Spatialization of the ‘Infected’ Jewish Body in the Time of Cholera

Canan Bolel

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies

cananbo@uw.edu
No ghettos in Smyrna?

Travel Literature
Medical Literature
Christian Medical Mission Reports

Jewish identity = Jewish space

Can this equation tell us another story?
What?

The integration and the totalization of Jewish residents with the Jewish space - cholera epidemic of 1865

So what?

Exclusion of Jewish residents from the rest of the city

Now what?

Affective and mental boundaries rather than physical boundaries
What?

The **integration** and the **totalization** of Jewish residents with the Jewish space - cholera epidemic of 1865

So what?

**Exclusion** of Jewish residents from the rest of the city

Now what?

**Affective** and **mental** boundaries rather than physical boundaries
Jewish Quarter
“The identity extends, however, deeper than the expression of countenance: the moral character and hygienic condition of the Jew is the same on all different parts of the Levant.”

George Rolleston, *Report on Smyrna*, 1856
“The identity extends, however, deeper than the expression of countenance: **the moral character** and **hygienic condition** of the Jew is the same on all different parts of the Levant.”

George Rolleston, *Report on Smyrna*, 1856
“Jewish quarter offered to the epidemic a prey”

- element of fear inherent in their character
- narrow, filthy streets
- harboring the germs of disease
- cemeteries
- dead animals
- eating habits
  - olive oil, salted fish
“Jewish quarter offered to the epidemic a prey”

- element of fear inherent in their character
- narrow, filthy streets
- harboring the germs of disease
- cemeteries
- dead animals
- eating habits
  - olive oil, salted fish
Local authorities
Local authorities
Christian missionaries
Christian Missionaries

Infected Jewish body

- Curing
- Converting

No spatial change - Spatial change

1887
Spatialization of the Jewish Body

- Normalization of the infected Jewish body
- Mental separation
- Administrative control
- Ideological control
Time’s Up!

• About you:
  – Name: Canan Bolel
  – Department: Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies
  – Contact Information: cananbo@uw.edu
  – URL: https://washington.academia.edu/cananbolel
  – Quick bio: In 2011, Canan obtained a BA degree in Economics and in 2013, MA degree in Political Science. In 2013 she moved to United Kingdom and started a MSc degree in Sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is planning to focus on the concept of ‘Ottoman Jewish quarter’ and urban poverty in the Eastern Mediterranean port cities for her dissertation.