private collections.

Prerequisites for Application

The fellowships are intended for young Post-doc level historians and scholars of cultural studies and social sciences from Turkey, the Middle East and the Balkans, but also for experts on Ottoman History from other countries. As fellows of the Working Group *Modernity and Islam* scholars have the opportunity to pursue research projects of their choice, to discuss their work with urban and social historians, who work on other areas, and to organise a joint workshop towards the end of their stay in order to present their findings.

Researchers from Turkey or from countries which emerged from the Ottoman Empire will be invited for a nine month stay in Berlin and will be affiliated with the Centre of Modern Oriental Studies and the Interdisciplinary Centre *Socio-Cultural History of the Middle East*, scholars from other countries will be affiliated with the Institute of the German Oriental Society in Istanbul. At both places access to research facilities is given. They will receive a monthly stipend of EUR 1 800 (supplement for married Fellows: EUR 250) and are expected to work in Berlin or in Istanbul. As a rule, the fellowship begins on 1 October 2003 and ends on 31 July 2004. The applicant's doctorate should have been completed no earlier than 1997. An application, consisting of a curriculum vitae, a project sketch of 2-4 pages, a sample of scholarly work (maximum 20 pages from an essay, conference paper, or dissertation chapter), and two names of referees (university faculty members) should be submitted and received, in English.