



# 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>

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Burggemeinde  
Bern

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**Universität Bern**

Institut for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies  
Center for Global Studies (CGS)  
Center for the Study of Language and Society (CSLS)

**SNF-Forschungsprojekt 163687**  
The Roots of Citizenship

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Faculty of Humanities

**Institute for Islamic and Middle  
Eastern Studies**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Badawī's existentialist philosophy*

Discussant: Jens-Peter Hanssen

*1.30–2.30pm Lunch (on premises)*

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**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)**

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**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)*

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