

M07	DEPICTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE “OTHER”: ISLAMIC CITIES IN THE EYES OF EUROPEAN TRAVELERS
Organisers:	Gharipour Mohammad (Morgan State University) Nilay Ozlu (Bosphorus University)
Period:	Early Modern/Modern
Date:	Thursday, 30 August 2012
Time:	14:00-17:30
Room:	18

Description

The Renaissance era is often said to be a significant turning point in European history, as a period of cultural and economic reformations that were shaping the identity of the “West.” This new identity was based on a revolutionary shift in knowledge about the world in this period. Cultural discovery of the non-Western lands, triggered after the 16th century by European travelers, opened new doors for cultural and economic exchanges. The “discovery” of new territories by the Western-eye transformed the ‘mystical’ orient into immanent geographies to be visited, explored, recorded, and something to be depicted. The ‘voyage to the Orient’, once an exceptional adventure, evolved into a habit of the Western intellectual.

In the corresponding period of time, the civilizations in Ottoman Turkey, Safavid Persia, and Mughal India were experiencing diverse socio-political and cultural developments. The complex layers of political, economic, and religious struggles, alliances, and rivalries among these empires gradually impacted on the development of cities in this region. The progress in geographic discoveries and the ascending habit of travelling led to inevitable result of the definition of the “other” as opposed to the identification of the “self”. Following this construction of the “other” and the creation of “non-Western” cultures, some civilizations were sub-categorized under a homogenizing term, “Islamic” and the cities in these territories were started being defined as the “Muslim city”. Distinctions between the Muslim city and the Muslim society against the European city and the European society were sharply defined. Travelers’ accounts played a major role in the split of the world into East and West. This session aims to discuss the West/non-West divergence from a different perspective, which is based on analyzing the travelers’ accounts on the “Orient” in the early modern era. We are searching an answer for how the Muslim city was defined and depicted by the Western gaze before the heyday of Orientalism; and proposing to discuss the issues of urban representation before the invention of photography.

The papers of this panel could address the following issues:

1. What tools were used for the depiction of urban fabric and how these depictions were interpreted in the West and also in the East?
2. How “Islamic” cities responded to the developments taking place in Europe in the post-Renaissance era?
3. How was the image of the “Muslim city” literally and symbolically formed and transformed during this period with regard to the cultural and political changes in the Western world?
4. What iconic representations were utilized and how these formulations were transformed within the rapidly changing social, political, and economical context of the period?

The papers can analyze the correspondences and discrepancies between visual depictions and textual accounts and compare various forms of representation of the cities. The papers could initiate new comparisons among European and Muslim cities and encourage new cross-cultural discussions on the underlying factors behind their urban design and development.

Scientific Programme

- 1496 RECONQUERING ANDALUSIA: THE MUSLIM CITIES OF THE WEST**
Zeynep Arda; C. Fernandez Fernandez; E. Bernad Monferrer (Universitat Jaume I, Communication Sciences, Castellon de la Plana, Spain)
- 574 DEPICTING THE OTTOMAN CITY OF CONSTANTINOPLE IN TURKISH MINIATURES AND FRENCH ENGRAVINGS OF THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES, A CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE**
Moronville Jeff (Jules Verne University, Department of Art History, Amiens, France)
- 542 IMAGINED GEOGRAPHIES OF ISFAHAN**
Caroline Mawer (NA, London, U.K.)
- 450 THE OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS OF THE GERMAN/DANISH TRAVELLER CARSTEN NIEBUHR DURING A JOURNEY IN THE ORIENT 1761-67**
Jørgen Mikkelsen (Danish National Archives, Copenhagen, Denmark)
- 388 MUSLIM, CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH TOWNS IN PALESTINE THROUGH EUROPEAN TRAVELLERS' ACCOUNTS (19TH – 20TH CENTURIES)**
Valerie Geonet (University of Namur, Department of History, Bioul, Belgium)
- 347 TRANSITION OF THE ULTIMATE ISLAMIC CITY THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO ITALIAN TRAVELLERS**
Ambra Meda (University of Central Florida, Modern Languages and Literatures, Orlando, USA)
Hakan Ozoglu; Paul Giordano (University of Central Florida, Orlando, USA)
- 1318 TWO ENGLISHWOMEN IN ANGORA: TRAVELLERS' ACCOUNTS OF THE 'NEW TURKEY'**
Davide Deriu (University of Westminster, Department of Architecture, London, U.K.)