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CULTURAL SYMBOLS OF EARLY MODERN RULE. A GLOBAL COMPARATIVE APPROACH

CONFERENCE MAY 19–21, 2022

Institute of Oriental and Asian Studies,
Department of Islamic Studies and
Middle-Eastern Languages,
University of Bonn

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DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC STUDIES AND MIDDLE- EASTERN LANGUAGES

Symbols are created as result of a process of abstraction. Their articulation and presentation create meaning, which makes them a potent device, particularly for political purposes:

First, the intellectual designation attributed to an object or a ritual transforms it into a symbol. Taking recourse to Ernst Cassirer's tripartite model of abstraction (from the sensual feeling), transcendence (of the sensual view), and meaning (with its abstract assignment), at this conference we would like to analyze the various physical, ideal, and ritual phenomena constituting symbols.

With the aim of investigating legitimization of the ruler and cultural transfer in the framework of the semiotic triangle of Cassirer's model, a variety of symbols are suggested for analysis within the tripartite classification between imagination, artifacts, and rituals.

This conference explores symbols of legitimacy in a transcultural context, the goal being to identify the meaning of various imperial practices as well as acts of opposition to them. We intend to shed light on the use of these early modern symbols in politics and to reveal their role in legitimating rulers and political authority. The conference also directs attention to cultural specificities and trans-cultural commonalities of selected symbols. To this end, it focusses on the function of specific objects, rituals, and ideas in the context of imperial rule and on the agency of those employing them. To achieve this goal, we invited a distinguished group of outstanding international scholars drawn from various disciplines with different regional foci. We will bring together literary historians, art historians, cultural historians, and historians of Middle Eastern and European studies.

VENUE

Bonner Universitätsforum
Heussallee 18 - 24, 53113 Bonn
University of Bonn

CONTACT

Conference Organizers:

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Please **register** for the conference
by May 5 via email to cczygan@uni-bonn.de

Visit our [IOA-Website](#) for more information.



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THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

9:30 – 10:30 AM (CEST)
Welcome and Introduction

10:30 – 11:00 AM – Coffee Break

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM - PANEL Imagination I
Chair: Gülru Necipoğlu, Harvard University

Pen vs Sword: Symbolism in Imperial Politics
Hüseyin Yılmaz
(George Mason University, Fairfax)

Love and Rule: The Third Divan (1554) by Sultan Süleyman

Christiane Czygan
(University of Bonn)

Reign of Powerful Verses: Poetry as a Cultural Symbol of Power of the Ottoman Court

Mehmet Kalpaklı
(Bilkent University, Ankara)

1:00 – 2:30 PM – Lunch

2:30 – 4:00 PM - PANEL Imagination II
Chair: Cemal Kafadar, Harvard University

Narrating Opulence and Demonstrating Imperial Power in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire

Ebru Boyar
(METU, Ankara)

Imperial Attribute and Imperial Gift: Reflections on the Book

Harald Wolter von dem Knesebeck
(University of Bonn)

4:00 – 5:00 PM – Coffee Break

5:00 – 6:00 PM – Keynote Speech

Transregional Connections:
Architectural Monuments as Cultural Symbols of Early Modern Islamic Empires

Gülru Necipoğlu
(Harvard University)

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022

9:30 – 11:30 AM - PANEL Artefact
Chair: Evrim Binbaş, University of Bonn

The Palace of El Escorial as a Cultural Symbol of Early Modern Rule

Mechthild Albert
(University of Bonn)

Beasts of Ottoman Rulership

Hedda Reindl-Kiel
(University of Bonn)

Painting as Persuasion: Ottoman Historical Painting and Dynastic Legitimacy

Emine Fetvacı
(Boston College)

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Coffee Break

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM - PANEL Ritual I
Chair: Suraiya Faroqhi, Ibn Haldun University, İstanbul

Long Live the Brother! – Fratricide as a Ritual of Power in the Ottoman Empire

Veruschka Wagner
(University of Bonn)

The Sword: Ottoman Imaginations and Uses of a Transcultural Symbol

Christoph K. Neumann
(LMU Munich)

1:30 – 3:00 PM – Lunch

3:00 – 4:30 PM – PANEL Ritual II
Chair: Stephan Conermann (University of Bonn)

Imperial Performances: Circumcision Ceremonies for Ottoman Princes, 1457 – 1582

Kaya Şahin
(Indiana University, Bloomington)

The Sultan Nourishing His Subjects:
A Royal Claim Asserted Through Artisan Parades

Suraiya Faroqhi
(Ibn Haldun University, İstanbul)

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022

5:00 – 6:00 PM – Keynote Speech

The Constitution and Contestation of Public Life in the Early Modern Ottoman World

Cemal Kafadar
(Harvard University)

6:00 PM – Reception

Saturday, May 21, 2022

9:30 AM – 11:00 PM - PANEL Ritual III
Chair: Mechthild Albert, University of Bonn

Orchestrations of Power: The Struggle for Diplomatic Precedence in an Intercultural Perspective (17th Century)

Michael Rohrschneider
(University of Bonn)

Violence as a Symbol of Power and a Symbol of Justice?

Colin Imber
(University of Manchester)

11:00 – 11:30 AM – Coffee Break

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM - Wrap-Up and Final Discussion