



BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR TURKISH AREA STUDIES

The 29th Spring Symposium

in association with the London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI)

Saturday, 10 March 2018

Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing, Senate House,
SOAS University of London, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU

PROGRAMME

- 10.00 – 10.40 Registration (in entrance hall of Paul Webley Wing) and Coffee/Tea (in Room S209)*
- 10.50 Opening remarks by President of BATAS
- 11.00 **Bill Park**
Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Defence Studies, King's College London
"Turkey's assorted Kurdish woes"
- 11.50 **Tim Stanley**
Senior Curator, Asian Department, Victoria and Albert Museum
"Barbarossa's Bath-house: Ottoman tiles and Persian poetry in the 1540s"
- 12.45 Break for lunch. See below for details. Booking form attached.
- 14.45 **Dr Gül Berna Özcan**
Reader in International Business and Entrepreneurship, School of Management, Royal Holloway, University of London
"Piety, business and politics: a quarter-century transformation in Turkey"
- 15.35 **Professor Daniela Berghahn**
Professor of Film Studies, Royal Holloway, University of London
"Turkish-German cinema and the diasporic family experience"
- 16.45 Closing remarks by President of BATAS
- 17.00 BATAS Annual General Meeting to be held in the Brunei Gallery, SOAS, Room B104 (first floor).

Symposium admission charges: Full-time students (whether BATAS members or not) free, other BATAS members £3, non-members £10.

* **Payment for coffee/tea** (with biscuits) will be *by ticket only*, obtainable at registration for £2 per person.

Lunch: £12 per head. Bookings must be made by 5 March 2018 at the latest. Booking form and details on separate page. To be held at Antalya Restaurant, 103 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1 4HH, 10 minutes walk from Senate House.

Abstracts of BATAS Symposium contributions 2018

Bill Park, william.h.park@kcl.ac.uk

Visiting Research Fellow in the Defence Studies Department, King's College London

Turkey's assorted Kurdish woes

Just a few years ago the Turkish government was pursuing a peace process of sorts with the PKK leadership; it had emerged as the strategic and economic partner of the KRG, and had entered into a close relationship with the Damascus regime. Today, the domestic Kurdish peace process has given way to renewed conflict and violence in Turkey's Kurdish southeast, most of the elected leadership of the Kurdish HDP both nationally and locally are in detention, and Ankara both supports Assad's overthrow and has moved militarily against self-governing Kurdish enclaves in northern Syria. Turkey's Kurdish travails have damaged Ankara's relationships with its traditional western allies, and have seemingly – though superficially – nudged Turkey towards closer alignments with Moscow, Tehran and Baghdad. This paper will trace these apparent shifts in the Turkish positions towards Kurdish developments in its neighbourhood, and argue that Turkey's political culture of nationalism, securitisation and, more recently under the AKP, its neo-Ottomanism, in fact posed a challenge both to the peace process and to the relationship with Erbil, and that today's circumstances more accurately reflect perennial characteristics of the Turkish mindset towards Kurdish aspirations.

Tim Stanley, t.stanley@vam.ac.uk

Senior curator, Middle Eastern collections, Asian Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Barbarossa's Bath-house: Ottoman tiles and Persian poetry in the 1540s

Barbaros Hayreddin Paşa's pious foundations are not well understood, even though his tomb in Beşiktaş was an important monument for Ottoman sailors. We know that he built a bath-house in the Zeyrek quarter of Istanbul, which still stands, and its tilework was so extraordinarily rich that it became known as the Çinili Hamam. This structure, now in private hands, has been thoroughly investigated and restored, and its magnificent tilework, mostly dispersed by sale in the 1870s, has been traced to collections around the world, including a large group of 38 in the V&A in London. The V&A tiles were acquired piecemeal from the 1890s to the 1950s and no connection between them or with their source building was made until shortly before the excavations at the Çinili Hamam began in 2012. The excavations and research on the V&A tiles have shown that the tile revetments in the Çinili Hamam involved diverse patterns and in quality were second only to the contemporary tiles still found in the Circumcision Pavilion and elsewhere in the Topkapı Palace. The few tiles still in the building include an important set bearing fragments of two poems in Persian, which appear to have had an influence on Ottoman literature as late as the 18th century. They also have a place in the history of calligraphy. Building on the work of Turkish archaeologists and architects working on the building and research on the tiles by Charlotte Maury, Tim Stanley and Bora Keskiner, this presentation gives an overview of the bath-house, its striking tile decoration, the poems in the building, and their value as calligraphy.

Dr. Gül Berna Özcan, g.ozcan@rhul.ac.uk

Reader in International Business and Entrepreneurship, School of Management, Royal Holloway, University of London

Piety, business and politics: A quarter century of transformation in Turkey

This lecture traces the rise of new business groups from local isolation to national domination by using a discourse of 'piety and just development' and their subsequent subjugation to authoritarian

politics in Turkey. This provides a better understanding of business-politics relations at the time when personal and institutional boundaries between politicians and businessmen are increasingly blurred in democracies. It is no coincidence that we observe intensified irredentist arguments around the world arguing in favour of new, different, authenticated development routes. The foundations of these isolationist and emotional arguments are both supported by and brought about by a collusion of politics with wealth and corruption in the context of neo-liberalism. As an early reformer in neo-liberal economic policies, Turkey exemplifies market advancement and its contradictions, with reversals in the capacity of political institutions and the rule of law. We also see deepening linkages between business and politics in leadership styles and regime type through the experimentations of Islamist modernisers.

My talk is based on evidence from local business groups in several Anatolian towns, multi-ownership, and political connections in business and through privatisations. Clearly a deep seated transformation took root in Anatolian towns and in the way in which 'piety' conquered centrist politics with its promise of moral economic liberalisation guided by the Islamisation of business. The animosity of these entrepreneurs to Turkey's old business groups energised their solidarity and facilitated upward mobility. This took place first through collective investment companies and local power struggles, and succeeded by dominating access to state resources through municipalities, government procurement and privatisation schemes.

Since the early 1990s the rise of authoritarian piety passed through three main phases. The first involved horizontal build-up during which such groups remained in opposition but actively built effective business networks with social pressures from below, especially after winning the municipalities of Ankara and Istanbul in 1994. Vertical mobility marked the second phase – under the Justice and Development Party, which from 2002 initially followed a pro-business agenda with fundamental market reforms and economic mobilisation through state institutions. The third phase has seen the break-up of alliances and the weakening of moral arguments as political and economic purges displaced piety in favour of power concentration. During this current stage many of those fringe entrepreneurs who galvanised mainstream politics with ideals of piety, justice and Islamic ethics abandoned their model of markets and have crumbled in the face of political purges and corruption. The moral outcome has been a devaluing of piety as a business asset and the broader vision of a just order.

Professor Daniela Berghahn, Daniela.Berghahn@rhul.ac.uk

Professor of Film Studies, Department of Media Arts, Humanities & Arts Research Institute,
Royal Holloway, University of London

Turkish-German Cinema and the Diasporic Family Experience

'The New German Cinema is Turkish', wrote Tunçay Kulaoğlu in an enthusiastic review about the films of Fatih Akin and other high-profile Turkish-German filmmakers who came to the fore in the late 1990s. Kulaoğlu's much-cited endorsement indicates that Turkish-German cinema has, until quite recently, been conceptualized in terms of German national cinema, representing a particular sub-category that reflects the 'hyphenated identity' of its creators. This framework, however, ignores the transnational dimension of Turkish-German cinema. I propose an alternative conceptual framework which situates contemporary Turkish-German cinema alongside similar hyphenated identity cinemas, such as British-Asian and Maghrebi-French cinema, and which identifies the (post)memory of migration and diaspora as central to the film's thematic concerns and aesthetic strategies.

The experience of migration, displacement and various forms of transnational mobility play a crucial role in migrant and diasporic films. In my presentation, I shall examine how mobility affects the diasporic family and what impact it has on gender and generational relationship in Feo Aladağ's melodrama *Die Fremde (When We Leave, 2010)*, the British-Asian comedy *West is West (Andy De Emmony, 2010)* and Yasemin and Nesrin Samdereli's feel-good movie *Almanya – Willkommen in Deutschland (Almanya: Welcome to Germany, 2011)*.

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www.batas.org.uk

Spring Symposium 2018

**Booking for Lunch at the Antalya Restaurant,
103 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury,
London WC1 4HH**

Lunch will consist of a starter, hot and cold meze dishes, soft drinks, wine, tea and coffee and will be available at **13.00.**

Cost: £12

Please reserve a place for me (name)

(and for, who will also be attending the symposium).

I wish to pay by BACS/ cheque (delete as applicable)

BACS payment details: Sort code 54-21-23; Account no. 87314622

Please scan and email this form to: jill.sindall143@gmail.com

If you have opted to pay by cheque, you will then be notified of the address to which to post it.

BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE BY MONDAY 5 MARCH 2018

The Council of BATAS do hope you can join us for a congenial meal and an opportunity to meet some of the speakers and other people interested in Turkey