

## WRITING HISTORY IN OTTOMAN EUROPE (15TH-18TH CENTURY)



WORKSHOP

BOCHUM, 10-11 MAY 2016

CERES – 4.13 “RUHRPOTT”, UNIVERSITÄTSSTR. 90A

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Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches und der Türkei / Historisches Institut  
Universitätsbibliothek / Zentrum für Mittelmeerstudien / CERES



Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

## Writing History in Ottoman Europe

### Genres – Themes – Historians – Works – Archives (15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century)

10-11 May 2016

Recently, historians and social scientists have become increasingly aware of the fact that “modern” historiography, as it took shape as “science” in Western Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and as it has been practiced almost everywhere ever since, does not always acknowledge the existence and richness of other longstanding or rather fresh historiographical traditions. In consequence, efforts were made to understand this “theft of history” (GOODY 2006), to write “global” history (JGH 2006 *sq.*), to see how “universal” histories were written in various times and spaces (INGLEBERT 2014), and to shed light upon “different historiographies, ancient and new, modern and traditional” (KOUAMÉ 2014).

Yet with one major exception (PETROVSZKY 2014), the Early Modern Ottoman Europe (as defined in HELMEDACH / KOLLER / PETROVSZKY / ROHDEWALD 2013) was never the object of similar comparative efforts. In spite of many remarkable results, national historiographies (Albanian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Greek, Macedonian, Romanian, Serbian and Turkish) still find it difficult to overcome inherent methodological, linguistic and financial difficulties and to offer proper answers to several decisive questions: “How was history written in Ottoman Europe?” “How was the past recorded?” “How was it told and re-told?” “How did these people build their worlds, and what kind of boundaries did they construct between them?” (This last question echoes DENING 1980.)

Even impressive projects such as *The Oxford History of Historical Writing* (WOOLF 2011-2012) failed to provide satisfactory answers to the above-mentioned questions. The second volume of the series includes two studies dedicated to Byzantine historical writing from 400 to 1400, and a study dealing with Slavonic historical writing in South-Eastern Europe from 1200 to 1600 (KALDELLIS 2012; MAGDALINO 2012; GURAN 2012). Unfortunately, the third volume contains only a general presentation of Ottoman historical writing from 1400 to 1800, which of all “other histories” mentions – rather briefly – only the “Ottoman Greek historiography” (TEZCAN 2012). As for the project *Historians of the Ottoman Empire* hosted by the University of Chicago since 2003 and coordinated by Cemal Kafadar, Hakan Karateke and Cornell Fleischer, it seems to have reached a standstill (<https://ottomanhistorians.uchicago.edu/en> – last consulted on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016).

In order to fill this significant historiographical gap, the *Department of the History of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey* and the *University Library* of the Ruhr University Bochum have started in July 2015 a project entitled “A Bibliographical Database of Historical Writing in Ottoman Europe (15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century)” / “Bibliographische Datenbank zur Geschichtsschreibung im Osmanischen Europa (15.-18 Jh.)”. This project is funded by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG). It is our aim to identify, record and detail the main published and unpublished historical sources and archival materials relevant to the topic.

We strongly believe that a workshop perfectly adds to the project as it allows us to interact with main specialists in the field and to better understand the nature of the data under scrutiny. It would also provide the invited speakers with the opportunity to exchange daring thoughts and to test bold hypotheses.

### Convenors

Markus Koller / Ovidiu Olar / Konrad Petrovszky

Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Arrival of the guests – Mercury Hotel Bochum

Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

9.30-9.45 – Registration & Coffee

9.45-10.15 – Opening Remarks by Markus Koller & Konrad Petrovsky & Ovidiu Olar

10.15-10.45 – Presentation of the *Bibliographical Database of Historical Writing in Ottoman Europe* by Sonja Rosenberger & André Hagenbruch

10.45-11.15 – Keynote speech: Rossitsa Gradeva (Sofia)

11.15-11.45 – Adnan Kadrić (Sarajevo): *The Conceptual Framework of the Unified Register of Ottoman Archival Documents and Manuscripts in Oriental Languages Concerning the West Balkans (Project Tasks and Purposes)*

11.45-12.00 – Coffee & Cookies Break

12.00-13.15 – Databases & Projects: Round Table

13.30-15.00 – Lunch Break

15.00-15.30 – Paolo Odorico (Paris): *Observations sur les archives post-byzantines des communautés chrétiennes de la Grèce continentale (XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle)*

15.30-16.00 – Radu G. Păun (Paris): *Future(s) in the Past. History Writing and Subversive Ideas in the Orthodox World under Ottoman Rule*

16.00-16.30 – Nikolas Pissis (Berlin): *Accommodating the Past in the Apocalyptic Frame. Examples from the Greek Apocalyptic Literature of the Ottoman Period*

16.30-16.45 – Coffee & Cookies Break

16.45-17.15 – Eleni Gara (Mytilini): *Making Sense of Rebellion: Ottoman and Greek Contemporary Narrations of the 1770 Christian Uprising in the Morea*

17.15-17.45 – Ivan Biliarsky (Sofia): *Monastic Empire (The Memory of St Tsar Peter in Late Mediaeval and Ottoman Bulgaria)*

17.45-18.15 – Vjieran Kursar (Zagreb): *Bosnian Franciscans and their Representation of History*

19.00 – Dinner (TBA)

Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

09.30-10.00 – Ovidiu Olar (Bochum / Bucharest): *The Unicorn in the City of Lust. The Ottoman Empire in Dimitrie Cantemir's "Hieroglyphic History"*

10.00-10.30 – Kostas Sarris (Berlin): *The Sacred under the Secular: Inverting the Order in The Judaics by Alexandros Mavrokordatos (Bucharest, 1716)*

10.30-11.00 – Xavier Agati (Paris): *Ecrire Byzance dans le Mont Athos Ottoman: Enjeux de l'écriture de l'histoire byzantine dans l'Aynoroz du XVIII<sup>ème</sup> siècle – le "Livre des Règles" de Césaire Dapontes*

11.00-11.30 – Konrad Petrovsky (Vienna): *Multiple Translations – Ianache Văcărescu’s “Ottoman History” from 1794*

11.30-11.45 – Coffee & Cookies Break

11.45-12.00 – Ovidiu Cristea (Bucharest) – *Words of Stone. Memory and History in Wallachia and Moldavia (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Centuries)*

12.00-12.15 – Maria Magdalena Székely (Iași) – *“Récits choisis” d’Ion Neculce – lieu de mémoire*

12.15-12.30 – Ștefan S. Gorovei (Iași) – *L’ésprit critique dans les écrits historiques du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle roumain*

12.30-13.00 – Discussions & Concluding Remarks

13.15 – Lunch

### Host

*The “Bibliographical Database of Historical Writing in Ottoman Europe” Project & The Department of the History of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey*

### Venue

*Centrum für Religionswissenschaftliche Studien (CERES) – 4.13 “Ruhrpott” – Universitätsstr. 90a (44789 Bochum) (<http://www.ceres.rub.de/de/>)*

### Directions

#### *Public Transportation:*

Take the U35 CampusLinie towards Bochum *Querenburg (Hustadt)* from Bochum *Hauptbahnhof* (Central Station) and get off at the stop *Wasserstraße*. From there turn right and cross the street, then left cross the crossroads keeping left while you pass a copy shop at the corner. The CERES building is about 200 metres ahead in the *Universitätsstraße* (n° 90).

#### *By Car:*

The quickest route is via the motorway junction Bochum/Witten, where the A43 and A44 meet. Simply take the exit Bochum-Querenburg, following the signs “Ruhr-Universität” and later “Innenstadt”. Take an u-turn at the intersection *Wasserstraße- Universitätsstraße*. You will find the CERES building on the right hand side in *Universitätsstraße* (n° 90).

### Cover

Rigas Velestinlis, *Map of Hellas*, Vienna 1796-1797 (detail).