



26th Levantine Heritage Foundation Zoom lecture gathering with guest speaker Enno Maessen
8 May 2023, 6pm (UK time)

Urban life in Twentieth-Century Beyoğlu

Following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, Istanbul would lose its position as capital yet remain a crucial urban centre in the new Turkish republic. Since the 1950s it has undergone a metamorphosis from a mid-sized city to a megapolis. Beyoğlu, historically represented as its most 'cosmopolitan' district and home to European embassies and cultural institutions, is a microcosm of these changes. In this talk Enno Maessen, explores the urban history of Beyoğlu via a series of case studies to tell the story of its local and international institutions. From the German Teutonia club and a centre point of Turkey's cinema culture to influential francophone, British and German schools which educated many of Turkey's future elite, the book charts the shifting identities of the residents of the district. These case studies reveal the effects of changing political circumstances, from the rise of nationalism to Turkey's place in the Cold War, as well as critically examining Beyoğlu's legacy as a multicultural centre. In the process, Maessen will reveal a picture of resilience and cross-cultural contact.

Booking essential: <https://enno-maessen-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk>



Street view of Beyoğlu



Enno Maessen is lecturer in history at Utrecht University. His research interests cover the fields of urban history, modern Turkey, the Eastern Mediterranean region, social movements and the politics of representation in the second half of the twentieth century. He has published in *Patterns of Prejudice*, *Middle Eastern Studies*, the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*, the *International Journal for History Culture and Modernity* and *Stadtsgeschiedenis*. His recent book [Representing Modern Istanbul](#) (2022) was published with I.B. Tauris. Apart from his academic writing he publishes in various news outlets. Dr. Maessen is co-founder of the [Turkey Studies Network in the Low Countries](#) (TSN), an independent, non-partisan, multi-disciplinary academic platform where researchers interested in the study of Turkey gather and share thoughts, especially in the Low Countries.