



WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

29 JUNE 2018

9:00-9:30: Registration and Coffee

9:30-9:40: Welcome and Introduction

Aylin Güney (Yaşar University)

Knud Erik Jørgensen (Aarhus University): "Port Cities in the Levant"

9:40-11:10: Session 1

Chair: **Graeme Hanssen** (Yaşar University)

Charalambos Tsardanidis (University of the Aegean): "Thessaloniki and the Construction of a Geopolitical Vision: From the 'lost paradise' of the Ottoman Period to the 'rediscovery' of a New Hinterland in the 1990s"

Imad Salamey (Lebanese American University): "The Decline of Nation-states after the Arab Spring: The Rise of Communitocracy"

Cornelia Navari (University of Buckingham): "Requirements of a Research Project on Port Cities of the Mediterranean and Globalization"

11:10-11:30: Coffee Break

11:30-12:30: Session 2

Chair: **D. Arıkan Açar** (Yaşar University)

Deniz Kuru (Turkish-German University): "Mediterranean vs. Europe: A tale of Port-cities, Nation-states, and Historical legacies"

12:30-13:30: Lunch

13:30-15:00: Session 3

Chair: **Emre İşeri** (Yaşar University)

Malte Fuhrmann (Istanbul Bilgi University): "Celebrating Diversity Levantine Style: Identity Discourses in Eastern Mediterranean Cities around 1900"

Aslı Ergül Jørgensen (Ege University): "Who is the *Rum*? Between the Ottoman, Turk and Greek Identities"

Leonora Navari (Greek Historical and Ethnological Society): "Reading Portolans"

15:00-15:30: Coffee Break

15:30-17:00: Session 4

Chair: **Nazif Mandacı** (Yaşar University)

Graeme Hanssen (Yasar University): "Urban Design or Social Engineering"

Knud Erik Jørgensen (Aarhus University): "Perspectives on Cosmopolitanism in the Levant"

17:00-17:30: Session 5

Chair: **Knud Erik Jørgensen** (Aarhus University)

Concluding Roundtable

17:30-18:30: Cocktail (Location: Foyer of the Rector's Building)

Workshop Venue: Senate Room

Yaşar University, Selçuk Yaşar Campus, Üniversite Caddesi, 37-39, Bornova, İzmir.

A grant made this workshop possible. We gratefully acknowledge the grant received from The Danish Institute in Damascus. <http://syrien.um.dk/en/about-us/the-danish-institute-in-damascus/>

WORKSHOP CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Background

Cities are expected to become the main human habitat and the main destination of both domestic and international migration. Cities therefore receive a significantly increased attention, politically as well as research wise. The Rockefeller Foundation sponsors the 100Resilient cities project. Cities make an entire section of the UNs new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and research on the role of cities in an increasingly globalized world make an entire cottage industry. The project takes its point of departure in this field of study and focuses on the port cities that were once upon a time port cities in the Ottoman Empire, specifically in the eastern Mediterranean, like Alexandria, Smyrna and Salonica. They were cities of empires and characterized by being hubs in integrated imperial economies and profoundly cosmopolitan. A tremendous process of ethnic, religious and linguistic homogenization marked these cities during major parts of the 20th century. Philip Mansel (2010) has famously characterized the Levant as simultaneously an area, a dialogue, and a quest and it is remarkable to witness how Mediterranean cities now connect in fora such as Medcities (<http://www.medcities.org/>) and how cities like Alexandria and Izmir increasingly reach out to the world. Hence, both the dialogue and the quest are alive but the dynamics of the area are not widely known or understood.

Purpose

The purpose of the project and the related workshop is to examine the intriguing proposition that the cities in the context of globalization are becoming cosmopolitan again (argued by for instance historian Philip Mansel in *Levant: Splendour and catastrophe on the Mediterranean*, 2010). In other words, workshop participants will analyse and discuss the likely futures of the major present day Levantine port cities, including Alexandria, Beirut and Izmir.

Stakeholders

The workshop will be of interest to academics with expertise in very different fields of study and municipality civil servants who work in the area of strategic city planning in Izmir and other relevant agencies preparing strategic development plans and/or tasked with attracting Foreign Direct Investments to the cities.

Contents

The contents of the project will be an international workshop at Yaşar University, scheduled for 29 June 2018. The venue will be Yaşar University Selçuk Yaşar Campus, the Senate Room. The workshop is organized by the Yaşar University Center for Mediterranean Studies. The research agenda of the Center for Mediterranean Studies will in the future include the role of the Mediterranean cities in a globalized world and a region that is being thoroughly reconfigured. The workshop will thus contribute to research within this new cluster of research, aiming at producing academic studies that also contribute to practical knowledge.

Expected Results

The expected results of the project are twofold: the creation of a network of experts and the publication of the papers presented at the workshop in either a special issue of a relevant journal or an edited book.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Aslı Ergül JØRGENSEN	Ege University
Aylin GÜNEY	Yaşar University
Charalambos TSARDANIDIS	University of the Aegean
Cornelia NAVARI	University of Buckingham
Çisem GÜNDÜZ ARABACI	Yaşar University
D. Arıkan AÇAR	Yaşar University
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Durmuş ÖZDEMİR	Yaşar University
Emre İŞERİ	Yaşar University
Graeme HANSSEN	Yaşar University
Imad SALAMEY	Lebanese American University
Knud Erik JØRGENSEN	Aarhus University
Leonora NAVARI	Greek Historical and Ethnological Society
Malte FUHRMANN	Istanbul Bilgi University
Nazif MANDACI	Yaşar University