The Near Eastern Saddle Period:
The Formation of Modern Concepts in 
Arabic, Turkish, and Persian

International Conference, 
University of Bern, June 12–14, 2019

Keynote speaker: Prof. Dr. Margrit Pernau

Keynote location (June 12, 6pm): F 023, Unitobler

Detailed programme: http://www.islamwissenschaft.unibe.ch
Conference programme

„The Near Eastern Saddle Period“, University of Bern
June 12–14, 2019

Registration is open until May 31 – to register and concerning other organizational matters, please write to the organizer’s assistant, Andrea Birrer: andrea.birrer@islam.unibe.ch

For questions related to the idea, content, and aim of the conference, please get in touch with the conference organizer, Florian Zemmin: florian.zemmin@islam.unibe.ch

Wednesday, 12. 6. 2019, F 023, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36

5–6pm Registration

6.15pm Words of welcome and introduction Stefan Rebenich, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities; Florian Zemmin, conference organizer

6.30pm Keynote Margrit Pernau: Koselleck traveling. How do we translate the history of concepts?

8pm Dinner (on premises)
Thursday, 13. 6. 2019, F -121, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36: morning

9.30–10am Introduction Florian Zemmin

10–11.30am Panel 1 The Arabic Nahda

Jens-Peter Hanssen (University of Toronto): *Nafir Suriyya (1860-61): Towards a conceptual history of the Nahda*

Stephan Guth (University of Oslo): *Introducing a new literary sensibility: Khalīl al-Khūrī reads Lamartine*

Wael Abu-'Uksa (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): *Diachronic perspective on the concept of Tamaddun*

Discussant: Florian Zemmin

11.30am–12pm Coffee break

12–1.30pm Panel 2 The modern subject: education, politics, philosophy

Susanna Ferguson (Columbia University): *Tracing tarbiya: educating children across the nineteenth-century divide*

Nina Studer (University of Bern): *Voicing dissent: women and the anti-mandate protests of 1925 and 1926 in Syria and Lebanon*

Sevinç Yasargil (University of Bern): *The concept of freedom in ‘Abd al-Raḥmān Badawi’s existentialist philosophy*

Discussant: Jens-Peter Hanssen

1.30–2.30pm Lunch (on premises)
Thursday, 13. 6. 2019, F -121, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36: afternoon

2.30–4pm Panel 3 The Ottoman modern order

Daniel Kolland (FU Berlin): Ottoman concepts of global modernity: the global temporality of the Ottoman revolution

Nikos Sigalas (Cetobac, Paris): How millet became the nation

Markus Dreßler (University of Leipzig): Religionization of din and secularization of millet in late-Ottoman lexicographic discourse: a conceptual history approach

Discussant: Alp Eren Topal

4–4.30pm Coffee break

4.30–6pm Panel 4 Science and the social

Alp Eren Topal (University of Oslo): From Galenic humors to modern biology: transformation of Ottoman political metaphors

Erdal Kaynar (University of Strasbourg): Conceptualising the social in the late Ottoman Empire

Kenan Tekin (Yalova University): Transformations in the concept of science during the Ottoman Saddle Period

Discussant: Markus Dreßler

7.30pm Dinner for invited participants (Casa d’Italia)
Friday, 14. 6. 2019, F -121, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36

9–10.30am Panel 5 Classical concepts and novel ideas

Ata Anzali (Middlebury College): Continuity and change: the case of ‘irfan in modern Persian literature

Christopher Pooya Razavian (University of Birmingham): Social justice in Ā’īn-i Islām

Soumaya Louhichi-Güzel (Goethe University, Frankfurt): Khilāfa: an evolving concept of political authority in Sunnī thought

Discussant: Andrea Birrer

10.30–11am Coffee break

11am–12.30pm Panel 6 Despotism and humanity

Ingrid Eskild (University of Oslo): The Revival of the term istibdād: diagnostics of a society between the old world and the new

Banu Turnaoğlu (University of Cambridge): Despotism (İstibdad) in Ottoman political thought

Ömer Faruk Köksal (EHESS, Paris and University of Heidelberg): Uses of counter-concepts in the late Ottoman period: the case of humanity, 1908-1914

Discussant: Daniel Kolland

12.30–1.15pm Concluding discussion

1.15–2pm Lunch for invited participants (Grosse Schanze)