

# Christians in Aleppo (16th-19th Century) : communities and individuals

**Prof. Bernard André Heyberger**

Director d'études, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales

19<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (Thursday) at 16:40  
Room SK203, Shiko-kan, Karasuma Campus

The seminar series is open for students and academics. If you would like to participate in this seminar, please send an email to the CISMOR office in advance: [rc-issin@mail.doshisha.ac.jp](mailto:rc-issin@mail.doshisha.ac.jp). Registration closes on April 17.

Language: English only, No interpretation

Aleppo was one of the most important towns in the Ottoman Empire: the third city in the Empire in the 17th Century for its population, after Istanbul and Cairo. But it is worth to underscore that it was a very important Christian city too. A quarter of the population of Aleppo was Christian till 1960. 2011, there were still some thousands of Christians in Aleppo, but in a city of 4 million inhabitants. The case of Aleppo offers the opportunity to display some evidence on what meant to be a Christian in an Islamic surrounding during this period. Indeed, the Christians of Aleppo are better documented than the Christians of other cities like Damascus.

Aleppo was an important Christian city between the 17th and 19th Centuries, not only because of the number of its Christian inhabitants. It was important because something happened there in that time, a very important cultural shift, which prepared the so-called Nahda, that is, the Arabic Renaissance. This has been possible because Aleppo and the Christians of the city have been on the crossroad of different cultures. This role of Aleppo is almost forgotten in the memory of the local Christians today.



[Program]

16:40 - 16:45	Opening Remarks	Director of CISMOR
16:45 - 17:25	Lecture	Prof. Bernard André Heyberger
17:25 - 18:10	Discussion	