Urban Studies Seminar 2011-2012
Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi

Annual theme: Urban Sociability and Urban Movements (Middle East, North Africa, Iran, Turkey)

November 28: Introduction: Urban Sociabilities and Urban Mobilizations in Historical Perspective by Ulrike Freitag and Nora Lafi

Opening Lecture Urban Violence Workshop:

December 8: Hope, Violence, and the Urban Dimension of the Egyptian Revolution by Khaled Adham (The United Arab Emirates University Abu Dhabi)

December 12: Urban Meets "Urban: Ottoman Relations with the Bedouins of the Libyan Frontiers (1880-1900)" by Mostafa Minawi (2011/12 EUME-Fellow at ZMO Berlin)

January 9: The Debate on the Exemption of Istanbul from Military Draft as Urban Movement in the Virtual Meeting Place of the Press by Elke Hartmann (Houshamadyan Project / FU Berlin)

January 23: Urban Sociability Among 18th and Early 19th Century Mobile Persians Between Iran and India by Manan Ahmed (2011/12 EUME-Fellow at ZMO Berlin)

February 13: Changing the Game: The Rise and Fall of New Actors in the Local Politics of Late Mamluk Damascus by Torsten Wollina (FU Berlin, Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies)

February 27: Sea Transport Workers Between Urban and Rural: Workers Sociabilities and Mobilizations by Nursen Gurboğa (2011/12 EUME-Fellow at ZMO Berlin)

March 12: From Promenades to Public Gardens: Urban Modernity in Istanbul’s Middling Classes by Edhem Eldem (2011/12 Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin)

March 26: Syrians in Egypt: Urban Sociabilities and Cultural Colonization? by Adam Mestyan (2011/12 EUME-Fellow at ZMO Berlin)

April 16: The Role and Rise of the Urban Crowd of Dar Al Khilafeh in Tehran at the Time of the 1906 Constitutional Revolution by Fatemeh Masjedi (ZMO)

May 7: A Spiritual Landscape of Lahore: Sufic Labors Post 1947 by Manan Ahmed (Institut für Islamwissenschaft, FU Berlin)


June 4: The Role of Urbanity in City-based Social Movements by Margit Mayer (FU Berlin) / followed by a concluding discussion

The Urban Studies Seminar is convened within the EUME-ZMO Research Field 'Cities Compared: Urban Change in the Mediterranean and Adjacent Regions'. The seminar aims at presenting and discussing ongoing research of scholars working on the social institutional, political and cultural history of Middle East, North Africa, Iran, Turkey (and cities in the former territories of the Ottoman Empire like the Balkans or Anatolia) with an emphasis on Urban Studies in comparative perspectives.