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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
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The Ottoman Authorities and the Franciscans: a View of Jerusalem in the Seventeenth Century

Dr. Amaya Martin, University of Notre Dame

Friday, November 21
3:30-5:00 PM
McGhee Library
(ICC 301)
Intercultural Center
Georgetown University

The presentation analyzes the attitude of the Ottoman authorities in Jerusalem toward the Order of Friars Minor, commonly referred as "the Franciscans," during the first part of the seventeenth century. The Ottoman authorities in Jerusalem, despite their exploitation of the Franciscans as a revenue stream, often protected the friars from the angry crowds who sometimes gathered aiming to attack them. The Ottoman Empire and the European rulers had signed agreements to ensure the protection of the European citizens in Ottoman lands, mainly traders and members of religious orders. Any breach of such agreements could have harmed the Ottoman Empire at both the political and economic levels. Nonetheless, many factors led to frequent riots by the local population against the Franciscans; among these were the weakness of local governments, the spread of epidemic diseases, and severe droughts that led to bad harvests, dying animals, and hungry people.

Dr. Amaya Martin is Assistant Teaching Professor in the Program of Arabic Language and Culture at the Universityof Notre Dame, Indiana. She previously worked in the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, where she earned her Ph.D. in Arabic. Amaya Martin's academic interests include linguistic analysis of cultural and literary texts, especially works by or about minorities to discern the subtleties of their social status.

A Light Lunch will be served

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