

Curriculum Vitae
MERVE KÜTÜK-KURİŞ

Department of Sociology
Boğaziçi University

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EMPLOYMENT

Boğaziçi University (April 2024 –) Istanbul, Turkey
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

Istanbul 29 Mayıs University (May 2021 - March 2024) Istanbul, Turkey
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations

Istanbul Şehir University (February 2017 - June 2018) Istanbul, Turkey
Part Time Lecturer, Department of Political Science and International Relations

EDUCATION

SOAS, University of London (2016) London, UK
Ph.D. in Politics, Department of Politics and International Studies
Passed with no corrections
Dissertation: *'Locating Muslim Woman: Consumption, Activism, and Contention in Turkey'*
Committee: Prof. Salwa Ismail (chair), Prof. Deniz Kandiyoti
Defense Committee: Dr. Cihan Tuğal, Dr. Humeira Iqtidar

University of Oxford (2011) Oxford, UK
M.Phil in Politics (Political Theory), Department of Politics and International Relations
Comprehensive Exams: Theory of Politics; Democratisation: Theory and Practice; Political Sociology
Thesis: *'The Politics of Identity: A Critical Appraisal'*
Thesis Supervisor: Prof. Mark Philp

Istanbul Bilgi University (2008) Istanbul, Turkey
B.A. *summa cum laude* in Political Science Minor with Sociology, Department of Political Science & Department of Sociology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Theory with particular reference to the Politics of Identity and Subjectivity; Social Theory with particular reference to agency versus structure debates; Sociology of Gender; Gender in the Middle East; Sociology of Islam; Political Ethnography; Political Sociology

TEACHING SCOPE

- Classical and Contemporary Social Theory
- Classical and Contemporary Political Theory
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Introduction to Sociology
- Sociology of Gender
- Gender in the Middle East
- Gender and Politics
- Political Sociology
- Sociology of Islam

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024 –

Assistant Professor

The Department of Sociology, Boğaziçi University, Turkey

‘Introduction to Sociology’ (BA core) (Fall 2024)

‘Sociology of Gender’ (BA elective) (Fall 2024)

Responsibilities include designing the course; planning, preparing and delivering weekly lectures; assigning homework; marking assignments; supervising students for research papers; preparing exam questions; marking and commenting on the exam papers; holding office hours.

2021 – 2024

Assistant Professor

The Department of Political Science and International Relations, Istanbul 29 Mayıs University, Turkey.

‘Introduction to Sociology’ (BA core) (Fall 2021; Fall 2022; Fall 2023)

‘Research Methods’ (BA core) (Spring 2022; Spring 2023; Spring 2024)

‘History of Political Thought I & II’ (BA core) (Spring & Fall 2021; 2022; 2023)

‘Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East’ (BA elective) (Spring 2022)

‘Political Ideologies of the Middle East’ (BA elective) (Fall 2022)

‘Gender and Politics in Contemporary Europe’ (BA elective) (Spring 2024)

‘Anthropology of Europe’ (BA elective) (Fall 2021; Fall 2023)

‘Gender in the Middle East’ (MA elective) (Fall 2021; Fall 2022; Fall 2023)

‘Sociology of Islam’ (MA elective) (Spring 2022)

2017-2018

Part Time Faculty Member

The Department of Political Science and International Relations, Istanbul Şehir University, Turkey.

‘Gender in the Middle East’ (BA elective) (Spring 2018)

‘Gender and Politics’ (BA elective) (Spring 2017 & Fall 2017)

2013 – 2015

Graduate Teaching Assistant

The Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS, University of London, UK.

‘Political Society of the Middle East’ (MSc course) (Term I & II 2014 – 2015)

‘Introduction to Political Theory’ (BA course) (Term I & II 2013 – 2014)

MASTER THESIS SUPERVISION

- Expected graduation 2024 Mehmet Çetinkaya, “Examining Nasser’s Leadership: Hoffer and the 1952 Egyptian Revolution”
- Expected graduation 2025 Sena Salih, “Redefining *Naz*: Young Women Navigating Marriage Customs in Bursa”
- Expected graduation 2025 Dinie Hanifa, “Women Denying Motherhood in Indonesia”

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2022 “The Rise and Fall of Support for the Istanbul Convention: Understanding the Case of KADEM,” *Women’s Studies International Forum*, 93 (July-August).
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2022.102601>
- 2021 “Muslim Fashionistas in Contemporary Turkey: Devoted Mothers, Benevolent Philanthropists, and Leisure Enthusiasts,” *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*, 17 (3): 395-422.
<https://doi.org/10.1215/15525864-9306860>
- 2021 “Moral Ambivalence, Religious Doubt and Non-Belief Among Ex-Hijabi Women in Turkey,” *Religions*, 12 (1): 33.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/rel12010033>
- 2020 “Piety, Fashion, and Festivity in a Modest Fashion Shopping Mall in Istanbul,” *International Journal of Fashion Studies*, 7 (2): 167-191. https://doi.org/10.1386/infos_00025_1
- 2020 “A Snapshot of the Fashion Field in Contemporary Turkey,” with Nazli Alimen, *International Journal of Fashion Studies*, 7 (2): 133-145. https://doi.org/10.1386/infos_00023_2

Books

- In Press *Refashioning Muslims: Women Between the New Conservatism and Neoliberalism in Istanbul*. Edinburgh University Press.

Book Chapters

- Forthcoming “The Reinvention and Appropriation of Traditions in the Turkish Marriage Market,” in Sertaç Sehlíkoglu, Sumrin Kalia, and Fatemeh Sadeghi Givi (eds.), *Poetics and Politics of Islamic Imaginaries*. London: UCL Press.
- 2024 [e-book] “Locating Women and the Expansion of Islamic Morality in the New Turkey: Anthropological and Sociological Perspectives,” with Sertaç Sehlíkoglu in Caroline Tee, Fabio Vicini, and Philip Dorroll (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Religion in Turkey*. Oxford University Press.

- 2022 [e-book] “Politica culturale nella ‘Nuova Turchia’: Impatti nazionali e regionali (Cultural Politics in the ‘New Turkey’: Domestic and Regional Impacts),” in Valeria Giannotta (ed.), *La Turchia Nel Mediterraneo (The Turkish Approach to the Enlarged Mediterranean)*. Donzelli Editore. ISBN978-88-5522-3980
- 2021 “Zamanın Müteşebbis Ruhunun Peşinde Anne ve Eş Olmak: Moda Tutkunu Genç Mütedeyyin Kadınların İş ve Aile Hayatı Deneyimleri,” in Taylan Acar and Şemsa Özar (eds.), *Emek, Beden, Aile – Türkiye’de Kadınlık Halleri (Ferhunde Özbay Anısına)*. Metis: Istanbul. ISBN13 978-605-316-221-6
- 2019 [online] “Muslim Feminism: Contemporary Debates,” in Mark Woodward and Ronald Lukens-Bull (eds.), *Handbook of Contemporary Islam and Muslim Lives*. Springer: Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-73653-2_45-1

Book Reviews

In Press

Adak, Sevgi. 2022. *Anti-veiling Campaigns in Turkey: State, Society and Gender in the Early Republic*. London: I.B. Tauris. For *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*.

Editorial Work

2020

Co-editor, Special Issue: “Fashion and Dress in Contemporary Turkey”, *International Journal of Fashion Studies*, 7 (2).

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

- “Yeni Muhafazakârlık ve Evliliğin Ritüel Ekonomisi Kısılcacında Türkiye’de Gelin Olmak” (book manuscript in Turkish to be submitted to *Metis: Istanbul*).
- “Lives as Soap Opera: Dreams, Desires and Aspirations of Young Brides in Turkey” (article at a preliminary stage, to be submitted to *New Perspectives on Turkey*)
- “The Construction of Femininity among Ex-hijabi Women in Turkey” (article at a preliminary stage, to be submitted to *Contemporary Islam*)

AWARDS AND FUNDING

2023-2026

Team Member in Jean Monnet Chair

awarded by European Commission

Project: “IMPEUTUS. Impact of EU Norms on Policies Towards Migrants and Women in Turkey” with JMO Chair Prof. Özgür Ünal Eriş

2018

The Şirin Tekeli Research Award

awarded by Sabancı University - Gender and Women’s Studies Center of Excellence, in memory of Şirin Tekeli

Project: “Between New Conservatism and Ritual Economy of Marriage: Being a Newlywed Bride in Turkey”.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- Forthcoming [2024] “*Rethinking Piety and the Question of Coherence from a Ricoeurian Lens: The Case of Muslim Fashionistas in Turkey*,” Conference entitled ‘Gender and Religious Agency in the Muslim World,’ Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin (ZMO), 14-15 June, Berlin, Germany (fully granted scholar, ZMO).
- 2023 “*Bir Ev(lilik) Masalı: Yeni Muhafazakârlık ve Gösterişçi Tüketim Çağında Gelin Öznelliğini Kurmak*,” X. Ulusal Sosyoloji Kongresi: Krizler Çağının Toplumsal Halleri, Galatasaray University, 20-22 September 2023, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2022 “*The Reinvention and Appropriation of Traditions in the Turkish Marriage Market*,” Conference entitled ‘Poetics and Politics of Imagination: Causes and Obstacles to Prosperity,’ UCL Institute for Global Prosperity (IGP), 2-3 December, London, UK (partially funded scholar, UCL Institute for Global Prosperity).
- 2022 “*Between New Conservatism and the Ritual Economy of Marriage: Being a Newlywed Bride in Turkey*,” The Association for Middle East Women’s Studies (AMEWS) Conference entitled ‘Women and Gender Studies in the Middle East,’ 21-23 June, Beirut, Lebanon. (fully granted scholar, Bobst-AUB Collaborative Initiative & Lebanese American University).
- 2020 “*The Changing Meanings of Female Piety and the Issue of Non-belief in Turkey: The Case of De-veiling*,” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 54th Annual Meeting, 5-17 October, Virtual Conference due to COVID-19.
- 2019 “*Yeni Muhafazakarlık ve Evliliğin Ritüel Ekonomisi Kısılcacında Türkiye’de Gelin Olmak*,” Conference for the Şirin Tekeli Research Award 2018, Sabancı University, 7 December, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2019 “*The New Discourse of Gender Justice and Pro-Government Women’s Organisations in Turkey under the AKP rule*,” Workshop entitled ‘Islamist Women in War and Conflict: Activism, Gender and Subjectivity,’ Dublin City University, 25 November, Dublin, Ireland (fully granted scholar, the Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction, DCU).
- 2018 “*Devoted Wives, Dedicated Mothers and Passionate Entrepreneurs: Young Muslim Women in the Turkish Islamic Fashion Sector*,” 1st Ferhunde Özbay Memorial Conference: Family, Marriage and Women’s Employment in Turkey, 9 March, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2016 “*How to Look Chic in Hijab?*” The British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group (SocRel) Annual Conference, 12–14 July, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK.
- 2014 “*On the Category of Muslim Women: A Discursive Approach*,” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 48th Annual Meeting, 22-25 November, Washington DC, USA (partially funded scholar, SOAS Politics).
- 2013 “*Seeking Counter-Hegemonic Discourse in Muslim Women’s Justice-Based Political Activism in Turkey*,” Workshop entitled ‘Rethinking Gender in Revolutions and Resistance: Lessons from the Arab World,’ University of Warwick, 8-10 July, Coventry, UK (partially funded scholar, the British Academy).
- 2013 “*Passing for Life: Meaning and Management of the Dressed Body in Veiled Women’s Life Narratives in Turkey*,” Body Projects: Body Modification and the Female Body Conference at Centre for Women’s Studies, University of York, 9 March, York, UK.

- 2011 “*The Politics of Identity: A Critique or a Defense?*” Conference for Graduate Students entitled ‘Comparative Research on Turkey in connection to the Globalization Process,’ The Department of Political Science and IR, Boğaziçi University, 8-9 April, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2010 “*How Can Oppressed Groups Express Their Views in the Media?*” The Europaeum Summer School entitled ‘The Media, Europe and Democracy,’ University of Bologna, 5-10 September, Bologna, Italy (fully granted scholar, the Europaeum).
- 2008 “*Islamist Women: An Assessment on Their Religious, Patriarchal and Gender Perceptions,*” Southern Sociological Society 71th Annual Meeting, 9-12 April, Richmond, USA.
- 2007 “*Comparative Analysis of Laicism in France and Turkey: The Headscarf Controversy,*” Viadrina Summer University entitled ‘Religion and Modernity: The Societal Determination of Religion and its Cultural Potential,’ 18 June- 06 July, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany (fully granted scholar, Volkswagen Foundation).
- 2007 “*Headscarf as a Political Symbol or as a Demand of Freedom?*” Southern Sociological Society 70th Annual Meeting, 11-14 April, Atlanta, USA (partially funded scholar, Istanbul Bilgi University).

INVITED LECTURES, TALKS, AND INTERVIEWS

- 2021 Guest Lecturer at the course “Revolutions and Social Movements in the Modern Middle East” at University of Pennsylvania. 3 November, Zoom.
- 2021 Book Launch “Emek, Beden, Aile: Türkiye’de Kadınlık Halleri” by Editors and Contributors. Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Women’s Studies Application and Research Center (KAM), 16 April, Zoom.
- 2021 “İslami Neoliberalizmin İdeal Kadın Özneleri”. Interview with Zuhale Esra Bilir, Kadın İşçi, 13 April. <https://tinyurl.com/4vekdy8>.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 Research Assistant to Prof. Salwa Ismail for the design of two undergraduate courses, “Urban Politics in the Middle East”; “Popular Culture in the Middle East” at SOAS, Department of Politics and International Studies, June - August 2016, London, UK. (The duties include working on the relevant scholarship, giving feedback and summary of the essential readings, and preparing a syllabus.)
- 2010 The Europaeum Summer School on ‘The Media, Europe and Democracy’. University of Bologna, Italy. September 2010. (fully granted scholar, the Europaeum)
- 2007 Viadrina Summer University on ‘Religion and Modernity: The Societal Determination of Religion and its Cultural Potential’. Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. July 2007. (fully granted scholar, Volkswagen Foundation)
- 2007 Istanbul Bilgi University European Institute, EU Certificate Program, Istanbul, Turkey. January 2007.

ACADEMIC REVIEW WORK

Peer Reviewer: *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*; *Women's Studies International Forum*; *Religion and Gender*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

British Society for the Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)
Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native); English (fluent)

REFERENCES

Deniz Kandiyoti, dk1@soas.ac.uk
Emeritus Professor in Development
Studies, SOAS, University of London

Salwa Ismail, sil@soas.ac.uk
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Middle East, SOAS, University of London

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Professor of Politics, King's College
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Banu Bargu, bbargu@ucsc.edu
Professor of History of Consciousness and
Politics, University of California, Santa
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