

Spring 2021

GEN 444 Gender and Sexuality in Turkey

Cenk Özbay

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Online Meetings: Thursday 11:40-13:30 & Friday 11:40-12:30 at Zoom

This class will be held online via Zoom throughout the semester.

Individual online meetings with the professor are possible by appointment.

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This course aims to provide students a solid background on the development of Feminist, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in Turkey through a social scientific lens. We will explicate how currents of thought, socio-political movements and various representations have evolved from the very end of Ottoman Empire to 2020s, while we will keep a close eye to the construction of identities, communities, sociabilities, bodies, and subjectivities of women, men, transgenders, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, queers and all other "gendered and sexualized citizens" of Turkey.

Grading: 15% Attendance; 15 % Participation to discussions; 20% Mid-term exam 1; 20% Mid-term exam 2; 30% Final exam.

Week 1 Feb 25th Introductions

Week 2 Mar 4th Feminism in Turkey I

- Aksu Bora, 2018, "Feminist Antropoloji", *Kultur Denen Sey: Antropolojik Yaklasimlar*, eds. Ayfer Bartu Candan and Cenk Ozbay, Metis.
- Nükhet Sirman, 1989. "Feminism in Turkey: A Short History," *New Perspectives on Turkey*, 3: 1-34.
- Yesim Arat and Sevket Pamuk, 2019, "Women's Call for Democracy," *Turkey between Democracy and Authoritarianism*, Cambridge.

Discussion Piece:

- Ayse Saktanber, 2000, "Kemalist Kadin Haklari Soylemi", *Kemalizm*, ed. Ahmet Insel, Iletisim.

Week 3 Mar 11th Feminism in Turkey II

- Deniz Kandiyoti, 1987. "Emancipated but unliberated? Reflections on the Turkish case". *Feminist Studies*, 13(2), 317-338.
- Jenny White, 2003, "State Feminism, Modernization, and the Turkish Republican Women", *NWSA Journal* 15(3): 145-59.

Discussion Pieces:

- Hulya Yildiz, 2018. "Rethinking the political: Ottoman women as feminist subjects". *Journal of Gender Studies*, 1-15.
- Serpil Çakır, 2007. Feminism and feminist history-writing in Turkey: The discovery of Ottoman feminism. *Aspasia* 61-83.

Week 4 Mar 18th Family, Marriage, Kinship

- Ferhunde Özbay, 1999. "Gendered Space: A New Look at Turkish Modernization," *Gender & History*. 11(3): 555-568.

- Berna Yazici, 2012, “The return to the family: welfare, state, and politics of the family in Turkey”, *Anthropological Quarterly*.

Discussion Pieces:

- Yael Navaro, 2001, “Evde Taylorizm: Cumhuriyet’in İlk Yillarında Evisinin Rasyonellesmesi”, *Toplum & Bilim* 84.
- Sema Erder, 2002. “Urban Migration and Reconstruction of the Kinship Networks: The Case of Istanbul”, *Autonomy and Dependence in the Family*, Routledge.

Week 5 Mar 25th Politics of Gender

- Cagla Ciner and Sule Toktas, 2010, “Waves of feminism in Turkey: Kemalist, Islamist and Kurdish women's movements in an era of globalization”, *Journal of Balkan and Near East Studies* 12: 41-57.
- Nukhet Sirman, 2002, “Kadinların Milliyeti”, *Milliyetçilik*, ed. Tanil Bora, Iletisim.

Discussion Pieces:

- Feride Acar and Gulbanu Altunok, 2013, “The Politics of Intimate at the Intersection of Neoliberalism and Neoconservatism in Turkey”, *Women’s Studies International Forum*.
- Yaprak Zihnioglu, 2009, “Kadin Kurtulusu Hareketlerinin Siyasal Ideolojiler Boyunca Seyri”, *Donemler ve Zihniyetler*, eds. Tanil Bora and Murat Gultekingil, Iletisim.

Week 6 Apr 1st MT 1

Week 7 Apr 8th Gender and Labor

- Saniye Dedeoglu, 2011, “Garment Ateliers and Women Workers in Istanbul: Wives, Daughters and Azerbaijani Immigrants”, *Middle Eastern Studies*.
- Esra Sarioglu, 2016, “New imaginaries of gender in Turkey's service economy”, *Women’s Studies International Forum*.

Discussion Pieces:

- Ayse Durakbasa and Dilek Cindoglu, 2002, “Encounters at the Counter: Gender and the Shopping Experience”, *Fragments of Culture*, eds. Deniz Kandiyoti and Ayse Saktanber, IB Tauris.
- Dilek Cindoglu and Sule Toktas, 2002, “Empowerment and Resistance Strategies of Working Women in Turkey: The Case of 1960-70 Graduates of the Girls’ Institutes”, *EJWS*.

Week 8 Apr 15th Gender and Culture

- Ayca Alemdaroglu, 2015, “Escaping femininity, claiming respectability: Culture, class and young women in Turkey”, *Women’s Studies International Forum*.
- Amy Mills, 2007, “Gender and Mahalle Space in Istanbul”, *Gender, Place & Culture*.
- Kezban Celik and Demet Lukuslu, 2010, “Spotlighting a Silent Category of Young Females: The Life Experiences of “House Girls” in Turkey”, *Youth & Society*.

Discussion Pieces:

- Ayse Saktanber, 2007, “Cultural Dilemmas of Muslim Youth: Negotiating Muslim Identities and Being Young in Turkey”, *Turkish Studies*.
- Banu Gokariksel, 2012, “The intimate politics of secularism and the headscarf: the mall, the neighborhood, and the public square in Istanbul”, *Gender, Place & Culture*.

Week 9 Apr 22nd Gender, The State, and The Body

- Gul Ozyegin, 2009, “Virginal Facades: Sexual Freedom and Guilt among Young Turkish Women,” *EJWS*.
- Hilal Alkan Zeybek, 2011, “Bir aile Mekanında Cinsiyet, Cinsellik ve Güvenlik”, *Neoliberalizm ve Mahremiyet: Türkiye’de Beden, Sağlık ve Cinsellik*, der. Cenk Özbay et al. Metis.

Discussion Piece:

- Maral Erol, 2009, “Tales of the Second Spring: Menopause in Turkey”, *Medical Anthropology*.
- Ayse Parla, 2001, “The Honor of the State: Virginity Examinations in Turkey”, *Feminist Studies*.

Week 10 Apr 29th Men and Masculinities

- Cenk Özbay and Ozan Soybakis, 2020, “Political Masculinities: Gender, Power, and Change in Turkey”, *Social Politics*.
- Gul Ozyegin, 2018, “Rethinking Patriarchy through Unpatriarchal Male Desires”, *Gender Reckonings*, eds. James Messerschmidt et al. NYU Press.

Discussion Pieces:

- Gul Ozyegin, 2015, “Making a New Man: Recognition, Romance, Sex, and Neoliberal Masculinity”, *New Desires New Selves: Sex, Love, Piety among Turkish Youth*, NYU Press.
- Can Aciksoz, 2012, “Sacrificial Limbs of Sovereignty: Disabled Veterans, Masculinity, and Nationalist Politics in Turkey”, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*.

Week 11 May 6th MT 2

Week 12 May 13th No Class / Holiday

Week 13 May 20th Queer Bodies

- Cenk Özbay, 2010, “Nocturnal Queers: Rent Boys’ Masculinity in Istanbul”, *Sexualities*.
- Oyman Basaran, 2014, “You’re Like a Virus: Dangerous Bodies and Military Medical Authority in Turkey”, *Gender & Society*.
- Evren Savci, 2021, “Who Killed Ahmet Yildiz?” *Queer in Translation*, Duke UP.

Discussion Piece:

- Maral Erol and Cenk Özbay, 2018, “No andropause for Gay Men: The Body, Aging and Sexuality in Turkey”, *Journal of Gender Studies*.

Week 14 May 27th Queering Gender Politics

- Asli Zengin, 2019, “The Afterlife of Gender: Sovereignty, Intimacy, and Muslim Funerals of Transgender People in Turkey”, *Cultural Anthropology*.
- Basak Ertur and Alisa Lebow, 2014, “Coup de genre: the trials and tribulations of Blent Ersoy”, *Theory & Event*.

Discussion Piece:

- Volkan Yilmaz and Ipek Gocmen, 2016, “Denied Citizens of Turkey: Experiences of Discrimination Among LGBT Individuals in Employment, Housing and Health Care”, *Gender, Work & Organization*.

Final Exam TBA