



Schlüsselkonzepte der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften

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Die Phil.-hist. Fakultät verfolgt mit seiner Graduiertenschule das Ziel der Reintegration der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften an der Phil.-hist. Fakultät.

Donnerstag, 11. Dezember, 17:00-19:00
Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4, Raum 220

Cultural History

Medieval Famagusta: Protecting an Endangered Multi-Cultural Heritage

Prof. Dr. Michael J. K. Walsh (Nanyang Techn. University in Singapore)

It is difficult to imagine how the cultural heritage of a city as celebrated and as important as Famagusta might find itself neglected and in an advanced state of decay. This was, after all, the coronation place of the kings of Jerusalem, singled out specifically in Dante's *Inferno*, and chosen by Shakespeare as the set on which to stage *Othello*. This was a city that once boasted extraordinary wealth, a multi-faith population, and some of the finest moments of Lusignan and Venetian architecture and art found anywhere in the Eastern Mediterranean. So, what was the sequence of events that led to its fall from grace, and what is it that prevents its heritage from receiving the expertise it so desperately needs in 2014? This lecture explores theoretical notions of cultural heritage and national identity while offering a pragmatic insight into what inter and trans-disciplinary work is nevertheless being done, by whom, and with what objectives in mind. It concludes with an appeal to revisit and up-date current international practices for territories that fall outside the system of nations.

Michael J. K. Walsh took his graduate degrees from the Universities of Cambridge, St. Andrews and York and then was, for nine years, employed at Eastern Mediterranean University in the Department of Archaeology and Art History. In this time he successfully nominated Famagusta for inclusion in the World Monuments Fund Watch List, brought the Global Heritage Fund to the same city, and in 2010 acted as team coordinator for the United Nations project 'Cultural Heritage Data Collection in the northern part of Cyprus'. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in the same year. Some previous publications include: *This Cult of Violence* (Yale University Press, 2002), *London, Modernism and 1914* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), *Medieval and Renaissance Famagusta* (edited with Nicholas Coureas and Peter Edbury - Ashgate, 2012) and *Crusader to Venetian Famagusta* (edited with Tamas Kiss - CEU Press, 2014). He is currently Associate Professor of Art History and Associate Chair (Research) in the School of Art, Design and Media, at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Institute of Advanced Study
In the Humanities and the
Social Sciences | IASH
Muesmattstrasse 45
CH-3012 Bern
www.iash.unibe.ch

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