

Egemen Özbek

Academic Coordinator
[Academy in Exile](#)
Department of Turkish Studies
University Duisburg-Essen
Universitaetsstr. 12
45141 Essen, Germany
egemen.oezbek@uni-due.de

CURRENT POSITION

2018– Academic Coordinator, Academy in Exile

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Ottoman-Turkish cultural and intellectual history and historiography, politics of memory, cultures of violence and commemoration, collective memories of the Armenian Genocide, Turkish nationalism and national identity

EDUCATION

- 2017 **Ph.D.**, Cultural Mediations, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
Thesis: *Commemorating the Armenian Genocide: The Politics of Memory and National Identity*.
Co-supervisors: Barbara Gabriel and Jill Carrick
- 2006 **M.A.**, Modern Turkish History, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey
Thesis: *Quests for Impossible Wholeness: Time, Memory and In-Betweenness in Marcel Proust's A la recherche du temps perdu and Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar's Huzur (Mind at Peace)*.
Supervisor: Duygu Köksal
- 2004 **B.A. (Hons)**, Cultural Studies, Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey
Senior Project: *Writing About Literature and Writing Literature*
Supervisor: Hülya Adak

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2015–2017 Instructor, History Department, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
- 2012 Instructor, Cultural Studies Department, Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2008–2014 Research and Teaching Assistant, History Department, Carleton University
- 2006–2008 Instructor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Işık University, Istanbul, Turkey

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed

- 2018 “The Destruction of the *Monument to Humanity*: Historical Conflict and Monumentalization”, *International Public History*, Vol.1, Issue 2.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/iph-2018-0011>

2008 “Bütünlük Arayışı: *Kayıp Zamanın İzinde ve Huzur*’da Benlik, Hafıza ve Zaman” [Quest for Wholeness: Subjectivity, Memory and Time in *A la recherche du temps perdu* and *Mind at Peace*] *Kritik*, Vol. 1, No. 1.

Book chapters

Forthcoming “Commemorating the Armenian Genocide: Spatial Politics of Memory in Post-Imperial Istanbul”, *Critical Approaches to Genocide: History, Politics and Aesthetics of 1915*, edited by Hülya Adak, Routledge.

2020 “Right to Arrive: Topographies of Genocide, Flight, and Hospitality—Then and Now”, (with Vanessa Agnew) in *Refugee Routes: Telling, Looking, Protesting, Redressing*, edited by Vanessa Agnew, Kader Konuk, and Jane O. Newman, Transcript Verlag, pp. 51–86.

2006 “68’li Olmak: Hatırlamak ve Aidiyet” [“Being a Member of the ’68 Generation: Remembering and Identity”] (with Yunus Dogan Telli) in *Kuşaklar, Deneyimler, Tanıklıklar: Türkiye’de Sözlü Tarih Çalışmaları, Konferans Bildirileri* [Generations, Experiences, Testimonies: Oral History Studies in Turkey, Conference Proceedings]. The History Foundation of Turkey, pp. 245–261.

Book Review

2010 Review of *Agitate! Educate! Organize!: American Labor Posters* by Lincoln Cushing and Timothy W. Drescher. *Visual Studies*, vol. 25, Issue 1.

Blog Posts

2021 “Gender Studies in Exile. Workshop Report”, in *KWI-BLOG*, 04.02.2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37189/kwi-blog/20210204-0830>

2021 “Refugee Routes: Telling, Looking, Protesting, Redressing – An Academy in Exile Book”, in *TRAFÖ – Blog for Transregional Research*, 04.02.2021. <https://trafo.hypotheses.org/26441>

In Progress

Commemorating the Armenian Genocide: A Transnational Politics of Memory, book proposal under review with the Routledge Global Cooperation Series, monograph to be published in 2022.

“The Afterlives of Dead Bodies: Necropolitics and Memorialization as Denial,” in *Afterlives: Remnants, Ruins and Representations of the Armenian Genocide*, Hülya Adak, Erdağ Gökner, Melanie Tanielian eds. (Durham: Duke University Press), book chapter to be published in 2022.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

June 2019 “The Destruction of the *Monument to Humanity*: Historical Conflict and Monumentalization.” Memory Studies Association Annual Conference. Madrid, Spain.

September 2018 “Exile, Refugeehood, and Survival: Re-reading Armenian Genocide Survivor Memoirs.” Turkologentag 2018. Bamberg, Germany.

May 2017 “Commemorating the Armenian genocide in Turkey: the politics of memory and representation” CASCA/IUAE 2017 Conference. Session Title: Remembering and understanding the Armenian genocide as a possible method to stop and prevent contemporary genocide. Ottawa, ON, Canada.

April 2013 “Coming-to-Memory of the Armenian Genocide: The Renovation of Habap Fountains as a Site of Memory,” National Council on Public History 2013 Annual Meeting, Session Title: Sites of Memory Representing National Trauma. Ottawa, ON, Canada.

July 2010 “Trauma, Identity and Memory in Elif Shafak’s ‘The Bastard of Istanbul,’” World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies. Barcelona, Spain.

Workshop Presentations

July 2019 “Entangled Memories of the WWI and the Armenian Genocide.” Legacies of World War I. Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

April 2019 “Collective Memories, National Belonging, and Citizenship Laws in Turkey: Remembering to Exclude Non-Muslims from the Nation.” Nationality Now: The History, Culture, and Politics of Contemporary Citizenship. Queen Mary University of London, UK.

September 2017 “Commemorating the Armenian Genocide: Spatial Politics of Memory in Post-Imperial Istanbul.” Workshop on Armenian Turkish Scholarship 2017 – Past in the Present: European Approaches to the Armenian Genocide. Lepsiushaus Potsdam, Germany.

April 2017 “Historiographic Détente: Reconciling Competing Memories of the Armenian Genocide and Track Two Diplomacy.” Queen’s University Muslim Societies, Global Perspectives and the History Department International Workshop: The Middle East Un-Rebound: Crisis, Response and Recovery over the Longue Durée (1100-2100). Kingston, ON, Canada.

March 2013 “The Coming-to-Memory of the Armenian Genocide: Public Commemorations in Turkey (2005-2012),” Carleton University ICSLAC Cultural Transfers Workshop: Cultures of Violence and Commemoration with Esen Egemen Ozbek and Jennifer Evans. Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Colloquium Presentations

December 2019 “Commemorating the Armenian Genocide: A Transnational Politics of Memory.” Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI) Internal Colloquium, KWI Essen, Germany.

November 2018 “On Monsters and Specters at the Border: The Curious Case of the *Monument to Humanity*.” Forschungskolloquium Türkei studien, Institut für Turkistik, Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany.

Interviews

October 2018 “Exile and Academic Freedom Today – Interview with Egemen Özbek”, in *TRAFÖ – Blog for Transregional Research*, 16.10.2018. <https://trafo.hypotheses.org/13907>.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

2006 – 2007 Research assistant to Duygu Köksal in her project “Social Background, Values and Identity in Turkey: Turkish and European Identities”, TÜBİTAK and Boğaziçi University

2005 – 2007 Research assistant to Hülya Adak in compiling and editing the volume *Hundert Jahre Türkei*, Project Title: Türkische Bibliothek – The Turkish Library, Sabanci University and the Robert Bosch Foundation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2015, 2016, **Instructor**, *History of the Modern Middle East* (self-designed course)
and 2017 History Department, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
- Summer 2012 **Instructor**, *Collective Memory in the Aftermath of Mass Violence* (self-designed course)
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey
- Fall 2008 – **Teaching Assistant**,
Winter 2013 History Department, Carleton University
- Fall 2006 and **Instructor**, *History of the Turkish Republic I*
Fall 2007 Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Işık University, Istanbul, Turkey
- Spring 2007 and **Instructor**, *History of the Turkish Republic II*
Spring 2008 Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Işık University, Istanbul, Turkey

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTION

International Conference

“Exile and Academic Freedom Today,” international conference co-organized with Kader Konuk and Volker Heins, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI), Universität Duisburg-Essen, 18–19 October 2018.

In Progress

“The Unrecognized Genocide: Dersim 1937–1938”, international conference co-organized with Burak Çopur, Nezahat Gündoğan, Kazım Gündoğan, convened by Kader Konuk and Osman Okkan, University Duisburg-Essen, 18–20 November 2021.

Workshop

“Gender Studies in Exile”, international workshop co-organized with Judit Takacs and Volker Heins, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI), November 2020.

“Exile Lounge”, workshop co-organized with Volker Heins for the Academy in Exile fellows

Public Lecture

“The Turkishness Contract and the Formation of Turkishness”, virtual public lecture by Barış Ünlü co-organized with Volker Heins, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI), November 2020.

“Disciplining (Homo-)Sexuality in State-Socialist Hungary”, virtual public lecture by Judit Takacs, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI), October 2020.

Panel

“After the Turkish Elections: Data, Myths, and Narratives,” panel co-organized with Volker Heins, presenters were Dirk Halm, Achim Goerres, İnci Öykü Yener-Roderburg, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI), July 2018.

Book Reading and Podium Discussion

“Typisch Deutsch: Ein Gespräch über Zugehörigkeit und Rassismus”, book reading and podium discussion co-organized with Volker Heins and the Literatürk Festival, participants were Ferda Ataman and Marvin Oppong, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI), Universität Duisburg-Essen, November 2019.

Film Screening and Discussion

“Heimat und Exil/*Memleket*,” film screening and discussion co-organized with Firat Erdogmus and Evrim Kaya, Filmstudio Glückauf, February 2019.

“Newcomers,” film screening and discussion co-organized with André Grahle and Maan Moussli, Filmstudio Glückauf, July 2018.

SOCIETAL IMPACT

Exhibition Co-Curation

“Right to Arrive: Topographies of Genocide, Flight, and Hospitality — Then and Now,” exhibition co-curated with Vanessa Agnew and Annette An-Jen Liu, PROMPT Gallery, The Australian National University, Canberra, September 2018.

Invited Talks

Opening Remarks delivered at Voices in Dialogue’s event “Recognition and Peace in the footsteps of Hrant Dink and Tahir Elci: Commemorating Hrant Dink with an afternoon of short films and discussion.” January 24, 2016, Ottawa.

Post-play panel discussant at Tessri Duniya Theatre’s performance of *State of Denial* on March 25, 2012 and on October 11, 2015, Montréal.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 2013–2014 | Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) |
| 2012–2013 | Elizabeth Witt Bursaries for Comparative Literature, Carleton University |
| 2008–2010 | Graduate Scholarship, Carleton University |
| 2008–2011 | Dean of Graduate Studies Academic Excellence Scholarship for International Students, Carleton University |
| 2008–2009 | Naida Waite Graduate Scholarship, Carleton University |

MEMBERSHIPS

The Society of Turkic, Ottoman and Turkish Studies (Gesellschaft für Turkologie, Osmanistik und Türkeiforschung, GTOT); Memory Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (near fluent), German (intermediate), Western Armenian (beginner)