

Oğuz Alyanak

Curriculum Vitae (updated on January 2018)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Cultural anthropologist of modern Turkey and Turkish migration to Europe with over 16 months of fieldwork experience in the receiving and sending contexts, Strasbourg (France), Kehl (Germany), and Kayseri (Turkey). I am interested in thinking through theories on the moral, Islamic self in relation to theories on physical space, combining philosophical, anthropological and cultural geographic insights in my scholarship. My dissertation research was on the negotiation of Islamic morality and masculinity in a borderland geography that generates moral anxieties. Previous research as a political scientist includes ethnographic research on Turkish institutions in Chicago, and mass demonstrations in Istanbul and Ankara. I am currently a scholar of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy, and fellow at the Center for the Humanities, both at Washington University.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Recipient of multiple sources of external funding, including the Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, the Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, and National Science Foundation sponsored training in research design.
- Consistent record of public writing on Turkish politics and society for Turkish and English outlets, including *Radikal*, *BirGün*, *openDemocracy*, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Blog, and *Anthropology News*' "New Turkey Chronicles" column.
- History of interdisciplinary collaboration in publishing on gender politics in Turkey. Currently engaged in archival research on women murdered by men in Turkey.

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. in Sociocultural Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis (expected).
Dissertation: Fear of the Ordinary: Muslim Turks Negotiate Men's Moral Worth in the Franco-German Borderland, advised by John R. Bowen
- 2011 M.A. in Social Sciences/Anthropology, University of Chicago.
- 2010 M.A. in Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University.
- 2006 B.A. Double Major in International Development and Social Change, and Government and International Relations, Clark University.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- 2016 The Case of Children Born out of Wedlock in Turkey: An ‘Empty’ Category? *About Gender: International Journal of Gender Studies* 5(10):261-281. (with Funda Üstek-Spilda)
- 2016 Do Your Best and Allah Will Take Care of the Rest: Muslim Turks Negotiate Halal in Strasbourg, *International Review of Social Research* 6(1):15-25.
- 2015 Toplumsal Analizlerde Konumsallık Tasavvuru: Saha Çalışması Üzerine Düşünümsel Bir Not” [Rethinking Positionality in Social Analysis: A Reflexive Note on Fieldwork], *Modus Operandi* 1(1):17-47.
- 2012 Facing the Ghosts of ‘Statue of Humanity’. *Lights: The Middle Eastern Studies Students Association at the University of Chicago Journal* 1(2):33-46.
- 2011 Social and Political Transformations in the Middle East. *The Sociology of Islam and Muslim Societies Newsletter* 7:1-3. (Guest Editor, with Ümit Kurt)
- Turkey as a Model Democracy? Revisiting the Turkish Referendum. *The Sociology of Islam and Muslim Societies Newsletter* 7:23-27. (with Ümit Kurt)
- 2010 Ömer Madra ile Soyleşi: Tabiat Ana’nın Haklarına Saygı [Interview with Ömer Madra] *Notos* 22:66-7. (with Ümit Kurt)
- 2010 Bukowski’yle Kirlenmek [Getting Dirty with Bukowski]. *Mesele* 41:51-2.
- 2010 “TPQ Roundtable: Turkey and Israel - Old Friends, New Enemies?” *Turkish Policy Quarterly* 8(4):153-160.

Book Chapters

- 2018 Shadowing as a Methodology: Snapshots from Research in Strasbourg, Amsterdam, Barcelona and Milan. In *Urban Life: Readings in the Anthropology of the City*. Sixth Edition. Edited by G. Gmelch and P. Kuppinger. Waveland Press. Pp. 89-102. (coauthored)
- 2017 The “Unique Blend”: Reframing Womanhood through Turkish Drama Series. In *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective* edited by C. Brettell and C.F. Sargent. Routledge. Pp. 381-397. (with Funda Üstek-Spilda)
- 2015 The Social Life of Remittance Houses: Scenes from Rural Kayseri. In *Turkish Migration Conference 2015 Selected Proceedings* edited by G. Şeker, A. Tilbe, M. Ökmen, M., P. Yazgan, D. Eroğlu and I. Sirkeci. London: Transnational Press.
- 2015 The Fear of ‘What They Say’: How Gossip Regulates Sexual Exploration Among Migrants in Europe. In *Turkish Migration Conference 2015 Selected Proceedings* (with Sherria Ayuandini)
- 2015 Anaakımın İçerisinde Alternatif Görünürlük Arayışları: Huzur Sokağı Örneği [“Serenity Street” Series: A Case Study of Alternative Media]. In *Direnış Çağında Türkiye’de Alternatif Medya* [Mapping the Alternative Media in Turkey] edited by B. Çoban, and B. Ataman. Istanbul: Kafka Kitap. Pp. 505-533. (with Funda Üstek-Spilda)

Book Reviews

- 2017 Everyday Piety: Islam and Economy in Jordan by Sarah Tobin. *Review of Middle East*

- Studies* 51(2): 317-320
- 2013 Islamic Schools in Modern Turkey: Faith, Politics and Education by Iren Özgür. *Turkish Review* 3(6): 660-62.
- 2012 Honor Killings in the Twenty-first Century by Nicole Pope. *Turkish Review* 2(6): 111-16. (with Alexandra Mateescu)
- 2010 *Antropoloji Tarihi* [A History of Anthropology] by Thomas H. Eriksen, and Finn S. Nielsen. *Mesele* 46:53-55.
- 2010 *Turkey's Engagement with Modernity: Conflict and Change in the Twentieth Century* by Celia Kerslake, Kerem Öktem, and Philip Robins. *Turkish Policy Quarterly* 9(1):127-135. (with Defne Kadioğlu).

Public Writing

- 2017 Is it Over? On Melancholy of Lost Hope, *Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Series on the Turkish Referendum*, <https://politicalandlegalanthro.org/2017/05/11/is-it-over-on-melancholy-of-lost-hope/>
- 2016 Working at a Doner Kebab Shop, *Anthropology News*, <http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2016/07/21/working-at-a-doner-kebab-shop/>
- 2016 Ramadan Diaries (Weekly Series). *Savage Minds*, <http://savageminds.org/2016/06/06/ramadan-diaries-introduction/>

For a list of other public writings on Turkey:

Anthropology News: <http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/tag/oguz-alyanak/>
 openDemocracy: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/author/oguz-alyanak>

Works in Preparation

- 2018 Ethnography of a Doner Kebab Shop (article prepared for submission to *Anthropology of Work Review*)
- 2018 Blaming Kehl: Preserving Moral Unity in the Franco-German Bordertown (article prepared for submission to *City&Society*)

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2016 The Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. \$19,704.
- 2014 Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship \$4,750
- 2013 Summer Research Travel Grant, Washington University. \$1000

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2018 Center for the Humanities Graduate Student Fellowship, Washington University, \$5000.
- 2012-18 McDonnell International Scholars Academy. \$27,000/year.
- 2016 Department of Anthropology Photography Contest, Honorable Mention.
- 2015 McDonnell Scholar Initiative Fund, Project Coordinator, Breaking Bread, Crossing Boundaries. \$500.
- 2014 Transatlantic Forum Travel Grant, Washington University, \$1000

- 2013 American Anthropological Association Central States Anthropological Society (CSAS), Best Graduate Student Paper Award. \$300
- 2010-11 University Unendowed Scholarship, MAPSS, University of Chicago.
- 2006 Honors, cum laude, Clark University.

GUEST LECTURES AND INVITED TALKS

- 2017 Guest Lecturer, “Gender, Family, and Religion” in Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Washington University, St. Louis. MO. August 4.
- 2017 Guest Lecturer, “Religion and Rituals” in Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Washington University, St. Louis. MO. June 30.
- 2017 Guest Lecturer, “Borders and Boundaries” in Introduction to Global Health. Washington University, St. Louis. MO. June 19 and July 24.
- 2017 Guest Lecturer, “Contemporary Topics on Migration and Islam” in Proseminar: Issues and Research in Anthropology. Washington University, St. Louis. MO. April 10.
- 2017 Guest Lecturer, “Commentary on the Turkish Referendum”. Washington University, St. Louis. MO. April 4.
- 2017 Guest Lecturer, “Reproductive Politics in Transnational Perspective” in Global Gender Issues. Washington University, St. Louis. MO. March 30.
- 2017 Guest Lecturer, “Döner Kebab in Transnational Perspective” in Of Dishes, Taste and Class: History of Food in the Middle East. Washington University, St. Louis, MO. March 22.
- 2017 Discussant, “Rehabilitated Ruins: Development, Democratization, and UNESCO World Heritage in Turkey” Ethnographic Theory Workshop, Washington University, St. Louis, MO. February 14.
- 2013 Commentator, “Exploration of the term ‘subtitle’ in Fatih Akin’s The Edge of Heaven” in German Film Series. Washington University, St. Louis, MO. November 14.
- 2013 Guest Lecturer, “Selling Islam” in Anthropology of Clothing and Fashion, Washington University, St. Louis, MO. October 30.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2017 Fieldwork and Beyond: Students Share Experiences and Answer Questions about Work In and After the Field. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington D.C. November 29-December 3. [abstract accepted]
- 2017 Turkish Men and their Going-out Habits: A Moral Critique of Masculinity and Everyday Life on the Franco-German Borderland. Gendering Migration & Transnationalizing Gender in the Middle East and North Africa. Middle East Studies Association. Washington D.C. November 18-21. [abstract accepted]
- 2017 Blaming Kehl: Preserving Moral Unity in the Franco-German Borderland. Borders: A Conference on Boundaries, Barriers and Transgression in Anthropology. University of Colorado, Boulder. September 29-30.
- 2017 Conceptualizing Boş Zaman [Empty Time]: Revisiting The Notion of Leisure in Turkish Islam. Society for Anthropology of Religion Biannual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

- May 15-17.
- 2016 Choosing Sides: Ethnography of a Turkish Witchhunt in Strasbourg, France. Late Breaking Session on the July 15th Coup Attempt in Turkey as Event and as Process, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, November 18.
 - 2016 Kabak Oyunu [The Squash Game]: Masculine Plays among France-Born Turks in Strasbourg. Games, Sports and Identity, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN. November 16.
 - 2016 Ethnography of a Doner Kebab Shop in Strasbourg. Turkish Migration Conference, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria. July 14.
 - 2015 The Social Life of Remittance Houses: Scenes from Rural Kayseri. Turkish Migration Conference, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. June 25.
 - 2015 The Fear of “What They Say”: How Gossip Regulates Sexual Exploration Among Turkish Migrants in Europe. Turkish Migration Conference, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. June 25.
 - 2014 The French ‘Faux Halal’ Scandal: An Anthropological Intervention. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. November 23.
 - 2014 Love, Transnationally? Migration Without Boundaries Graduate Student Conference, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. October 11.
 - 2014 Emergent Actors, Emergent Narratives: Competing Representations of Islam and Turkey in North America. World Congress for Middle East Studies, Middle Eastern Technical University, Ankara, August 20.
 - 2013 Explorations into the Turkish Community in Strasbourg. McDonnell Academy Global Leadership Vision Conference, St. Louis, MO. October 17.
 - 2013 Ties that Divide: Diaspora Discussions over Religion and Secularism. American Ethnological Society/Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Joint Spring Meeting, Chicago, IL. April 12.
 - 2013 Workshop on Methodological and Ethical Issues in Ethical Issues in the Ethnography of Conflict and Violence. American Ethnological Society/Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Joint Spring Meeting, Chicago, IL. April 11 2013.
 - 2013 Transnational Narratives on Laïcité and Islam among the Turkish Diaspora in the U.S. Central States Anthropological Society Annual Meeting, St. Louis, April 6.
 - 2013 Festival Politics: Narratives of Exclusion among Turkish-American Institutions. Second City Anthropology Conference, U. of Illinois at Chicago, IL. March 14.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 Dissertation fieldwork in Strasbourg on “Fear of the Ordinary: Muslim Turks Negotiate Men's Moral Worth in the Franco-German Borderland.”
- 2014 Summer fieldwork in Kayseri on “Living in Sister-Cities: Exploring the Strasbourg-Kayseri Connection.”
- 2014 Research Assistant for Kedron Thomas (Anthropology) and Robin VerHage-Abram (Fashion Design) on “Sustainable Fashion: An Exploration of Knowledge Systems and Design Practice.”
- 2013 Preliminary summer fieldwork in Strasbourg on Turkish institutions in France.

- 2011 Fieldwork in Chicago on Turkish institutions in North America.
2009 Fieldwork in Istanbul and Ankara on mass demonstrations in Turkey.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017 Instructor for Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.
2017 Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.
2015 Teaching Assistant for Culture and Environment.
2015 Teaching Assistant for Anthropology and Existentialism.
2014 Teaching Assistant for Health, Healing and Ethics: Introduction to Medical Anthropology
2013 Teaching Assistant for Anthropology of Clothing and Fashion.

OTHER ACADEMIC TRAINING

- 2015 National Science Foundation, Summer Institute for Research Design (SIRD) in Cultural Anthropology
2014 Transatlantic Forum, Visiting Doctoral Researcher École des hautes études en sciences sociales and University of Amsterdam.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), German (basic)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2017- Anthropology News, Columnist for “New Turkey Chronicles” (2017 -)
2013-15 openDemocracy, Columnist for “Arab Awakening & Turkish Dawn” (2013-15).
2013- American Anthropological Association, Student Member.
2016- Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), Student Member.
2007-13 Turkish Policy Quarterly, Editorial Advisor, Managing Editor

REFERENCES

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Teaching References

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