

Zukunftsp hilologie

Forum
Transregionale
Studien

Freie Universität



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FRIEDRICH SCHLEGEL
GRADUIERTENSCHULE
für literaturwissenschaftliche Studien

Lecture cum Seminar

Thursday, June 7, 2012, 4 – 7 pm

Freie Universität Berlin, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, Room J 24/122d

Asim Zubčević

(University of Sarajevo)

An Ottoman Slavophone City Between Orality and Literacy: Book-Ownership in the Late 18th Century Sarajevo

Chair: Lejla Demiri

(Zukunftspilologie Fellow 2011-2012 am Forum Transregionale Studien /
Universität Tübingen)

Abstract:

Book-ownership data collected from the probate records of the Sarajevo court in the second half of the 18th century (1762-1800) forms the starting point for examining Bosnian Muslim book culture during the Ottoman period. Based on the findings of about more than 600 book-owners and their books, this lecture-seminar is concerned with the issue of relationship between written and spoken word in Ottoman Bosnia, and also with the contesting claims about a book culture which defies straightforward classification.

In the case of communities with shared histories and languages such as the Muslims and Christians in the Balkans, debate about culture and its place in the formation of national identities has always been politically charged. It was thrown into sharp relief with the resurgence of nationalism and the destruction of a cultural heritage variously labelled as „Turkish“, „Ottoman“ and „Muslim“, including manuscripts and libraries, in the 1990s. In the past the difficulty of determining clear cultural and political boundaries in the religiously and ethnically heterogeneous Balkans has invited attempts to demarcate cultural frontiers against the seemingly alien, hybrid, and un-European „other“. *The Development of Spiritual Life in Bosnia Under the Influence of Turkish Rule* by the Nobel-prize winning novelist Ivo Andrić (1892-1975) exemplifies the negative perception of „Turkish“ influence on Bosnian culture.

The lecture-seminar aims to challenge the still prevalent simplistic, reductionist understanding of Bosnian Muslim culture of the Ottoman period and the tendency to read it in binary terms (high-low, „Turkish“-Slavic, written-oral, original-hybrid), arguing instead for a need to consider it in all its variety and complexity, with important consequences for the reconstruction of Bosnian post-war society.

Background reading:

- Nagata, Yuzo: *Materials on the Bosnian Notables*. (Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo, 1979)
- Andrić, Ivo: *The Development of Spiritual Life in Bosnia Under the Influence of Turkish Rule*. trans. B. Juričić and John Loud (Duke University Press, Durham, 1991)
- Vidan, Aida: *Embroidered With Gold, Strung With Pearls: The Traditional Ballads of Bosnian Women*. (The Milman Parry Collection of Oral Literature, Cambridge, 2003)
- Nakaš, Lejla (ed.): *Bosanska ćirilčna pisma / Bosnian Cyrillic Letters*. (Forum Bosnae, 2011), p. 53-54

Asim Zubčević was educated at Gazi Husrev-beg Madrasa (Bosnia), Aligarh Muslim University (India) and Oxford University (UK). He is part-time PhD student at the University of Leiden and is based at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, University of Sarajevo, where he works as a librarian. His main area of interest is Bosnian history during the Ottoman period.

Lecture-cum-Seminar

The Lecture-cum-Seminar series is a central element of the scholarly program of the Zukunftsphilologie project. It is conceived as a working seminar of 3 to 5 hours. The lecture (ca. 45-60 minutes) is meant to introduce the audience to the research problem and provide the general analytical and theoretical framework for the topic. This is followed by a practical seminar, wherein the speaker demonstrates his or her case by reference to texts in the original language and in English translation. It is hoped that this Lecture-cum-Seminar series, a combination of theory and a direct engagement with texts, will enable scholars to examine the comparative aspect of the problematic without neglect of the local and singular nature of the texts examined.

Zukunftsphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship

The project Zukunftsphilologie endeavours to promote and emphasize primary textual scholarship beyond the classical humanistic canon. In an age of advanced communication, intellectual specialization, and unprecedented migration of knowledge and people, the discipline of philology assumes new relevance. Zukunftsphilologie aspires to support research in neglected varieties of philology with the explicit aim to integrate texts and scholarly traditions from Asia, Africa, the Middle East as well as from Europe itself.

Zukunftsphilologie

Zukunftsphilologie refers to the polemic between the classicist Ulrich von Wilamowitz and Friedrich Nietzsche around the method and meaning of classical studies. As a project it sees itself as part of a growing trend towards a more global intellectual history. It is inspired in particular by the work of Edward Said and Sheldon Pollock.

In order to promote historically-conscious philology, Zukunftsphilologie will foster research in the following areas: genealogies and transformations of philological practice, philology's place in the system of knowledge (e.g. its relation to science, theology and jurisprudence), and philology and the university. Furthermore, Zukunftsphilologie aims to support critical reviews of historical and philological practice. In revisiting important „philological wars“, the goal is not to merely evaluate the argumentative worth of these debates, but to reflect on the wider cultural and political context in which these „philological wars“ emerged and how they have shaped our knowledge of the past.

The project Zukunftsphilologie is co-directed by Angelika Neuwirth, Manan Ahmed and Islam Dayeh (all Freie Universität Berlin) and is associated with and located at the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. Zukunftsphilologie is a project at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Information

www.zukunftsphilologie.de

www.forum-transregionale-studien.de

www.fsgs.fu-berlin.de/fsgs/kooperationen/Zukunftsphilologie

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