

Dr Avner Ofrath

Curriculum vitae

University of Bremen
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Current position:

Lecturer in Modern History (*wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter*), University of Bremen

Education:

2014-2018 D.Phil., University of Oxford

Thesis title: Demarcating the *cit  franaise*: Exclusion and Inclusion in Colonial Algeria.

Examiners: Prof James McDougall, Prof Martin Thomas. Passed with no corrections.

2011-2014 M.A. in Modern History, Freie Universitt Berlin, with distinction (1,2).

2008-2011 B.A. in History, Art History, and Politics, Freie Universitt Berlin (1,6).

Recent scholarships and awards:

2014-2018 Oxford-Sir Colin Lucas Graduate Scholarship

2014-2016 Gerda Henkel Stiftung doctoral studentship

2017 Society for the Study of French History: Ralph Gibson Award

2016 Erasmus+ Award:  cole normale sup rieure de Cachan

Publications:

“‘We Shall Become French’: Negotiating citizenship in colonial Algeria,” forthcoming in *French History*.

“South, North and the Mediterranean,” in *The Hinder Sea*. Exhibition Catalogue edited by Roni Cohen-Binyamini, 67-77. Ashdod: Ashdod Museum of Art, 2015 (Hebrew).

Hebrew-German translation: *Die Geschichte des Anderen kennen lernen: Israel und Palstina im 20. Jahrhundert*, edited by Sami Adwan et al. Frankfurt: Campus Verlag 2015.

“Von Ostpreuen nach Palstina: Die Erinnerungen des Gideon Cohen – Emigration, Bruch und Auseinandersetzung mit der Vergangenheit,” in »*Das war mal unsere Heimat...*« *Jdische Geschichte im preuischen Osten*, 101-7. Berlin: Stiftung Flucht, Vertreibung, Vershnung, 2013.

Teaching and supervision:

University of Bremen:

‘Citizenship and its boundaries, 1789-2015’ (MA seminar, 2020-21).

‘The Middle Eastern Public Sphere between Ottoman and colonial rule’ (BA class, 2020).

‘Beyond Eurocentrism: Introduction to global history’ (BA class, 2019-20).

University of Oxford:

Undergraduate module tutor: ‘The Middle East in the Age of Empire, 1830-1971’ (2017-18).

Undergraduate module tutor: ‘The French Revolution and Napoleonic Empire’ (2018).

MA dissertation examiner: ‘Territorial Borders and the Arab World: King Faisal’s Nation-building in Syria and Iraq, 1915–1933’ (June 2018).

Thesis abstract:

My doctorate explores the colonial origins of modern French citizenship. Studying colonial Algeria, I demonstrate how ethnicity was made the pivot of a legal caste system which subjugated Algerian Muslims and institutionalised settler privileges. Politically and administratively incorporated into the metropole, the Algerian colony became a crucial battlefield for the demarcation of French citizenship. At the same time, I show how the colonised resisted powerful orthodoxies concerning participation and rights. Establishing political networks from the Antilles to Egypt and from Dakar to Paris, Algerians constantly challenged the conventional wisdom of being Muslim as incompatible with being French, European, or modern.

Selected conference papers and presentations:

“Resistance through Dialogue: Colonial reforms and the anti-colonial struggle.” Society for the Study of French History Annual Conference, June 2021 (postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic).

“How it Became Impossible to Be Muslim and French.” International postgraduate workshop, University of Geneva, 23 June 2017.

“Mobility and its Limits in the Colonial Order: Citizenship and Reforms in Algeria, 1870-1937.” Postgraduate study day, University of Nottingham, 4 March 2017.

“From Alsace to Algeria, 1871: A Colony Enters Republican Mythology.” The Long Nineteenth Century Research Seminar, Oriel College, Oxford, 9 November 2016.

“Assistierte Einwanderung nach Algerien und die außereuropäischen Übertragungen der Gewalt in Lothringen 1870-1871.” Conferene: Gewalträume in Lothringen 1870-1962, Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin, 6 March 2015.

Languages:

Hebrew: native

French: fluent

German: near-native

Arabic, Judeo-Arabic, Yiddish: good reading skills

Further professional experience:

2019

Research assistance to the book project *Burning the Books: A history of the deliberate destruction of knowledge*, Richard Ovenden, the Bodleian Library.

2013

Editorial assistance to the book project *Anti-Imperial Metropolis*, Michael Goebel, Freie Universität Berlin

2012-2013

Research assistant (“studentische Hilfskraft”), Jewish Museum Berlin