

**Educational Systems in the Eastern Mediterranean:
From Mamluk to Ottoman Rule
(15th until the 18th Century)**

The German Institute for Oriental Studies in Beirut and the History Department of the Faculty of Literature and Humanities at the Lebanese University—third Branch, Tripoli—are cooperating in the organization of a conference under the title “Educational Systems in the Eastern Mediterranean: From Mamluk to Ottoman Rule (15th until the 18th century)”. The conference will take place on November 13-15, 2008 on the premises of the Faculty of Literature and Humanities in Tripoli.

The educational systems of both the Mamluk and the Ottoman periods have so far been studied only separately. The idea of this conference is to bring these studies together and focus on aspects of continuity and change apparent in the educational system from the 15th until the 18th century in the Eastern Mediterranean. The organizers of the conference intend to work towards a comparative approach which will shed new light on the history of education in the Near East.

The conveners encourage a comprehensive view of education, i.e., comparing not only Sunni Muslim institutionalized education at *madrasas*, but also the educational systems of other religions, such as those of the Orthodox and Maronite churches or of other groups outside these institutions, such as *Sufi* orders and craft guilds. The aim of this conference is to describe the different educational systems within the context of their specific objectives and methods and their specific economic, social and cultural functions, pinpointing continuity and change over time.

Topics of the conference may include:

1. A depiction of educational systems
 - The concept of *madrassa* in education
 - Educational objectives
 - Educational subject-matter and curricula
 - Fields, specialities and levels of education
 - Educators and educated: Their social backgrounds and work opportunities

2. The financing of education
 - Financiers and the orientation of education
 - Continuity and change in the *waqf*-institution

3. External influences on education
 - Religious authorities and their influence on the educational systems
 - Political authorities and their impact on education in the transitional period
 - Society and education
 - The people's perceptions of professional and theoretical education and
 - The impact of the educational systems on the general culture of society
 - Freedom of education and restrictions

Each applicant should submit an abstract (max. 250 words). The deadline for submission of abstracts is 30 June 2008.

Please send to: hees@oidmg.org (contact person Dr. Syrinx von Hees)

The organizers will provide reimbursement of travel expenses and accommodation in Tripoli for all panel participants. Participants are requested to state whether they would need a visa for travel to Lebanon so that the organizers can assist in the visa preparations.

Orient-Institut Beirut – gegründet von der DMG – in der Stiftung DGIA

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