

impact on a number of historians of ancient and medieval Latin, and early modern science as well as philosophers of science. And through his support and encouragement, he played a decisive role in the early careers of several historians and philosophers of science who were not “officially” his students. At Harvard, he oversaw at least 7 PhD dissertations and played a supporting role for a number of others. His students, all of whom were to have productive careers, would carry on his research in the history of astronomy, optics, mathematics, and kalām, a fitting tribute to the man and his work. ✂

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Christoph Schumann **1969-2013**

CHRISTOPH SCHUMANN, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CONTEMPORARY History of the Middle East at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany), passed away on 1 September 2013, after an aggressive kidney cancer was discovered coincidentally in mid-June. Two days before that fatal day, he had just submitted a pre-application, together with colleagues from the Middle East, for a large research project on changing concepts of identity and political order in the Arab world, and Christoph was excited to work on it in the years to come. It is very sad that he will not see the fruits of his efforts and thoughts ripening.

Christoph was born in 1969 in Munich and grew up there. Already as a teenager, his talents, interests, and personality showed: he led a Boy Scouts group by the age of twelve, acted as students’ speaker in his *Gymnasium*, and became active in the ecological and peace movement, participating regularly in demonstrations and other activities.

After his civil service in an institution for mentally handicapped children, he began studying political science, history, and Islamic studies at the Julius-Maximilians-University Wuerzburg in 1990, before moving to Erlangen in 1994. Here, Christoph obtained both his Magister Artium (1996) and his Dr Phil

(2000) as a fellow of the prestigious Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes. He also studied for a year at the University of Damascus, with a fellowship of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). From 2000 until 2007, he was the assistant to Prof. Thomas Philipp in the Institute for Political Science in Erlangen, and in 2003 a visiting scholar at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University, holding a Feodor-Lynen-Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation. In 2007 he was appointed as Assistant Professor at the University of Bern; in 2009, he returned to Erlangen to become professor of Political Science and Contemporary History of the Middle East. Soon, he assumed responsibilities in the university. Christoph was the central figure for developing the interdisciplinary master programme “Middle Eastern Studies,” which he coordinated until his illness made it impossible. How much time and energy he has invested for the students I only fully realised after I took over for him. He served as director of the Institute for Political Science and deputy speaker of the Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy (2011-2013) as well as in various interdisciplinary research centres and the DFG-Research Training Group “Presence and Tacit Knowledge.” Christoph was also active on the board of the German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO).

Political theory and history of ideas as well as political systems in the Middle East, Turkey (the “Ayran vs. Raki” debate triggered by Erdogan in April 2013 amused him a lot), the Levante, media, and transnational diasporic spaces were at the heart of his interests. His analysis of the Arab Spring and its effects resulted in a quite original approach to local struggles over identity, morality, and public space in Middle Eastern cities.

Christoph was a genuine *zöon politikon*, loving to read newspapers and to discuss politics. He held firm convictions and values, but was always modest, sensitive, gentle, and kind to everybody. He did not care at all about status and titles. He was not interested in positions per se, but took on responsibilities, and therefore power, for reaching goals and fulfilling duties to the best of his abilities. And these Christoph had plenty of: a brilliant political analyst and thinker, a gifted speaker (be it in German or in English), with a deep and broad knowledge of philosophy, political theories, and history, but also of a lot of other things (comics, for example, poetry, or heavy metal music). Jürgen Habermas, Eric Voegelin, and Tocotronic have been undisputably fixed stars of his intellectual universe; reading Niklas Luhmann was simply fun for him. Christoph enthusiastically shared all this with his students and colleagues. He was very convivial, regularly inviting students and colleagues to his home, and enjoying the regular barbecues in the backyard of his office building.

Christoph was not only a brilliant academic and an enthusiastic inspiring teacher, original and unique in the field of Middle Eastern studies (at least in

Germany), but admired by his students and highly respected by his colleagues. He also was a family man, very proud of his two young boys (and glad that they are scouts, too). They and his wife always remained his priority in life. He tried to spend as many evenings and week-ends with his family as possible, struggling with his tremendous workload late at night or early in the morning. We all miss him as a warm-hearted person and friend. His sudden death by cancer is a terrible loss for many, but far more so for his family, his wife and their two sons. My deepest condolences go to them. ✂

Jörn Thielmann

Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg

Gilles Veinstein **1945-2013**

GILLES VEINSTEIN WAS BORN IN PARIS ON JULY 18, 1945, INTO A HIGHLY cultured family that was passionate about the theater. He did well at *lycée* and was accepted to the *École Normale Supérieure* in 1966, passing the *aggregation* in history in 1970. Encouraged by Alexandre Bennigsen, he began to acquire an interest in the Turkish and Ottoman world. He learned Turkish under Louis Bazin at the School of Oriental Languages, then was trained in Ottoman paleography by Pertev [Naili] Boratav, Irène Beldiceanu Steinherr, and Nicoara Beldiceanu.

After his military service, Veinstein became *chef de travaux* of the Sixth Section of the *École Pratique des Hautes Études*, which later became the *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales*. He moved steadily up through its ranks, becoming *Maître assistant*, then *Maître de conférences*, and finally *Directeur d'études* in 1986. His seminar, where students deciphered and analyzed Ottoman documents, featured a different theme every year and attracted both neophytes and established scholars in a friendly yet studious atmosphere. Through his publications, his presentations at international conferences, and his teaching, which won him disciples not only in France but elsewhere in Europe and in Turkey, he established himself as one of the world's top experts in Ottoman history and, in France, as the leader of this field. As director, beginning in 1984, of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique's research seminar "History of the Ottoman Empire, Eastern Europe, and Turkey," he oversaw the union of