

Turkologentag 2018: 3rd European Convention on Turkic, Ottoman & Turkish Studies
Bamberg, September 19-21, 2018

CfP for Panel “Going Native: Converts, Renegades and ‘New’ Ottomans”, 16th-19th century”

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Deadline: December, 30, 2017

This panel, organized by Yavuz Köse, Petr Kučera and Tobias Völker (University of Hamburg), will examine the role of Europeans who settled in the Ottoman Empire between the 16th and 19th centuries and assumed “Ottoman identity”, be it by way of conversion to Islam and assimilating to the host society or by becoming citizens/loyal servants of the Ottoman state, identifying themselves as Ottomans, but retaining their faith. Being aware of the fact that identity formation is an extremely complex process and every identity is multi-layered, we do not assume that those who underwent “Ottomanization” just shook off their old identity. We rather refer to the process whereby a person who, while originally coming from and being attached to his or her homeland by language, culture, and/or religion, made the Ottoman Empire his or her permanent home, and, after some time, socialized into the new culture and claimed to have become Ottoman or was described as such by others.

While Marc David Baer (*Honored by the Glory of Islam*, 2007) focused on the proselytizers’ and particularly sultan Mehmet IV’s role in the process of Ottoman Islamization, Selim Deringil (*Conversion and Apostasy in the Late Ottoman Empire*, 2012) draw attention to late Ottoman converts, especially Polish and Hungarian refugees, and, in a recently published book, Tobias P. Graf (*The Sultan’s Renegade Christian-European Converts to Islam and the Making of the Ottoman Elite, 1575–1610*, 2017) showed how converts were crucial to the formation of the ruling elite at the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 17th century, our aim is to widen the circle to include those who as merchants, diplomats, scholars, envoys, travelers etc. voluntarily relocated from Christian Europe to the Ottoman Empire, and “Ottomanized” in the sense of converting to Islam, adopting the life-style of the Ottoman majority, assuming an Ottoman name, and/or offering their services to the Ottoman state. We are also interested in the accounts of people, who, while themselves having not “turned Ottomans”, in their traveler accounts, memoirs, or letters described and reacted to their fellow Europeans conversions or change of allegiance. We are especially interested in less-known cases whose life-stories have not received much scholarly attention.

Short proposals (no more than 250 words) along with a short CV are invited for twenty-minute papers that deal with the above mentioned topics. We plan to publish the papers in an edited volume.

Details on Turkologentag may be found at <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/turkologie/studium/veranstaltungen/turkologentag-2018/>

Please send proposals to petr.kucera@uni-hamburg.de by December, 30, 2017. Proposers will be notified by January 15, 2018