

CEVAT DARGIN

Department of Near Eastern Studies
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Postgraduate Research Associate, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (June 2021–Present).

EDUCATION

- PhD in Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, NJ, 2021.
Dissertation: *State-Making in Dersim across Empire and Nation-State (1878–1938)*.

When the Young Turks and Kemalists declared new regimes in 1908 and in 1923 respectively, they put forth grand narratives of radical change. Whereas the dominant narrative in the existing historiography treats these regime changes as historical ruptures with the past, this dissertation highlights the continuity in state making across the Hamidian (1876–1908), Young Turks (1908–1923), and Early Republican (1923–1938) eras by examining the history of Dersim, a Kizilbash (Alevi) Kurdish-majority region with a rich and diverse environment in Eastern Anatolia.

Advisor: Michael M. Reynolds

Examining Committee: Ekaterina Pravilova, Max Weiss, Bernard Haykel, Sabri Ateş

Prospectus Committee: Michael Cook, Michael M. Reynolds, Ekaterina Pravilova

General Exams, 2018

Nationalism and Nation-State in the Middle East and Eurasia, by Michael Reynolds

Islamic Political Thought, by Muhammad Qasim Zaman

Ethnic and Religious Minorities in the Middle East, by Max Weiss

- MA in Near Eastern Studies, New York University, New York, 2014.
Thesis: *Politics of Historiography and Dehistoricization in Eastern Anatolia*.
Advisor: Michael Gilsenan
- MA in Political Science, Brooklyn College (CUNY), New York, 2012.
Thesis: *Global Water Politics: Case Studies of Turkey and China*.
Advisor: Caroline E. Arnold
- BA in Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, 2007.
Concentration: Comparative Politics

RESEARCH AREAS

- Modern Middle Eastern/North African history and politics
- Historical continuity, state (trans)formation, nation building, colonialism, and empire
- Indigenous, minority, and environmental histories

- Islamic political thought
- World War I

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PREPARATION

Book

- *A History of Modern State-Making in The Middle East: The Case of Dersim Across Empire and Nation-State (1877–1938)*, manuscript under preparation to be submitted to Cambridge University Press.

Journal Articles

- “‘A Stylish Death’: Seyid Riza (1863–1937) and the Politics of Remembrance,” under review, *The International Journal of Middle East Studies*.
- “‘An Old Boil in the Lungs of Anatolia:’ Imagining Dersim as ‘a State within State’ across Empire and Nation-State (1866–1939)” submission pending, *The Journal of Historical Geography*.

Book Chapter

- “‘A Legend of Banditry’ across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey: Koçan (Koçuşağı) Tribe (1890–1938)” in “*Gayri Eşkiyaya Çıkar Adımız*”: *Geç Osmanlı’dan Cumhuriyet’e Eşkiyalık, Şekavet, İsyân* edited by Yalçın Çakmak and Ahmet Özcan, forthcoming. [Turkish: Osmanlı’dan Cumhuriyet’e bir “Eşkiyalık Efsanesi”: Koçan (Koçuşağı) Aşireti (1890–1938)].

Short Essays and Opinion Pieces

- “Why Does Televizyon Become Vizontele? Kurds and Orientalism from Within,” *Annual Review*, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University, 2014.
- “Turkey’s Shifting Foreign Policy Toward the Middle East and Its Relationship with Israel,” *The Journal of Turkish Weekly*, 2011.
- “The Arab Spring and the Waves of Democracy,” *The Journal of Turkish Weekly*, 2011.
- “Uprooted Trees: Identity Problems of Internally Displaced Persons,” *Siyahi Magazine*, 2008.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Dean’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Princeton University, 2021.
- Dissertation Writing Grant, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, 2020.
- Research Grant, American Research Institute in Turkey, 2019.
- Research Fellowship, The Donald and Mary Hyde Foundation, 2018.
- Language and Research Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University, 2017.
- Language and Research Grant, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, 2016.
- Research Grant for [Zaza Language Project](#) organized jointly by Endangered Language Alliance and Columbia University, partially funded by the Sharmin and

Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University, 2016.

- Language and Research Grant, Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University, 2015.

TEACHING AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

- Undergraduate Research Mentorship, Princeton University, September 2021–Present.
- Assistant Instructor, NES 269 / POL 353: *The Politics of Modern Islam*, in collaboration with Bernard Haykel, Princeton University, Fall 2020.
- Teaching Transcript at the McGraw Center for Teaching, Princeton University, 2020.
- Designed reading course, NES 730: *Minorities in the Middle East*, in collaboration with Max Weiss, Princeton University, Spring 2017.
- Designed reading course, NES 732: *Nationalism, and Nation-State Building Practices in the Middle East and Eurasia*, in collaboration with Michael Reynolds, Princeton University, Fall 2017.
- Teaching Assistant, *Problems and Methods in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies*, in collaboration with Michael Gilsean, NYU, Fall 2014.
- Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Librarian, Hagop Kevorkian Center, NYU, 2014.
- Public Programs and Outreach Assistant, Near Eastern Studies, NYU, 2013.
- Research Assistant, in collaboration with Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome on a project titled *Global Gender Gap*, funded by The Commonwealth Secretariat, 2012.
- Research and Teaching Assistant, *Political Systems of Africa*, in collaboration with Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome, Brooklyn College, CUNY, Spring 2011.
- Research Assistant Intern, World Policy Institute, New York, 2011.
- Teaching Assistant, *Comparative Politics*, Boğaziçi University, Fall 2006.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “Alî Şîr: A Kurdish Nationalist Poet and Warrior in the Early 20th Century” presented at a panel on *Kurdish Nationalism and Russian Imperial Projects* for the workshop on the political and military histories of Russian-Kurdish relations (19th–20th centuries), funded by the French National Research Agency, Moscow, 2019.
- “United Kingdom and the Kurds during World War One: A Critical Analysis of British Documentary Sources: 1914–1920,” presented at Kurdish Studies Conference organized by the Buffett Institute, Northwestern University, 2017.
- “Identity in the Ideology, Art, and Literature of Kurdish Intellectuals at the End(s) of the Ottoman Empire,” presented at a workshop on identity politics, NYU, 2015.

EVENTS ORGANIZED AND MODERATED

- *Zer: A film by Kazım Öz*, Program in Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University. A panel discussion with Kazım Öz, the director of the film *Zer*, 2018.
- *A Voice from Syria: The Civil War, Refugees, and Women*, Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, Princeton University. A panel discussion with Elham Ahmed, a political representative of the de facto autonomous region of Northern Syria, 2017.
- *Beyond the Arab Spring: Political (De)formation and Social Revolution in Syria*, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at NYU. A panel discussion with scholars working on political developments in Northern Syria, 2015.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Ottoman/Turkish archives in Istanbul and Ankara (including Ottoman imperial archives, Turkish republican archives, the Turkish military archives (ATASE), the archives of Turkish Historical Society, and the National Library), 2017–2019.
- Archives nationales, Archives diplomatiques, and Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris and Archives Diplomatiques in Nantes, 2019.
- American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions Archives, Houghton Library, Harvard University, 2018.
- Preliminary research on archival and secondary sources, Russia, 2017.
- Preliminary research on archival and secondary sources, Iran and Turkey, 2016.

LANGUAGES

- Turkish – Native in Turkish, competent in Azeri, proficient in reading Ottoman Turkish
- Kurdish – Native in Kurmanci, competent in Zazaki and Sorani
- Russian – Advanced (four semester courses, an intensive summer program at Derzhavin Institute in Russia, an intensive summer program at Middlebury College)
- Persian – Advanced (four semester courses, and a summer language program at Dehkhoda Institute of Tehran University in Iran)
- French – Advanced (four intensive semester courses, four months of language training and research in France)
- Arabic – Basic (one semester course, planning to improve in coming years)

TEACHING AREAS/PROPOSED COURSES**Undergraduate**

- Introduction to the Middle East
- Modern Middle Eastern/North African History
- History of Nationalism and Modern State in the Middle East
- World War I and the Middle East
- Minority Politics and Histories in the Greater Middle East
- Ottoman Empire (1300–1923)
- The Politics of Modern Islam
- Selected Topics in Environmental History of the Middle East
- Comparative Politics in the Middle East
- The Middle East in Modern World: A Global History Survey

Graduate

- Introduction to the Professional Study of the Middle East
- Theory and Practice of Modern State Making in the Greater Middle East
- Environment in the Middle East: Past, Present, and Future
- Islamic Political Thought
- Late Ottoman Empire (1800–1923)
- Kurdish, Kizilbash, and Armenian Questions
- “Is Turkey in the Middle East?”: Political History of a Country in Between

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- Journal manuscript reviewer for *International Journal of Kurdish Studies*, 2019 - Present.

INTERVIEWS

- Interviewed by Carolina Avsar for her master's thesis "*My Name Is Sara*": *A Biomythography Exploring the Life of Sakine Cansiz*," 2020.
- Documented the oral histories of speakers of Zaza language and conducted interviews with Alevi religious elder Pir Ali and other locals in Dersim (Tunceli, Turkey), as part of an ethnographic research for Zaza Language Project, organized by Endangered Language Alliance, and supported by Columbia University and Princeton University, 2016.
- Interviewed by Mahmood Monshipouri in 2005 for his book *Muslims in Global Politics: Identities, Interests, and Human Rights*, (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights) (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009).

VISUAL ARTS

- Documentary Film *I Am Going Because I Am Scared, I Am Scared Because I Am Going*. Mithad Alam Film Center, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, 2006.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

- Proficient in using Python (its functionalities in digital archiving, mapping, data analysis, visualization, image processing, machine learning, multimedia integration).
- Experienced in using Excel, website development, and video editing.
- Participated in training sessions and student projects of the Center for Digital Humanities at Princeton University (2018 - Present).

OTHER EXPERIENCES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS

- Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association (since 2020).
- The Middle East Institute (since 2019).
- American Historical Association (since 2019).
- Center for Collaborative History, Princeton University (since 2018).
- Humanities Council, Princeton University (since 2017).
- Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University (since 2016)
- Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University, Middle East Studies Association (since 2017).
- The Institute for Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, Princeton University (since 2016).
- Middle Eastern Studies Association (since 2015).
- Kurdish Studies Network (since 2013)
- Hegop Kevorkian center for Near Eastern Studies, NYU (since 2014).
- Club of African Affairs, Brooklyn College, CUNY, 2010.
- Assistant Proposition Development Specialist, Türkiye İş Bankası, 2009.
- Compulsory Military Service, Istanbul, 2008.
- Work and Travel Program, Summers of 2005 (Michigan), 2006 and 2007 (Colorado).

- Voluntary Service for European Union–Sponsored Project “Human Rights and Democracy Training in Coffee Houses,” Istanbul, 2006.
- Club of Social Sciences and International Relations, Boğaziçi University 2003–2007.

WOWK AUTHORIZATION STATUS

- Permanent resident (Green Card) with work authorization in the United States.

REFERENCES

Michael M. Reynolds, Associate Professor of Near Eastern Studies
Princeton University
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