

[Save the Date - Virtual Workshop, Mapping Gender in the Near East: What's New and What's Ahead in Ottoman and Turkish Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, December 9-10, 2020](#)

Discussion published by Gulsah Torunoglu on Monday, November 30, 2020

We invite you all to the upcoming international and interdisciplinary workshop titled

**"Mapping Gender in the Near East:
What's New and What's Ahead in Ottoman and Turkish Women's, Gender, and Sexuality
Studies."**

The workshop will be held online via Zoom on **December 9-10, 2020**.

The workshop is organized by the Orient-Institut Istanbul (OII) and Sabancı University Gender and Women's Studies (SU Gender), in collaboration with Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), as well as the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII).

For more information, please see our website: www.mappinggenderneareast.org

Click [here](#) for the workshop poster.

Registration Information:

To attend this online workshop, prior registration is necessary: Please send an email specifying your name and academic affiliation to info@mappinggenderneareast.org by **December 7, 2020 (Monday)** at the latest.

For technical reasons, the number of participants is limited. You will be informed about the organizational and technical procedure **a day before** the workshop starts.

Description of the Event:

Bringing together an interdisciplinary group of scholars in the humanities and social sciences, this workshop will establish, consolidate and sustain a network of academics who share an interest in women's and gender studies with regard to the Ottoman world and modern Turkey. Leading scholars across several major fields - including history, literature, and interdisciplinary studies - will examine recent theoretical discourses and challenges in the area of women's and gender studies and contribute to steering the field in innovative directions.

This workshop is designed to address two problems in women's and gender studies: the lack of transnational and comparative scholarship, as well as the dearth of

interdisciplinary collaboration. This workshop responds to the fact that the scholarly literatures in women's and gender studies in the Ottoman-Turkish milieu and in the Arab and Balkan world have been, on the whole, kept tightly segregated from each other. Consequently, the four panels of the workshop are centered around key approaches that would benefit from being in dialogue. By doing so, they will allow leading scholars in the field to appraise the current state of research across national boundaries and academic disciplines and to bring forth new conversations and inter-regional dialogue about improving our approaches in the future development of the field. These interactions will help stimulate and guide future research efforts by delineating critical paths for subsequent research. The presentations will address key aspects such as:

- The development of scholarship in women's and gender studies over the past decade, and the future directions the field might take.
- The comparative state of the field of women's and gender studies in Turkey and its neighboring countries.
- The evolving position of women and gender in the contemporary societies of the region.
- Policy changes, both past and present, that have shaped the status quo of women and gender.

The conceptual framework of the event and its significance:

This workshop will be groundbreaking in allowing scholars working on women's and gender studies in the Ottoman world and modern Turkey to come together to discuss the state of the field. Despite the fact that many talented scholars work on issues related to women's studies, gender and sexuality across the former Ottoman provinces (primarily Lebanon, Egypt, and the Balkans) as well as modern Turkey, there has rarely been academic platforms enabling scholars to focus specifically on their shared area(s) of research. Resulting from a lack of communication among scholars working on these topics, the field has therefore become compartmentalized and the current discourses remain fragmented. By convening a small-scale, highly focused event with internationally renowned speakers, this workshop seeks to bridge the communication gap and inspire new academic approaches among scholars of different nationalities and from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. The event is framed around three main academic disciplines that have informed women's and gender studies: the humanities, the social sciences, and law. By examining the most recent developments in the state of the field, each panel will contribute to a richer, more complex understanding of the field of women's and gender studies in modern Turkey and its neighboring countries, while putting experts from each area into conversation with each other. In doing so, the

workshop hopes to foster solidarities that connect common struggles beyond fixed geographic borders and academic disciplines.

Additionally, this workshop will provide a platform to discuss how to compensate for the lack of an institutional infrastructure for women's and gender studies in and around Turkey. Currently, only few major universities have established separate women's and gender studies departments to facilitate research in this field. Instead of inaugurating a separate field of study, numerous universities have opened up centers for women's studies by offering certificate programs for students in other academic disciplines. Women's and gender history have only recently been recognized as a thematic subfield within history departments. Therefore, women's and gender studies frequently lack the institutional support to tackle large-scale research questions. Hence, the workshop will conclude by discussing how to best use existing resources, such as collaboration among research centers, activist organizations, and other institutions more effectively as an attempt to facilitate future growth and forms of cooperation in the field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

Four roundtable panels:

- (I) Mapping the Field: Literary Approaches to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in Turkey and the Near East.
- (II) Mapping the Field: Historicizing Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in Turkey and the Near East.
- (III) Mapping the Field: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies on the Region.
- (IV) New Directions: The Academy, Solidarity, and Public Outreach.

Conveners:

Gülşah Torunoğlu, Richard Wittmann (Orient-Institut Istanbul) & Hülya Adak (SU Gender)

Academic cooperation partners:

Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED)
Swedish Research Institute in İstanbul (SRII)

The workshop was made possible through the support of:

Istanbul Policy Center, Sabancı University Stiftung Mercator Initiative (IPC Mercator)

The Workshop Program

Wednesday, December 9, 2020:

Panel 1:

Mapping the Field: Literary Approaches to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in Turkey and the Near East

Time: 14:00 - 15:30 (Turkish time, GMT+3)

Chair & Discussant:

Ayşe Lahur Kırtunç Ege University, Izmir

Panelists:

Maha AbdelMegeed	American University of Beirut
Ebru Akçasu	Charles University, Prague
İpek Hüner Çora	Boğaziçi University, Istanbul
Didem Havlioğlu	Duke University, Durham, NC
Sibel Irzık	Sabancı University, Istanbul
Burcu Karahan	Stanford University
Laurent Mignon	University of Oxford
Irvin Cemil Schick	Istanbul Şehir University

Panel 2:

Mapping the Field: Historicizing Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in Turkey and the Near East

Time: 15:45 - 17:15 (Turkish time, GMT+3)

Chairpersons & Discussants:

Hülya Adak	SU Gender, Istanbul
Heike Pantelmann	Margherita von Brentano Center, Berlin

Panelists:

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<https://networks.h-net.org/node/24029/discussions/6857386/save-date-virtual-workshop-mapping-gender-near-east-what%E2%80%99s-new>

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Marilyn Booth	Magdalen College, University of Oxford
Lerna Ekmekçioğlu	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Elizabeth B. Frierson	University of Cincinnati, OH
Efi Kanner	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Nicole van Os	Leiden University
A. Holly Shissler	University of Chicago, IL
Gülşah Torunoğlu	Orient-Institut Istanbul & Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul
Seçil Yılmaz	Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA

Thursday, December 10, 2020:

Panel 3:

**Mapping the Field: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women's,
Gender, and Sexuality Studies on the Region**

Time: 14:00 - 15:30 (Turkish time, GMT+3)

Chair & Discussant:

Gülşah Torunoğlu Orient-Institut Istanbul & Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul

Panelists:

Janet Afary	UC Santa Barbara, CA
Yeşim Arat	Boğaziçi University, Istanbul
Fatmagül Berktaş	Istanbul University
Sevgi Uçan Çubukçu	Istanbul University
Deniz Kandiyoti	SOAS, University of London
Evren Savcı	Yale University, New Haven, CN
Ayşecan Terzioğlu	SU Gender, Istanbul

Panel 4:

New Directions: The Academy, Solidarity, and Public Outreach

Time: 15:45 - 17:15 (Turkish time, GMT+3)

Chair & Discussant:

Kristen Biehl SU Gender, Istanbul

Panelists:

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Hülya Adak	SU Gender, Istanbul
Aslı Davaz	Women's Library and Information Center, Istanbul
Martin Lücke	Margherita von Brentano Center, Berlin
Ingela Nilsson	Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul
Bertil Emrah Oder	Koç University, Istanbul
Mary Lou O'Neil	Kadir Has University, Istanbul
Richard Wittmann	Orient-Institut Istanbul

Concluding remarks: 17:15 - 17:30 (Turkish time, GMT+3)