

ESRA ÖZYÜREK

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Ph.D. in Anthropology, 2002

M.A. in Anthropology, 1996

Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey

B.A. in Sociology and Political Science, 1993

EMPLOYMENT

- 2013-present Associate Professor, Chair for Contemporary Turkish Studies, European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2007-2013 Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, San Diego
- 2003-2007 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, San Diego
- 2002-2003 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh

ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS

- 2013-2014 DAAD, German Academic Exchange Research Fellow to Germany
- 2009-2011 Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow to Germany
- 2009-2010 Fulbright Senior Lecturer/Research Scholar to Germany
- 2006-2007 Residential Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin, Berlin Prize
- 2005-2006 Turkish Studies Association, Barkan Prize for the best article
- 1995-1995 Barbour Asian Women Fellow, University of Michigan.
- 1994-1995 Ramsdell-Radcliffe Fellow, University of Michigan
- 1993-1994 Angus Campbell Fellow, University of Michigan

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate Level: Introduction to Four Field Anthropology, Socio-cultural Anthropology, Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East, Global Islam, Islam and Muslims in the West, Religious Conversion, Contemporary Religious Movements, Debating Multiculturalism.

Graduate Level: Anthropology of Islam, Anthropology of the State, Cultures of Late Capitalism, The Secular and the Sacred, Grant Proposal Writing Practicum, Turkey and Europe, Muslims in Europe.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Being German, Becoming Muslim: Race, Religion, and Conversion in the New Europe. Princeton University Press, 2015.

Turkish translation: *Müslüman Olurken Alman Kalmak: Millet, Ümmet ve Din Değişirme*. İletişim Yayınevi, 2015.

Malay translation: *Kekal Jerman, Menjadi Muslim: Kaum, Agama Dan Penukaran*

Agama Di Eropah Baru. Zi Publications Sdn. Bdh.
German translation: *Deutsche Muslime – Muslimische Deutsche*. Springer Verlag, 2017.

Nostalgia for the Modern: State Secularism and Everyday Politics in Turkey. Duke Univ. Press, 2006.
Turkish translation: *Modernlik Nostaljisi: Türkiye’de Laiklik ve Gündelik Hayatta Siyaset*.
Boğaziçi University Press, 2008.

Edited Volumes

Authoritarianism and Resistance in Turkey. Co-edited by Emrah Altındış and Gaye Özpınar.
Springer Verlag, 2018.

Contemporary Turkey at a Glance: Turkey Transformed? Power, History, and Culture. Co-edited by
Meltem Ersoy. Springer Verlag, 2017.

The Politics of Public Memory in Turkey. Syracuse Univ. Press, 2007.

(in Turkish) *Remembering and Forgetting: Social Memory in Turkey*. Istanbul: İletişim, 2001.

Peer Reviewed Articles

"Exile and Plurality in Neoliberal Times: Turkey's Academics for Peace" *Public Culture* 31(2),
2019. (co-written by Seckin Sertdemir and Nil Mutluer)

"Rethinking Empathy: Emotions Triggered by the Holocaust among Muslim-minority in
Germany" forthcoming, *Anthropological Theory* 18(4): 456-477, 2018.

"Export-Import Theory and Racialization of Antisemitism: Turkish and Arab-only
Prevention Programs in Germany" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 58 (1): 40-
65, 2016.

"Turkish and Christian: Secularist Fears of a Converted Nation" *Comparative Studies of South
Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 29(3): 398-412, 2009.

"The Light of Alevi fire was Lit in Germany and then spread to Turkey': The Debate about
the Relationship between Alevism and Islam" *International Journal of Turkish Studies*,
March 2009.

"Convert Alert: Turkish Christians and German Muslims as Threats to National Security in
the New Europe" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 51(1): 91-116, 2009.

"The Politics of Cultural Unification, Secularism, and the Place of Islam in the New Europe"
American Ethnologist, 32:4, 509-12, 2005.

"Miniaturizing Atatürk: Privatization of the State Imagery and Ideology in Turkey" *American
Ethnologist*, 31:3, 374-391, 2004.

"Feeling Tells Better Than Language: Emotional Expression and Gender Hierarchy." *New
Perspectives on Turkey*, 16 (Summer): 41-52, 1997

Book Chapters

- “Giving Islam a German Face” In *Moving in and out of Islam*, edited by Karin van Nieuwkerk. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2018.
- “Introduction” In *Authoritarianism and Resistance in Turkey*, edited by Esra Özyürek, Gaye Özpınar and Emrah Altındış, Springer Verlag, 2018.
- “Turkish Converts to Islam and German Converts to Christianity Challenge National Identities” In *Religion, Identity, and Politics: Germany and Turkey in Interaction*, edited by Haldun Gülalp and Gunther Seufert. London: Routledge, 2013.
- “Converted German Muslims and Their Ambivalent Relations with Born Immigrant Muslims” in *Islamophobia/Islamophilia: Beyond the Politics of Enemy and Friend*, edited by Andrew Shryock. Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press, 2010.
- “Beyond Integration and Recognition: Diasporic Constructions of Alevi Muslim Identity between Germany and Turkey” in *Transnational Transcendence*, edited by Tom Csordas. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008.
- “Political Memory as Battleground: Islamist Subversions of Republican Nostalgia” in *Politics of Public Memory: Production and Consumption of the Past in Turkey*, edited by Esra Özyürek. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2007.
- “Wedded to the Republic: Public Intellectuals and Intimacy Oriented Publics in Turkey” in *Off Stage/On Display: Intimacies and Ethnographies in the Age of Public Culture*, edited by Andrew Shryock, 101-130. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004.
- (in Turkish) “The Headscarf Knot in the Parliament.” In Ayşe Gül Altınay (ed.) *Homeland, Nation, and Women*. Istanbul: İletişim, 2000, 339-57.

Blogs, op-eds, interviews, and other publications

- “Inheritance and Belief” *The Immanent Frame: Secularism, religion, and the public sphere* by Social Science Research Council, July 3, 2018. <https://tif.ssrc.org/2018/07/03/inheritance-and-belief/>
- “Converts often Play the Role of the Mediator” *L.I.S.A Wissenschaftsportal Gerda Henkel Stiftung*, March 29, 2018. https://lisa.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de/converts-often-play-the-role-of-the-mediator?nav_id=7563
- “Muslims are already German” *Qantara.de*. 2016. <https://en.qantara.de/content/germany-and-islam-muslims-are-already-german>
- “Konvertiten erfahren besonders viel Abneigung” *Der Spiegel*. September 14, 2016.

<http://www.spiegel.de/panorama/gesellschaft/muslime-in-deutschland-konvertiten-erfahren-besonders-viel-abneigung-a-1111636.html>

RESEARCH FUNDING

- 2017-2018 **British Academy, Small Research Grant**, Academia in Exile: The Turkish Case, £ 9,560.
- 2017-2018 **Arts and Humanities Research Council, London Arts and Humanities Partnership, interdisciplinary and cross-institutional training funding** £ 3,000.
- 2016-2017 **Institute for Global Affairs, LSE – Rockefeller Foundation Seed Funding**, Resilience and Refugees in Turkey, £ 6,000.
- 2016-2017 **Center for Teaching and Learning, LSE Course Improvement Grant**, £ 3,000.
- 2013-2014 **DAAD, German Academic Exchange Research Fellowship to Germany**, € 5,000.
- 2013-2014 **Alexander von Humboldt Follow-up Research Fellowship to Germany**, € 3,000.
- 2009-2011 **Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship to Germany**, € 63,000.
- 2009-2010 **Fulbright Senior Lecture/Research Scholarship to Germany**, \$ 10,000.
- 2007-2008 **Junior Faculty Development Grant**, University of California, \$ 2,000.
- 2007-2008 **Comparative Studies on Turkey Research Grant**, Institute for Turkish Studies, \$ 10,000.
- 2006-2007 **American Academy in Berlin, Berlin Prize**, Residential Fellowship.
- 2005-2006 **Turkish Studies Association, Barkan Prize for the best article**.
- 2005-2006 **Hellman Faculty Award**, University of California, San Diego, \$ 5,000.
- 2001-2002 **Rackham Dissertation Grant**, University of Michigan, tuition and stipend.
- 2000-2001 **Institute for Turkish Studies, Dissertation Writing Grant**, \$ 10,000.
- 1994-1995 **Population Council, Middle East Awards Doctoral Fellowship**, \$ 7,000.
- 1993-1994 **National Science Foundation, pre-dissertation summer research grant**, \$ 2,000.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “Making Germans out of Turks and Arabs? Holocaust Memory and inclusion/exclusion of immigrants” Ozyegin Forum on Modern Turkey, Harvard University, September 2018.
- “Generation Allah: Democratizing Muslim Men and Holocaust Memory in Germany” invited lecture at the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, University of Illinois, September 2018.
- “What is New in the New Turkey?” invited lecture at the CEVIPOL, Universite Libre de Bruxelles, June 2018.
- “Flucht und Integration als Herausforderung fuer Europa” Koerber History Forum, Berlin, March 2018.

- “Generation Allah: Democratizing Young Muslim Men and Working Through Holocaust Memory in Germany” Mary E. Johnson Lecture on Social Justice and Human Rights at Mount Holyoke College, March 2018.
- “Inheritance and Belief” invited lecture, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, December 2017.
- “What is New in the New Turkey?” invited lecture, University of Bremen, December 2017.
- “Generation Allah: Holocaust education, national character studies, and democratic emotions for Turkish and Arab-background Germans” invited lecture at the Center for the Modern and Contemporary History, Edinburgh University, October 2017.
- “When Erdogan accuses Merkel for being a Nazi: Manufacturing a Clash of Civilizations” invited talk at Festival of Ideas, Cambridge University, October 2017.
- “Holocaust Memory and Muslim minorities in Germany” invited lecture at Buffet Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University, February 2017.
- “Wrong Emotions for the Holocaust: Muslim Contributions to Holocaust Memory in Germany” invited lecture at Divinity School, Chicago University, February 2017.
- “Wrong Emotions for the Holocaust: Muslim Contributions to Holocaust Memory in Germany” invited lecture at Department of Anthropology, Cambridge University, February 2017.
- “Race, Religion, and Conversion in Germany” invited lecture at Department of Anthropology, Zurich University, Zurich, November 2016.
- “Becoming a Jew, Becoming a Muslim” Dialogical Lecture Series on Judaism and Islam in Diaspora, Jewish Museum in Berlin, February 2016.
- “Konversion. Neue Heimat mit Neuem Glauben” participant in invited panel at Die Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin, October 2016.
- “Turkey after the Failed Coup: Democracy and Security” Chatham House, September 2016.
- “Wrong Emotions for the Holocaust” invited lecture at the Center for Antisemitism Studies in Technical University, Berlin, June 2016.
- “Racialization of Anti-semitism” invited lecture at the Pears Center for Antisemitism in London, May 2016.
- “Fear Rather Than Remorse: Emotional Performance of Citizenship and Turkish- and Arab-German Engagements with the Holocaust” invited lecture at Department of Anthropology, Cornell University, October 2015.

- “Race, Religion, and Conversion” keynote lecture at the Practical Wisdom, Mediated Performance, and Everyday Reality Conference, Utrecht University, June 2014.
- “Conversion to Islam in the New Germany” keynote lecture at the Muslims in UK and Europe Symposium. Center of Islamic Studies, Cambridge University, May 2014.
- “Being German, Becoming Muslim: Conversion, Islamophobia, and Belonging in Germany” Department of Anthropology, University of California at Irvine, April 2013.
- “Changing Belief When Religion is Racialized” Workshop on Belief and Disbelief, Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University, April 2013.
- “Geneologies of Guilt: Debating Turkish Anti-Semitism in Germany” Center for Middle East Studies, New York University, April 2013.
- “German Converts to Islam and Racialization of Religion in Germany” Kroc Center for Peace Studies, Notre Dame University, April 2013.
- “Creating Parallel Communities of Perpetrators: Muslim-only Holocaust Education and Anti-Semitism Prevention Programs in Germany” Center for Jewish Studies, University of Illinois, March 2013.
- “Being German, Becoming Muslim: Conversion, Islamophobia, and Belonging in Germany” Keynote Speech for Sandrizona Conference on Linguistic Anthropology, University of Arizona, February 2013.
- “Being German, Becoming Muslim: Why is Salafism so Attractive for German Converts to Islam” Abbasid Center for Islamic Studies, Stanford University, February 2012.
- “Remaining German while Joining the Ummah: Why are Salafi mosques most attractive to German converts to Islam?” Religion in the European Union Workshop. University of Toronto, November 2011.
- “Religious Conversion as a Challenge to European Nationalism” Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, February 2011.
- “Turkish and Christian: Challenging Turkish Secularism and Nationalism” Walsch School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, February 2011.
- “Making Germans out of Muslims: Holocaust Education and anti-Semitism Trainings for Immigrants.” Anti-Semitism Research Center, Technical University, Berlin, November 2010.
- “Religious Pluralism, Immigration, and Politics.’ Navigating Religion and World Affairs: An Atlantic Forum, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Berlin, June 2010.
- “Ethnically German and Muslim: Religious Conversion and the Formation of Indigenous

- Islamic Communities in Europe” Islamophobia/Islamophilia Beyond the Politics of Enemy and Friend Workshop. University of Michigan, October 2007.
- “Converted German Muslims and Prospects for a German Islam” German Studies Association Annual Conference, San Diego, October 2007.
- “Turkish Christians and German Muslims: New Religious Minorities of the New Europe” Thinking through Turkey: Theorizing the Political Workshop. CRASSH, Cambridge University, June 2007.
- “Turkish Christians: Nationalism and Memory in the Making of a New Religious Community” Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, May 2007.
- “German Muslims and Turkish Christians: Conversion and the Creation of New Religious Minorities in the New Europe” Sabanci University, Istanbul, May 2007.
- “Islam in the New Europe” American Academy in Berlin, November 2006.
- “Islamophobia in the New Europe” Council of European Studies Meetings, Chicago, April 2006.
- “Alevi Muslim Identity between Europe and Turkey” Religions: History, Theory, and Practice Conference, University of California Irvine, March 18, 2006.
- “Beyond Integration and Recognition: Dialogic Construction of Alevi Muslim Identity in the New Europe” Colloquium at Anthropology Department, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, March 13, 2006.
- “Nostalgic Kemalists and Privatization of Politics in Turkey” States of Welfare Conference, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, March 10-11, 2006.
- “Private” Keywords Roundtable Series organized by Women’s Studies Department, UC Irvine, March 8, 2006.
- “Nostalgia for the Modern: State Secularism and Everyday Politics in Turkey” Colloquium at Anthropology Department, UC Irvine, March 2, 2006.
- “Enchanting the Deceased Body of the Founding Father in Turkey” American Association Meetings, Washington DC, November 2005.
- “Nature, State, and Global Connection During the 2001 Economic Crisis” Middle East Studies Association, San Francisco, November 2004.
- “The Headscarf Issue in the Turkish Parliament: Reflections on Center of Power in a Democracy” Cultural Anthropology Society Meeting, Portland, April 2004.
- “ ‘It Felt Just Like an Earthquake’: Nature, State, and Citizenship During the 2001 Economic Crisis in Turkey” American Ethnological Society Meeting, Atlanta, April 2004.

- “Wedded to the Republic: Intimacy Oriented Publics in Turkey” American Ethnological Society Meeting, Rhode Island, Providence, April 2003.
- “Nostalgia for the Modern and Privatization of Atatürk’s Cult in Turkey” American Anthropological Association Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 2001.
- “Atatürk as a Souvenir: Privatization of the Cult and Nostalgia for a Patriarchal State” Middle East Visiting Lecture, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, April, 2001.
- “Hand in Hand with the Republic: Political Culture in Turkey” American Anthropological Association Meeting, San Francisco, November 2000.
- “Civil Society and Political Symbolism during the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Turkish Republic” Middle East Studies Association Meetings, Orlando, November 2000.
- “Exhibiting the Republic and Creating a Citizen during the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Turkish Republic” Cultural Politics in Eastern Europe and the Middle East Workshop, Nowy Wisnicz, Poland, May 2000.
- “Entangled Stories: Life History Narratives of the Elderly Turkish Republicans,” University of Michigan and University of Chicago Annual Graduate Student Conference in Linguistic Anthropology, “Anthropologies and Histories of Language” Chicago, April 2000.
- “His Eyes are Full of Tears : Language and Belief in a Turkish Islamist Group,” University of California, Berkeley Women and Language Conference, Berkeley, California, May 1996.
- “From Elifba to Alfabe: From Ottoman to Modern Turk” at the Middle East Studies Association Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona, November 1994.

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

Television and radio

BBC, Al-Jazeera, CNN, NPR, Sputnik, France 24, Sky News, Monocle Radio, Radio 4, Radio France International.

Print media

New York Times, LA Times, The Guardian, Der Spiegel, L’express, AFP, Kristeligt Dagblad, Vedomosti, Euronews.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

The New Right and the New Left in Europe: Continuity, Rupture and the Politics of Emotions, November 2018, LSE

Politics of Emotions in Turkey and Connected Geographies, January 2018, LSE

Anthropology of Turkey and Beyond, 2016-17, Seminar Series, LSE

Encountering the Past in Turkey, May 2015, LSE

Democracy in Turkey, March 2015, LSE

Religious Diversity and Tolerance in Europe and in Turkey, June 2014, LSE

Turkey Transformed? Power, History, Culture, October 2013, Bilgi University, Istanbul.

SERVICE

Convenor of Anthropology of Race and Ethnicity group at European Association for Social Anthropology

Equality and Diversity Initiative representative for the European Institute, LSE

External Internal Examiner for Department of Anthropology, LSE

Founding member of European Consortium for Turkish Studies

Chair for the evaluation committee of TUBITAK-RCUK Newton Fund applications 2016

Member of Middle East Section, American Anthropological Association

Co-leader of Turkey working group of Dahrendorf Forum on Europe and the World

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Middle East Studies Association

International Journal of Middle East Studies – Former editorial board member

Journal of Anthropological Theory – Former editorial board member

New Perspectives on Turkey – Editorial board member

MERIP (Middle East Report) – Former editorial committee member

Middle East Section, American Anthropological Association – Former board member

European Consortium for Turkish Studies – Founding member

American Anthropological Association

American Ethnological Society

Middle East Studies Association

Council of European Studies

German Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Turkish – native

English- near native

German – advanced in reading and listening, intermediate in speaking