



Contemporary  
**Turkish** Studies

LSE Contemporary Turkish Studies Conference  
**Interrogating the Post-Ottoman**

**17 March 2016, 13:00-19:00**

**Room COW1.11, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cañada Blanch Room, Cowdray House, LSE**

This conference interrogates the legacies of the Ottoman Empire as a domain, a system of rule, and a form of knowledge and practice. Religious, ethnic, and linguistic plurality marked the Ottoman world, which was legally hierarchical but where non-Muslims often rose to positions of power. Neo-Ottoman nostalgia today imparts a rosy glow to the Ottoman *millet* system that gave relative autonomy to religious minorities and ensured the smooth governing of a sprawling empire. This contrasts with the nationalist histories of former minorities, most of whom today live in ethnically defined nation-states formed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries through mass expulsions and a disentangling of peoples that would set an example for later decolonisation projects. This conference asks how we might understand the practices of pluralism that characterised the empire in ways that are neither nostalgic nor teleologically lead to the empire's fragmentation. Furthermore, given that the empire was, for the last four centuries of its history, coterminous with European empires, what intellectual legacies lead us to view the Ottoman Empire as Other to European colonialism rather than its competitor? What would an attention to the post-Ottoman tell us about the field of postcolonialism as itself a European legacy? Moreover, anecdotally many peoples of the Balkans, Southeast Europe, and the Middle East find cultural similarities amongst themselves, including food, music, and common words, but also shared sensibilities and values. In contrast, national cultures throughout the region deny these similarities; making them a part of what Michael Herzfeld has called the 'cultural intimacy' of the region. How do we account for such cultural legacies and what they accomplish in the present, becoming sources of both division and unity? May we speak of the post-Ottoman space as a region with some historical and cultural unity, and if so, how would we define it?

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**CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

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**13:00 – 13:15**

**Introduction and Welcome**

**13:15 – 14:30**

**Panel I: Urbanism and Cosmopolitanism**

**Chair:** Christine Philiou, University of California, Berkeley

**Speakers:** Amy Mills, University of South Carolina  
“*Post-Ottoman Urbanism and Topologies of Place in İstanbul*”

Marc D. Baer, LSE  
“*Jewish Accounts of the Ottomans: From Sultanic Saviors to Turkish Rescuers*”

**Discussant:** Rebecca Bryant, LSE

**14:30 – 15:45**

**Panel II: Everyday Diplomacy**

**Chair:** Glenn Bowman, University of Kent

**Speakers:** David Henig, University of Kent  
*“Spreading Sofra’ and ‘Being Merhametli’: Idioms of Everyday Diplomacy in a Post-Cosmopolitan Bosnian Town”*

Rebecca Bryant, LSE  
*“‘We were All Neighbours’: Everyday Diplomacy in Post-Ottoman Space”*

**Discussant:** Amy Mills, University of South Carolina

**15:45 – 16:15**

**Coffee/Tea Break**

**16:15 – 17:30**

**Panel III: Boundaries of the Post-Ottoman**

**Chair:** Rebecca Bryant, LSE

**Speakers:** Christine Philliou, University of California, Berkeley  
*“Departure or Return? Ottoman Displacement in ‘Post-Ottoman Syria’”*

Fatma Müge Göçek, University of Michigan  
*“Imagined Boundaries of the Post-Ottoman”*

**Discussant:** Glenn Bowman, University of Kent

**17:30 – 18:45**

**Panel IV: Nationalism in Post-Nationalist Greece**

**Chair:** David Henig, University of Kent

**Speakers:** Nicolas Argenti, Brunel University  
*“Emptiness of Krifovouno: Late Nationalism and Post-Ottoman Melancholia on Europe’s Frontier”*

Maria Couroucli, CNRS  
*“The Post-Ottoman Canvas of the Eurosceptic: Grexit and National Self-Representations”*

**Discussant:** Glenn Bowman, University of Kent

**18:45 – 19:00**

**Wrap Up**

**This event is free and open to all. No ticket is required.**

For further information about the LSE Contemporary Turkish Studies and its seminars and other activities, please contact:

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