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Plagues and Other Misfortunes:  
Natural Disasters in the Ottoman Empire

Monday, March 26, 2012  
5:00pm  
Candler Library 101  
Emory University

Natural disasters - epidemics, famines, earthquakes, and floods - occurred frequently in the pre-nineteenth century Ottoman world. They were something people expected and learned to live with, but they also prompted local and imperial responses that were well documented. In this talk, Dr. Ayalon will present evidence from various calamities found in the Ottoman archives and recent studies in social psychology to explain people's reactions to life-threatening situations and the strength of religious identity in Ottoman urban society.