

KEYMAN MODERN TURKISH STUDIES PROGRAM

2021-2022 NEWSLETTER

A Note from the
Director

Our People

Events

Stay Connected

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR İPEK KOCAÖMER YOSMAOĞLU

Dear Friends,

2021-22 was my third year as the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program's director. When I look back, I am glad to see that we did not just survive but continued to thrive as a community –albeit at a different register. It looks like the “zoom” format for meetings and events is here to stay now that we have become proficient at using it to our advantage and making previously impossible connections possible. Still, it was a great relief to finally be able to hold our annual conference in person (with a hybrid option) this past June. More than twenty scholars from institutions in the US, Europe, and the Middle East, twelve of whom we were able to bring to campus, got together to discuss the theme of “heritage” and “heritage management” as they pertain to Turkey and post-Ottoman lands. For the majority, this was the first time they were participating in an in-person event since the start of the pandemic. If this was not memorable enough, the quality of the papers definitely was: we had two full days of excellent presentations.

Supporting emerging scholars in the field of Turkish Studies was an urgent need during the pandemic, and we addressed this need by offering our support as widely as possible through the workshops we provided, expanding our postdoctoral program, and bringing people together to mingle and talk about their work and interests and learn from one another.

You can find a sampling of last year's programming on the following pages. We hope these pages convey the variety and strength of our offerings to Northwestern and beyond. They will continue throughout the year, and we plan to add new items, such as a talk series on “new books on Turkey.” We plan to resume our support of student exchange programs with universities in Turkey and introduce a faculty exchange program as we come out of the pandemic. Unfortunately, it is not possible to deny that the threat of a worldwide conflict casts a shadow over these plans. Even so, we stay optimistic.

Wishing you a wonderful new academic year,

İpek Kocaömer Yosmaoğlu
Program Director

OUR PEOPLE

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Our Graduate Students

ESRA ÇİMENCİOĞLU, RADIO/TELEVISION/FILM

ULAŞ ERDOĞDU, POLITICAL SCIENCE

ŞEYMA KABAOĞLU, ANTHROPOLOGY

ÖZGE KARAGÖZ, ART HISTORY

HAZAL ÖZDEMİR, HISTORY

İDİL ÖZKAN, ANTHROPOLOGY

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



Ekin Kurtiç (Ph.D., Harvard University, 2019) is a sociocultural anthropologist whose research is at the intersection of environmental humanities, social studies of infrastructure and technopolitics, and political ecology. She is the 2022-2024 Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Postdoctoral Fellow at Northwestern University. While at Northwestern, Kurtiç is working on her first book manuscript, *Sedimented Landscapes: Building Dams, Restoring Ecologies in the Çoruh Basin*, which critically examines state-led projects of restoring and salvaging nature in the process of large dam building in Turkey. *Sedimented Landscapes* shows that dam building is a central site of governing the socio-material space and enacting state power not only through environmental conquest but also through conservation. By tracing the role of the sediment carried by river waters in dammed landscapes, her book analyzes the making of state, techno-environmental expertise, and rural lives through the governance of infrastructure and ecology. Kurtiç is also developing a new book project on the techno-ecopolitics of reframing soil as a "carbon sink" against the backdrop of the climate crisis and its implications for human and non-human lives in agricultural and pastoral landscapes of Turkey. Prior to coming to Northwestern, she was a Junior Research Fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University.



Anoush Tamar Suni (Ph.D., UCLA, 2019) is a cultural anthropologist whose work bears on state and intercommunal violence, memory, materiality and landscape, cultural heritage, space and place, and political and historical anthropology in Turkey, Armenia, Kurdistan, and the broader Middle East. Anoush presented her research to the Middle East and North African Studies Program at Northwestern in a Faculty Colloquium; to the archeology group in the Anthropology Department at Northwestern; and in a workshop entitled "Kaçak: Fugitive Forms of Economy and Bureaucracy across Southwest Asia," organized by Northwestern faculty member Emrah Yıldız. Anoush organized and acted as a discussant for a virtual conversation with anthropologist Zerrin Özlem Biner about her book, *States of Dispossession*, and was also an invited discussant in a virtual conference on the history of ethnic conflict in the South Caucasus at UCLA. Additionally, Anoush co-organized and moderated an online MENA conversation entitled "Archives without Documents" and acted as a simultaneous translator between Turkish and English for a panel book discussion of Jenny White's *Turkish Kaleidoscope*. In the Spring quarter, Anoush co-organized the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program Annual Conference entitled "Sites of Memory, Sites of Loss: Politics of Archaeology and Heritage in Turkey and Post-Ottoman Lands." This past year, Anoush was also interviewed about her research by Dr. Marlene Schäfers for the "Religion and Global Challenges" podcast hosted by the Cambridge Interfaith Programme. Recently, two of Anoush's article manuscripts were accepted for publication in the journals *Comparative Studies in Society and History* and *Anthropological Quarterly*, forthcoming in Fall 2022 and Winter 2023, respectively. Finally, in August 2022, Anoush and her husband, Akin Arslan, celebrated the birth of their baby girl, Nino Narin Suni-Arslan.

Keyman MTS Visiting Professor and MENA artist in residence



Fahri Öz is an ex-academic, translator and poet. After signing Academic for Peace declaration in 2016, he was dismissed in 2017 from his position at Ankara University, where he taught British and American poetry, poetic genres, literary history and translation. He translated into Turkish works by Christina Rossetti, Jack London, Saki, William Burroughs and Bob Dylan. He co-authored and co-edited a collection of flash fiction in Turkish called *Hayat Kısa Proust Uzun*. His first book of poems, *Meşrutiyet Çok Bulutlu On Beş Santigrat Yağmur Olasılığı Sıfır*, came out in 2019. In 2021, Oz was one of the residents of IWP at University of Iowa, where he also taught at the MFA in Literary Translation. Currently he has been translating complete poems of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson into Turkish.

Our Events: Academic Year 2021-2022

November 18, 2021: "7 Sins, 10 Fallacies, 4 Indicators, and What I Learned from Them About Decolonizing Academia" with Murat Ergin

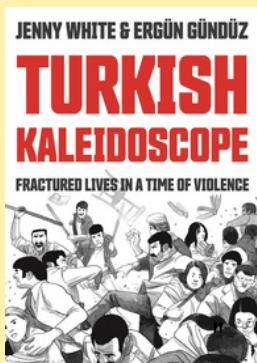


As part of our continuing series "Reflections on Whiteness, Blackness, and Race in the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey," Murat Ergin (Koç University) virtually joined us to present a talk titled "7 Sins, 10 Fallacies, 4 Indicators, and What I Learned from Them About Decolonizing Academia." Dr. Ergin discussed employing race as a lens to understand contemporary Turkey, everyday forms of racism and racialization, asking how we can make the conversations along the axes of global North/South and theory/case on an even ground.

February 2, 2022: Book Talk with Zerrin Özlem Biner

Zerrin Özlem Biner (University of Kent) joined us to have a conversation on her book, "States of Dispossession," with event discussant Anoush Tamar Suni (Northwestern).

March 4, 2022: Book Discussion with Jenny White



Jenny White joined us to discuss her graphic novel "Turkish Kaleidoscope: Fractured Lives in a Time of Violence" with Ergün Gündüz (illustrator of Turkish Kaleidoscope), and Özge Samancı (author of graphic novel Dare to Disappoint). Watch the discussion [here](#).

February 15, 2022: Keynote Lecture with Eve Troutt Powell

Keyman Guest Speaker Eve Troutt Powell (University of Pennsylvania) joined us to present,

"Posing Slaves for the Camera: Race and Memory in

Representations of the Enslaved, Khartoum 1882," a keynote lecture as part of our series "Reflections on Whiteness, Blackness, and Race in the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey."

Watch the lecture [here](#).



March 18, 2022: "Russia's Invasion of Ukraine and Turkey's Role in NATO": A Roundtable



Dimitar Bechev (Carnegie Europe, Oxford), Ian Kelly (Ambassador in residence, Northwestern) and Şener Aktürk (Koç University) joined us to discuss "Russia's Invasion of Ukraine and Turkey's Role in NATO." Watch the roundtable discussion [here](#).

More Events AY 2021-2022

April 20, 2022: Conversation with Banu Gökarıksel



Banu Gökarıksel (UNC Chapel Hill) joined us for a conversation on her book project, “The Neighbor Who Might Kill You: Encounter and Difference in Urban Turkey”, with commenter **Kabir Tambar** (Stanford University).



April 4, 2022: "State Control in Turkey: Resistant Encounters in War and Peace"



Umut Yıldırım (UCLA), Dilan Okçuoğlu (American University), and Wendy Pearlman (Northwestern) joined us for a roundtable discussion on state control in Turkey.

May 25, 2022: Transience and Blackness: West African Futures in Istanbul with Alize Arıcan



Alize Arıcan (Rutgers University) presented "Transience and Blackness: West African Futures in Istanbul", a talk as part of the interdisciplinary series, “Reflections on Whiteness, Blackness, and Race in the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey.”

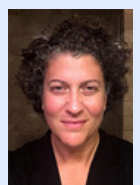
May 11, 2022: "New Multilateral Development Banks in Turkey and Brazil": A Panel Discussion



Moderated by Stephen Nelson (Northwestern), speakers Ali Rıza Güngen (York University) and Şeyma Kabaoğlu (Northwestern) joined us to discuss new Multilateral Development Bank lending in Turkey and Brazil.

May 18, 2022 Christine Philliou (UC Berkeley) Book Talk

Christine Philliou (UC Berkeley) presents a talk on her book "Turkey: A Past Against History" with discussant Cemil Aydın (UNC).



2022 Keyman Conference: Sites of Memory, Sites of Loss: Politics of Archeology and Heritage in Turkey and Post Ottoman Lands



On June 3 and 4th, 2022, the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program held its annual conference. This year's theme was “**heritage.**” The conference offered a hybrid format and welcomed people from around the world to discuss one of the most pressing issues facing Turkey from a global perspective. We followed a capacious and interdisciplinary approach to questions of heritage, including tangible, intangible, and natural heritage within the territory of contemporary Turkey and surrounding regions.



The panels discussed diverse topics including legacies of empire and nation-building, urban change and dispossession, the politics of archaeology and museums, the role of states in heritage management, spiritual, material and immaterial heritage.

Participants engaged questions of heritage with a particular focus on their contemporary political, cultural, and social significance and to create a space for interdisciplinary exchanges of ideas towards a richer and more multifaceted understanding of the contemporary politics of heritage in Turkey and other post-Ottoman lands. In her concluding remarks, Heghnar Watenpaugh contextualized the concept of cultural heritage in a human rights framework.

We are deeply grateful to Anoush and Oya for their hard work for developing this year's conference theme. We also wish to thank Feyza and Hazal for their generous help in planning the conference.

Find a complete conference program on the conference website and information on past conferences in the conference archive:

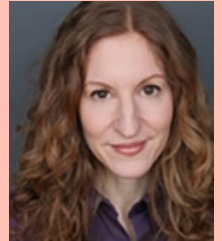
<https://keyman.buffett.northwestern.edu/events/annual-conference/conference-sites-of-memory-sites-of-loss.html>

FACULTY NEWS



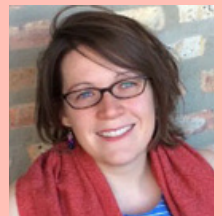
Seda Öğrenci joined the Editorial Board of the ACM Transactions on Reconfigurable Technology and Systems. She has also co-organized a Summer School program In August 2022 designed to support women and students from underrepresented backgrounds pursuing degrees in computer engineering, electrical engineering, and computer science.

Wendy Pearlman was appointed Crown Professor of Middle East Studies, effective September 1, 2022. Her new book, a collection of interviews with displaced Syrians reflecting on the meaning of home, came under contract with Liveright Books (W.W. Norton). She also published several articles in 2021 including “How Homeland Experiences Shape Refugee Belonging: Rethinking Exile, Home, and Integration in the Syrian Case,” *International Migration Review*; “What Makes the ‘Refugee Crisis’ a Crisis? Displaced Syrians on the Need for Dignity,” *Digest of Middle East Studies*; and “Mobilization from scratch: Large-scale collective action without preexisting organization in the Syrian uprising,” in *Journal of Comparative Political Studies*.



Özge Samancı visited Angoulême Comics Festival in France as a fellow with Forecast Platform in Berlin. She had an exhibition of a chapter from her upcoming graphic novel “Evil Eye” in Berlin this year. French rights of her previous graphic novel “Dare to Disappoint” were sold to Éditions du Faubourg. Her most recent projection art VR installation “VastWaste” was exhibited at ISEA 2022 (Barcelona) and SIGGRAPH Art Gallery (Vancouver).

Lauren Stokes published “Fear of the Family: Guest Workers and Family Migration in the Federal Republic of Germany” with Oxford University Press. The book tells the story of “family migrants” from Turkey among other countries.”



Jessica Winegar has been named the Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Chair in Middle East Studies.

Emrah Yıldız spent the 2021-2022 academic year on sabbatical leave in Germany. During this time, he served as a visiting research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle am Saale, and as a Gerda Henkel Foundation research fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin. His article, titled “Migrant Sexualities, Queer Travelers: Iranian Bears and the Asylum of Translation,” appeared in *Differences: A journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*.



Keyman Modern Turkish Studies hosted an online book launch event for the recently published volume “Turkish Jews and Their Diaspora: Entanglements and Separations” edited by our director İpek Kocaömer Yosmaoğlu and Kerem Öktem on October 11, 2022.

MORE NEWS

FROM OUR GRADS...

Esra Çimencioğlu has been named The Buffett Institute Global Impacts Graduate Fellow.

Ulaş Erdoğan has become a fellow of the Civil War Paths Project at the University of Sheffield.

Şeyma Kabaoğlu has been awarded the "International Doctoral Fellowship" (2022-2023) from the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program supported *Fidiro Kahvesi* Podcast. Founded by Seyma and her three co-hosts, *Fidiro Kahvesi* is a weekly podcast where they review novels, movies, and TV shows. It has become a publicly engaged scholarship on media and power related to gender, class, race, and religion. It is currently one of the top TV-Film podcasts on Apple Podcast and have ranked in the top 10 in all categories on Spotify Turkey.

Özge Karagöz published "Of Modernist Painting and Statist Economy: Nurullah Berk on the Soviet Art Exhibition in Turkey, 1934–35," in *the Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*. In Summer 2022, her research in Istanbul and Ankara was generously supported by the American Research Institute in Turkey. Currently, she is a Leonard A. Lauder Fellow in Modern Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she will complete the writing of her dissertation over the next two years.

Hazal Özdemir has been awarded the Armenian Studies Scholarship from the Gulbenkian Foundation to support her dissertation research on Ottoman Armenian emigration to the United States at the end of the nineteenth century.

Idil Özkan published a review article on Ayşe Parla's monograph "Precarious Hope: Migration and the Limits of Belonging in Turkey" in the *Journal of Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*.

KEYMAN ARTICLE WORKSHOP

The Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program continued year-long series of virtual workshops to support early career scholars in preparing an article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Distinguished scholars shared their valued time and expertise in reviewing and advising the work of early career scholars and PhD candidates working in all branches of the Social Sciences and Humanities on themes related to Turkey and its diasporas.

We are grateful for their generous support.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST ...

In January 2022, Oya Topçuoglu welcomed her son, Derin.



welcome
little ones!

DERIN & NINO NARIN

In August 2022, Anoush Tamar Suni and her husband, Akın Arslan, celebrated the birth of their baby girl, Nino Narin Suni-Arslan.



PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

TURKISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Find current Turkish language course listings here or contact Prof. Topçuoğlu.

Prior courses have included introductory level and intermediate level Turkish language; the first year seminar “We Are What We Eat: Turkish Food Culture and Cuisine,” exploring



Turkish identity, politics and history: and “İstanbul: Gateway Between the East and West.”, with students enhancing language proficiency while learning the culture and history of the studied city. Past field trips brought students to local Turkish restaurants and events to explore contemporary Turkish culture, including music, film and literature.

NU’s Turkish Language Students Earn International Awards

In March 2022, Diana Elhard was awarded the ARIT Summer Fellowship for Intensive Advanced Turkish Language at Bogazici Üniversitesi in Istanbul, Turkey. Only about a dozen students from North America receive this very competitive award annually. With Elhard being the fourth NU student to receive the award, NU’s Turkish Language Program overseen by Dr. Oya Topçuoğlu is truly distinguished. Under the mentorship of Dr. Ian Hurd, Elhard is a doctoral candidate in NU’s Political Science Department. Elhard also credits her Turkish instructor Dr. Topçuoğlu for her outstanding support and for providing excellent language and cultural programming. Elhard specifically sought out a graduate program that offered Turkish courses. Elhard plans to use her knowledge of Turkish in one of her case studies for her dissertation and in her scholarly endeavors broadly.

KEYMAN MODERN TURKISH STUDIES PROGRAM



PROVIDING AN INTERDISCIPLINARY UNDERSTANDING OF CONTEMPORARY TURKEY IN CONNECTION WITH GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program was founded in 2005 at Northwestern University's Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, with a generous gift from Melih and Zeynep Keyman, and with continued essential support from additional donors. The Program promotes intellectual dialogue and scholarship to provide a deeper, interdisciplinary and critical understanding of contemporary Turkey in connection with global social processes, problems or conflicts.

Program Activity:

- organizes seminars and conferences on critical issues
- funds research by Northwestern faculty, graduate and undergraduate students
- offers Postdoctoral Fellowship, Visiting Professor and Visiting Scholar programs
- supports undergraduate teaching on topics related to Turkey
- facilitates study abroad and exchange programs in Turkey
- funds the university library's acquisitions in the area of modern Turkish studies

The Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program is situated within the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, allowing for important collaborations with a broad pool of global experts and practitioners on a range of topics.

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Special thanks to [Idil Ozkan](#) for helping us with the design of this newspaper.