



Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies

New Perspectives on Slavery: The Ottoman Empire

International Conference

University of Bonn, 28–30 June 2018

Organized by

Stephan CONERMANN
Gül ŞEN

Venue

Günnewig Hotel Bristol Bonn
Prinz-Albert-Str. 2
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Queries

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The Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies aims to promote research on the various forms of dependency. It questions the classical binary of 'slavery' and 'freedom' derived from the transatlantic experience. In the interest of developing alternative approaches the focus is on transcultural and interdisciplinary research, particularly in relation to non-European pre-modernity as an alternative frame of reference.

The Center is happy to be able to organize a special conference on slavery issues in the Ottoman world and bring together researchers from the field, thus to stimulate international cooperation. We consider agency a useful tool to analyze asymmetric dependency structures on various levels of the Ottoman social order. By agency we understand the room for maneuver or options for action in situations of extreme individual or group dependency. We strongly recommend to build on the comprehensive scope of a previous initiative Mediterranean Slavery Revisited 500–1800 (edited by Stefan Hanß and Juliana Schiel, 2014). Based on a 2012 conference, it addresses the semantics, practices and transcultural perspectives as well as first considerations of agency. Until then, practices of slavery in the Mediterranean had often served as a negative foil to the transatlantic counterpart. With its explicitly exclusive and more granular focus on the various dimensions of the Mediterranean forms of servitude, the interest shifted to opening a horizon for transcultural comparative analysis via interdisciplinary dialogue. The conference aims to continue the

work of the initiative that is to go beyond the normative and universalizing model of slavery. Slavery in the Ottoman Empire as a research field deserves special attention for various reasons. One, it connects to neighboring dominions, from Central Europe to the Black Sea region and beyond. Second, with the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, it encompasses the two water surfaces which played a crucial role in enslavement practices and the slave trade. Third, the Ottoman Empire spans the longest time frame of any empire between the 14th–20th centuries. Last, but not least, the abundance of sources available warrants a more detailed investigation of the topic. The state of research demonstrates a predominance of certain subjects: domestic slavery with a focus on female slaves; courtly slaves, again with an emphasis on women and/or eunuchs and their power. The most recent publications on Ottoman slavery by Suraiya Faroqhi *Slavery in the Ottoman World: A Literature Survey* (2017) and the forthcoming study by Ehud R. Toledano *Ottoman and Islamic Enslavement from a Global Perspective: Theory, Methodology, Practice* (2018) illustrate the recent move beyond these classical topics for the entire period of Ottoman rule.

June 28, Thursday

OPENING

9:30 Stephan CONERMANN and Gül ŞEN

KEYNOTE LECTURES

10:00 Ehud R. TOLEDANO (University of Tel Aviv)
Enslavement in Ottoman and Other Muslim-Majority Societies: Where We Are, Where We Are Going

10:45 **Coffee Break**

11:15 Suraiya FAROQHI (University of Munich/Ibn Haldun University)
Slavery in the Ottoman and Mughal Empires Compared

PANEL 1: LEGAL PERSPECTIVES

Chair: Johann BÜSSOW

12:00 Joshua M. WHITE (University of Virginia)
Freedom Suits and Contested Enslavement in the Ottoman Empire (16th-18th Centuries)

13:00 Yehoshua FRENKEL (Haifa University)
Slaves at 17th Century Jerusalem's Shar'i Court Hall

14:00 **Lunch Break**

PANEL 2: THE POWER OF THE CHIEF EUNUCHS

Chair: Linda T. DARLING

15:00 George H. JUNNE, Jr. (University of Northern Colorado)
Chief Black Eunuchs of the Ottoman Empire: Their Roles and Accomplishments

16:00 Jane HATHAWAY (The Ohio University)
The Ottoman Chief Harem Eunuch as Commissioner of Illuminated Manuscripts: The Slave as Patron, Subject, and Artist?

17:00 **Coffee break**

PANEL 3: THE SLAVE TRADE

Chair: Christoph WITZENRATH

17:30 Zübeyde GÜNEŞ-YAĞCI (Balıkesir University)

The Most Difficult Aspect of Trade: Human Trafficking and Slave Traders in Ottoman Istanbul

18:30 Veruschka WAGNER (University of Bonn)
Slaves of the Black Sea Region in 17th Century Istanbul

19:30 **Reception Dinner**

June 29, Friday

PANEL 4: RANSOMING AND MANUMISSION

Chair: Suraiya FAROQHI

09:00 Betül İPŞİRLİ -ARGIT (Marmara University)
Manumitted Female Palace Slaves and Their Material World

10:00 Rinaldo MARMARA (Episcopal Conference of Turkey)
Ransoming Activities by the Jesuits in 18th Century Istanbul

11:00 **Coffee Break**

PANEL 5: ORGANISATION OF COERCED LABOR

Chair: Jane HATHAWAY

- 11:30** Gül ŞEN (University of Bonn)
The Driving Force of the Ottoman Fleet: Galley Slavery as Sustaining Mechanism According to the Chronicle of Na'imā
- 12:30** Gülay YILMAZ-DİKO (Akdeniz University)
Devshirme Recruits as Unfree Laborers in 16th Century Istanbul
- 13:30** **Lunch Break**

PANEL 6: ABOLITION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Chair: Jeff EDEN

- 14:30** Johann BÜSSOW and Sarah BÜSSOW-SCHMITZ (University of Tübingen)
Domestic Servants in Late Ottoman Palestine After the Abolition of Slavery: First Considerations on Semantics and Agency
- 15:30** Behnaz MIRZAI (Brock University)
Ottoman Slavery Political Agency and Legal Discourse in Iran
- 16:30** **Coffee Break**

- 17:00** Departure from the hotel to the museum

OTTO SPIES MEMORIAL LECTURE

- 18:00** 12th OSML: Linda T. DARLING (University of Arizona)
The Syrian Janissaries in the Sixteenth Century, or, How Conquering a Province Changed the Ottoman Empire
- Venue:** Bundeskunsthalle (museum), Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 4

June 30, Saturday

PANEL 7: CENTRAL ASIAN CONNECTIONS

Chair: Ehud R. TOLEDANO

- 09:00** Jeff EDEN (Cornell University)
Agents of Insurrection: Comparing Rebellion Among Ottoman and Central Asian Slaves
- 10:00** Christoph WITZENRATH (University of Bonn)
Agency in Muscovite Archives: Returned Ottoman Slaves Negotiating the Moscow Administration

- 11:00** **Coffee Break**

PANEL 8: THE CRIMEAN KHANATE

Chair: Yehoshua FRENKEL

- 11:30** Natalia KRÓLIKOWSKA-JEDLIŃSKA (Warsaw University)
The Role of Circassian Slaves in the Domestic and Foreign Policy of the Crimean Khanate in the Early Modern Period
- 12:30** Firat YAŞA (Sakarya University)
Violence against Slaves in Seventeenth-Century Crimea: A Darker Side of Life in a Slave-Owning Society
- 13:30** **Lunch Break**
- 14:30** Closing Statement: Stephan CONERMANN
- 15:00** Discussion & Conclusions
- 16:30** Optional sightseeing tour in downtown given by Dorothee KREUZER