

Fleeing Inquisition: European Refugees in 18th Century Istanbul

Professor Harun Küçük examines how scholars, craftsmen and prisoners of war integrated themselves into urban life in the largest city to the west of Beijing. Ottoman Istanbul was one of the few urban destinations where religious refugees from Europe could get a fresh start. From the ex-Huguenots who ran the imperial mint and the Ottoman fire brigade to Hungarian renegade İbrahim Müteferrika, 18th century Istanbul was full of refugees who made important contributions to science and technology.

In the first half of the talk, Professor Küçük provides the audience with a general overview of the state of the Ottoman Empire and of Europe at the turn of the eighteenth century. While the Treaty of Westphalia (1648) and the Peace of Utrecht (1713) are often seen as the legal foundations of a peaceful, safe and tolerant Europe, the lived experience of religious minorities was still far less than ideal.

Professor Küçük focuses on both conversion and the free practice of religion by reference to protestant accounts of Istanbul, especially Aubry de la Motraye's *Travels through Europe, Asia, and into part of Africa* (1723). The centerpiece of the talk is Johann Friedrich Bachstrom, a prominent naturalist and the author of *Land der Inqviraner (The Country of The Victims of the Inquisition, 1736)*.

Johann Friedrich Bachstrom (1686-1742)

1686 Born in Rawitsch/Rawicz

Apprentice wigmaker

1705 Attends Elisabeth gymnasium in Breslau/Wroclaw

Studies theology in Jena

Oversees missionary activity in Halle with Johann Franz Buddeus

Tutor to a Silesian Pietist nobleman

1716 Pastor and professor at the Thorn/Torun Gymnasium, removed by Jesuits

1720 Pastor at Wengrow, removed by Jesuits

1723 Degree in Medicine

1724 Works at the Prussian embassy as assistant to pastor

Missionary in Crimea

1728-1730 Lives in Istanbul

1730-? Meissen porcelain manufacture

1737 General Director of Manufactures at the Lithuanian Grand Chancellery

Harun Küçük is a professor in the Department of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his BA in Liberal Arts from St. John's College and an MA in History at Sabancı University in Istanbul, Turkey. He completed his doctoral work on History and Science Studies at University of California, San Diego in 2012.

Professor Küçük explores science during one of the most tumultuous periods in Ottoman history, focusing especially on the role of scientific knowledge in the emergence of the early modern Ottoman state. His primary interests include the materialist historiography of science and the emerging global history of early modern science. As a generalist, he works across many different sources and registers, from the Ottoman medical marketplace to minting practices and, from natural philosophy to gunpowder recipes. He considers how the content and scope of science were transformed through the early modern period and how natural knowledge became a secular, independent and practical domain. He also investigates the role of religion - puritanism, conversion, heterodoxy and the relations between different religious communities - in scientific ideas and practices.