

TRANSLATIONS, TRANSLATORS, and CONVERTS:
TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY OTTOMAN LANDS

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are pleased to invite abstract submissions for a symposium to take place at the University of Chicago in February 2013.

This symposium aims to bring together papers that evaluate works translated by “renegades,” converts, or scholars to or from one of the languages spoken in the Ottoman lands during the "Long Seventeenth Century" (i.e. from the late sixteenth to early eighteenth centuries). The goal of the symposium is to develop a better understanding of the ways in which transmissions of knowledge and ideas occurred during this period, of the nature of contacts between interrelated and transforming societies, and so of the changes that would take place in following centuries.

The papers should be textually based on translations, with analysis and comparison with their originals and attention to their importance and impact, but may also study the social context in which they were translated, comment on the people involved (commissioners, intermediaries), and explore their motivations. The languages from which the texts were translated, like the nature of the texts, remain unspecified.

To give a few examples, we would hope for papers on the translations and adaptations of intellectuals such as the chief imperial physicians Salih b. Nasrullah b. Sellum; Nuh b. Abdülmennan and Hayatzade Mustafa Feyzi; the chief imperial astronomer Müneccimbaşı Ahmed; historians and geographers such as Hezarfenn Hüseyin b. Cafer, Ebu Bekir Behram b. Dimeşki; Katib Çelebi; the interpreter of the imperial council Alexander Mavrocordato; Sururi; Mehmed b. Mehmed Rodosizade; Luigi Fardinando Marsigli; Panagiotis Nikosios; on works that may have been translated by "jeunes de langues" at Oriental academies in Paris, Vienna, or elsewhere, or, any translated work to and from Ottoman languages that is waiting to be studied in a library.

While we hope to extend an invitation to one half of the participants to the symposium, the other half will be selected on the basis of the proposals submitted. We invite interested scholars from all disciplines to respond to this call for papers.

Travel and lodging expenses of the participants will be covered by the organizers. *The funding for the symposium is pending.*

Please submit one-page long abstract by March 1, 2012 to:

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