Vortrag

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lea Nocera (Neapel)
Turkish Studies and Turkology in Italy: Updating the Tradition
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Abstract
Turkology in Italy has a long tradition dating back to the second half of the 19th century. Its institutionalization as a discipline in the Oriental studies occurred in 1892 when the Oriental Institute of Naples opened its first chair of Turkish language, entrusted to Luigi Bonelli. Since then Turkology has established itself particularly as a philological discipline with strong interests for Italian-ottoman ties. The first Italian Turkologists worked in collaboration with Ottomans and also with Turkologists abroad, they were aware of political implications of their research and in some cases, like Ettore Rossi, they contributed to Italian colonial policy. In the years, Italian Turkology focused more and more on Central Asia and until the 2000s it has mostly disregarded studies on Modern Turkey, especially more contemporary developments. In the most recent years, following the political, social, cultural, and economic transformations that have unfolded in Turkey, there has been an increase of new research questions and analyses. A younger generation of Turkologists, with deep contacts with Turkey and often trained outside of Italy, is exploring new aspects of Ottoman and Turkish studies. Its researches witness the potentialities of a renewed Turkology, which answers also to a strong public interest and to the general demand of a richer knowledge on Turkey, in a European country like Italy where there is not a significant Turkish migration. Yet, updating the tradition is a necessity but not easy.

Bio
Dr. Lea Nocera teaches Turkish Language and Literature at L’Orientale University in Naples. She was Visiting Research Fellow at the ZMO in Berlin and at the Türkei-Europa-Zentrum in Hamburg. Her research interests on Turkey include: social and cultural history, gender studies, urban transformations and social movements. As Turkey expert, she regularly collaborates with prominent Italian newspapers and magazines publishing on current affairs. Recently her research on Turkish female migration in West Germany has been published by Bilgi University Press "Manikürlü Eller Almanya’da Elektrik Bobini Saracak”: Toplumsal Cinsiyet Perspektifinden Bati Almanya’ya Türk Göçü (1961-1984).