



Seminar in Early Modern Economic and Social History Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, Easter 2015

The seminar meets Thursdays at 5pm in Room 12 of the History Faculty
We normally have dinner with the speaker afterwards. All welcome.
Convenors: Amy Erickson, Craig Muldrew, Leigh Shaw-Taylor and Paul Warde



28 April:

Beatrice Zucca Micheletto (University of Rouen)

***Women, property and work: some considerations of the Italian case
(Turin, 18th century)***

Recent research that emphasises differences between northern and southern Europe has argued that in southern countries where a dowry system was widespread, young girls, married women and widows were not encouraged to participate in the labour market since they could merely count on their dowry. On the contrary, I will argue that in pre-industrial Turin, dowry and women's work were strictly connected. Not only was the dowry often earned by the work of young girls, it was also invested in the family business in which wives and widows played a crucial role as workers. The speaker has recently published *Travail et propriété des femmes en temps de crise (Turin, XVIIIe siècle)* (2104), and articles in *Gender & History* (2015); *The History of the Family* (2014), and *Feminist Economics* (2013).

12 May:

Hülya Canbakal (Sabanci University, Istanbul)

(with Alpaz Filiztekin, Sabanci)

Slaves and slave ownership in Ottoman Bursa, 1460-1880

Studies of slavery in the Ottoman Empire focus on slavery among and for the official elite in the capital, with an emphasis on the 15th and 16th centuries, on the trade and its abolition in the 19th century, or more recently, on microhistories of slave lives beyond the harems and military households of the official elite. This study builds on the latter two trends. Using probate inventories from the city of Bursa and its hinterland, it examines long-term patterns in slave ownership and employment among commoners as well as the local elite. Probate evidence indicates that slave-holding steadily declined over the four centuries examined and by the time of its abolition, was already a marginal practice in this important provincial city. Price trends reveal a decline from the 18th century onwards, suggesting that declining ownership was due to causes other than supply and prices. We present statistics of ownership and characteristics of the slave body, and examine prices and supply and demand in connection with wages and purchasing power.

The support of the Trevelyan Fund (Faculty of History) is gratefully acknowledged.