

Workshop

Middle Eastern Christians and Europe

Diasporas – Relations – Entangled Histories

18-19 February 2016

Center for the Study of Eastern Christianity
University of Salzburg, Austria

Day 1: Thursday, 18 February

9:00 – 9:20:

Welcome and Overview by Andreas Schmoller and Dietmar W. Winkler

9:20 – 10:00: Keynote-Speech

Europe and the Protection of Middle Eastern Christians: a long History

Bernard Heyberger, EHESS Paris, France

10:00 – 10:30: Discussion

10:30 – 11:00: Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30: Panel 1: The Complexity of Diaspora Identities

Chair: Helga Embacher

Experiences of (in)visibility and (im)mobility among Iraqi Christians in Denmark

Lise Paulsen Galal and Sara Lei Sparre, University of Roskilde, Denmark

Narratives of Identity, Home and Belonging of Middle Eastern Christians in the UK

Fiona McCallum, University of St Andrews, Scotland

Keeping feet in both: continuum of identities, inculturation and pastoral care of Copts in the European diaspora

Markos el Makari, Monastery of Saint Macarius the Great, Egypt/ Monastery of Bose, Italy

12:30 – 13:30: Lunch (buffet at the venue)

13:30 – 15:00: Panel 2: Diaspora Churches

Chair: Aho Shemunkasho

The role of the Syriac Orthodox Church and religion in Assyrian/Syriac life in Sweden

Marta Wozniak-Bobinska, University of Lodz, Poland

The Arabic Churches in London

Suha Shakkour, University of Derby, England

Of safe havens and sinking ships: Oral Histories about the Church in the Diaspora among Middle Eastern Christians in Austria

Andreas Schmoller, University of Salzburg, Austria

15:00 – 15:30: Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00: Panel 3: Research and Projects related to contemporary Issues

Chair: Dietmar W. Winkler

Safeguarding the Cross: Emergence of Christian Militia in Iraq and Syria

Abdulmesih BarAbraham, Mor Afrem Stiftung, Germany

Between Tradition and Modernity: The status of Christians according to Modern Islamic Thought

Rocio Daga, University of Munich, Germany

The Syriac Heritage Project: Creating a Cultural Heritage Project with Community Members and Scholars in Mind

Ryann Craig, Catholic University of America, Washington DC

Day 2, Friday, 19 February

9:00 – 11:00: Panel 4: Entangled Histories – Missions, Education and Humanitarian Aid

Chair: Andreas Schmoller

European Educational Backgrounds of Armenian Officials in the Ottoman Empire

Abdulhamit Kırmızı, Istanbul Şehir Universit, Turkey

Hopeful but helpless: the unexpected contribution of German missionaries to Christian migration from the Holy Land during the late 19th century

Gil Gordon, Jerusalem, Israel

Engaging Europe in the Arab World: European missionaries and humanitarianism in the Middle East (1850-1970)

Karène Sanchez Summerer, Leiden University, The Netherlands

Material Help and Self-help – Materiality and cosmopolitan care in the Swedish humanitarian work among Armenian refugees in Thessaloniki, 1923–1947

Maria Småberg, Lund University, Sweden

11:00 – 11:30: Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00: Panel 5: Open Space – Entangled Histories II

Chair: Joachim Jakob

The Middle East and Europe Combined: Cathedrals, Mosques, The Temple Mount/Al-Aqsa Mosque – Demands for reciprocity, for the sharing of religious sites, and for the reversing of history

Amikam Nachmani, Bar Ilan University, Israel

Constructing the ‘intra-communal out-group’: the Greek religious imperialism and the Arab Orthodox ‘quantité négligeable’

Konstantinos Papastathis, Université du Luxembourg

The perception of the Aramaic genocide according to the German diplomatic sources from 1915 to 1917

Dominik Giesen, University of Konstanz, Germany

13:00 – 13:30: Discussion of Workshop key themes

13:30: Lunch

Middle Eastern Christian communities have built considerable diasporas in Europe in the past decades and due to recent events in the Middle East, the number of Christians leaving their traditional homeland has risen again. In their countries of residence, they are challenged by integration into European society and the quest to survive as a group with a defined cultural and religious heritage. Historical narratives about Europe and its Christianness often frame identity discourses of these communities. In the past, Middle Eastern Christians have been accused of being a fifth column of the West on the one hand and idealized as being the surviving roots of original Christianity on the other hand. Today the symbolization of Middle Eastern Christians has taken new dimensions, if we consider Islamic State fighters who execute Coptic Christians in Libya to deliver a message to the Christian West, or European right-wing parties who use the persecution of Christians in Muslim countries as evidence in political discourses about Islam “as a general threat to Europe”.

Middle Eastern Christians exist in both forms as heterogeneous globally spread communities and as an imagined symbolic community constructed through projections and discourses. The workshop attempts to explore these two realities by bringing together historical and current perspectives on Middle Eastern Christians in order to define their place and role in Europe.

The workshop **Middle Eastern Christians and Europe: Diasporas – Relations – Entangled Histories** provides a forum for researchers from disciplines across the humanities, social sciences and theology to meet and discuss completed, ongoing or planned research related to Middle Eastern Christians in the European context.

Practical Details

The workshop is reserved for internal discussions amongst conference participants only. The publication of an edited volume based on the presented papers is planned for 2017.

Workshop organizer

Dr. Andreas Schmoller, Postdoctoral researcher at the Center for the Study of Eastern Christianity (ZECO - Zentrum zur Erforschung des Christlichen Ostens)

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Venue

Theologische Fakultät / Faculty of Theology
Department for Biblical Studies and Church History
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