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ISA International Guest Lecture

Migration and Labour in a Red Sea port: Jeddah in the late Ottoman period

Ulrike Freitag

Tuesday 19th of January 2016, 4 pm

Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA)
Seminar room 1, 1030 Vienna, Apostelgasse 23

In the late Ottoman Empire, the Red Sea port of Jeddah was marked by a particularly multicultural and transient population due to its function as a commercial entrepot and terminus for the Hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage. In addition, it served as a main market in the Red Sea slave trade, even after this trade had been prohibited. This lecture will investigate how labour, both free and unfree, was organised in a port city characterised by a high degree of mobility and migration. What are the available sources, and what can we say about the economic and social organisation of labour, notably in the fields of work in the port and construction? What can we learn about labour disputes in the past, and about the ways in which local and translocal actors intervened in such confrontations?



Ulrike Freitag is a historian of the modern Middle East and Director of the Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin, as well as Professor of Islamic Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin. After completing her doctorate on Syrian Historiography in the 20th Century (1990), she worked on South Yemen while lecturing at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. In 2003, she published *Indian Ocean Migrants and State Formation in Hadhramaut*. She has since published on translocality and global history, focusing on urban history in a global context. Recent contributions include: *Saudi-Arabien – ein Königreich im Wandel?* (2010); *The City in the Ottoman Empire: Migration and the making of urban modernity* (2011); *Urban Governance under the Ottomans* (2014); and *Urban Violence in the Middle East* (2015).