

Proposal for an overview lecture concerning
“Turkology in progress: New interdisciplinary approaches and Tatarica
research in Germany”

Topic I:

Working as a freelance Turkologist in Germany means to be settled in an interdisciplinary scientific network on one hand. On the other hand one has to be creative concerning new designs and research targets. In the lecture I would like to show how Turkology is working in state institutions as well as in NGO's (with some concrete contemporary examples).

Topic IIa:

New documents concerning Tatar soldiers and Tatar settlers in Prussia (18./19. century)

Especially the history of ethnic-Tatar soldiers and settlers in Germany is mostly unknown to the modern historiographie and other German as well as Western European cultural studies in Germany. Only a view number of historians are more or less familiar with the history of the Tatars in Prussia. Specifically the „exotic“ look and habitus of these Tatars was of main interest. So the researches ignored a great number of records and files which were mainly focused on the context of intercultural communication processes.

My lecture will present these sources in context of the plans of Frederic II. to settle Tatars and their families in Pomerania in the 1740s. Based on this experience the latter king Frederic William II. tried again to establish a Tatar-settlement in New Eastern Prussia in the 1790s. The original idea for the last mentioned settlement originated from the Tatar Colonel Janusz Murza Baranowsky, who liked to establish a Tatar unit to the Prussian cavalry and to settle the soldiers families too as Prussian subjects.

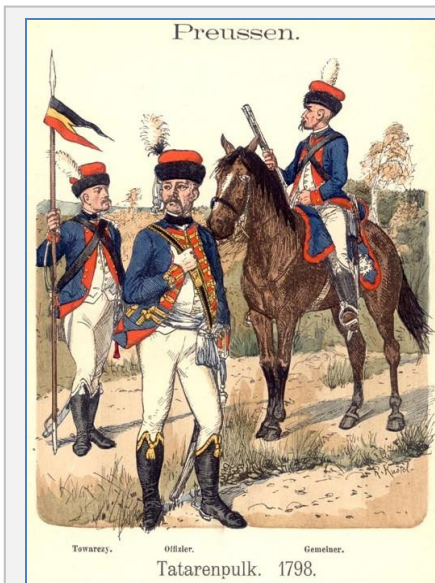
Topic IIb:

Adaptation processes of Tatar soldiers and communities in New Eastern Prussia and Southern Prussia between Integration, Assimilation and Emancipation

The Brandenburg-Prussian Electors looked especially during the 17th century for allies in their different conflicts against Sweden and also Poland. Likewise the Tatars were well known as good horse breeders and Brandenburg-Prussia needed numerous of horses for the new build cavalry. On the other hand the Tatars were also well known as strong soldiers. It was the „Grand Elector“ Frederic William (1640 – 1688) who started first with forming a trained standing army in Brandenburg-Prussia and so he looked around his reign for military capacities.

Based on this, numerous Tatars served in the Prussian army as soldiers, especially in the cavalry during the whole 18th century. In 1741 the first Tatar pulk was incorporated as Ulans to the 4th Husar Regiment. They stayed just for 2 years. But in 1744/45 another pulk became part as a „Bosniak-Esacadron“ in the 5th Husar Regiment in East Prussia. They were around 75 men, including a imam for the Muslim soldiers. This was the birth-hour of the so called „Bosniak-Regiment“, a history of transcultural „conviventia“ between Muslim and Christian soldiers for more then 50 years.

Based on this experiences the later Prussian king Frederic William II. was sympathetic to the plans of Friedrich Leopold v. Schrötter in 1794. Schrötter saw the possibility to settle the Tatar families of the region around Sokółka and Białystok into the new Prussian territory after the 3rd division of Poland. This new formed Tatar pulk served as an autonomic part of the mentioned Bosniaks. It consisted of 5 Escadrons and more then 500 soldiers and their families, full integrated into the Prussian army and with the same rights as for the other soldiers. My lecture will show the process of integration, assimilation and emancipation of these Polish Lipka-Tatars into the Prussian army during the 18th century who formed together with their other comrades a unique multicultural, -ethnic and –religious construction.



Tatars of the Prussian and Saxon army, 17.-19. century

Curriculum vitae

Dr. Mieste Hotopp-Riecke



Personal Dates

18. 10. 1967	Born in Gardelegen (GDR)
09. 09. 2001	Birthday of daughter Rosa Hêvî
27.11. 2004	Wedding
07. 05. 2005	Birthday of daughter Lilli Zana

Education

1974 – 1984	Polytechnic Highschool „Hermann Matern“, Magdeburg county
1984 – 1998	Printer, Graphic Designer, booth builder, band manager, event- & concert manager
1999 – 2006	Magister Artium Scholar, Turcology/Islam sciences/Sociology at Freie Universität Berlin, University Vienna, Baku, Ankara and Simferopol; finished with mark 1
2007-2011	PhD scholar at Inst. for Turcology / Freie Universität Berlin; finished 2011 with mark 1

Scientific employments

2003-2005	Assistant, Inst. for Kurdish Studies, Berlin
2004 - 2006	Assistant, Inst. f. Turkology Freie Uni. Berlin
07/2006 - 03/2007	Project „Encyclopedia of deportations in 20. ct.“, University Düsseldorf
10/2006 - 4/2007	Research group „Images of self and other“ at Georg- Eckert-Institute for International Textbook research, Braunschweig
since 7/2007	Scholar at Heinrich-Böll-Foundation
since 10/2007	Head of Institute for Caucasic-, Tatarica- und Turkestan-Studies (ICATAT), Berlin/Magdeburg
since 2005	Coach at Zweiheimisch-Institute for Integration Research Berlin

Freelance employments

Secretary of the Society for Eastern-Europe-Advancement Berlin (GOF) ,
Member of German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO), Crimea-
Coordinator at Society for threatened People (GfbV), Board of staff
„AITaBash“ (German Tatar Journal); Association for history and culture
Ukraine-Turkey“, Kiev, President of German Tatar Society „TAMGA“,

Berlin; Union of Journalists Tatarstan, Network Turkey Germany, German Orientalist Society (DMG), co-founder of the DAVO-platform “Islam in post-communist Eurasia” and of the NGO-initiative Crimean Tatar-German Dialogue; Member of advisory board of “Association of former Grant holders of the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation”.

Language skills

English, Turkish, (fluent writing and speaking)

Crimean Tatar , Russian, Wolga Tatar, Uygur and Azerbaidjani
(semiprofessional.)

3. September 2013

Mieste Hotopp-Riecke