

The Fifty-Second Season of the  
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND  
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**  
Founded by Natalie Zemon Davis and James K. McConica in 1964



## **Thabit A. J. Abdullah** (York University)

### **“Some Observations on the Nature of Slavery in Late Sixteenth-Century Aleppo”**

**Tues., 22 November 2016  
4:00 p.m.**

**Senior Common Room,  
Burwash Hall, Victoria College,  
University of Toronto  
(rear of 91 Charles St. West)**

**This lecture is presented in  
partnership with the  
Department of Near and  
Middle Eastern Civilizations,  
University of Toronto**

**Summary:** Our understanding of slave-ry in the Islamic World is still rudimen-tary. Contemporary Muslim writers rarely went beyond legal references while European travelers often focused more on fantasy than fact. This presen-tation will discuss what the late 16th-century court records of Aleppo reveal about slavery including the ethnic backgrounds, value, areas of employment, general treatment, and manumission.



**Thabit A.J. Abdullah** is an Associate Professor of Middle East History at York University. Prior to coming to York in 1999, he was the Director of the Middle East Studies Program at the American University in Cairo. His chief research interests are the medieval and early modern history of Iraq. His works have been translated into many languages including Arabic, Italian, Spanish and Chinese. In addition to historical scholarship he often appears on Canadian, US, and Arab media to comment about contemporary events in Iraq and the Arab World. His most recent book is *A Short History of Iraq* (2nd edition, 2011).

Image: An aristocratic lady and her slave servant in mid-eighteenth-century Aleppo from Alexander Russell, *The Natural History of Aleppo* (1756), p. 100.