

*English synopsis*

**Working title:**

**Secular and Islamic Discourses on Abstinence in Ottoman and Republican Turkey, c. 1850s to 2000s**

The proposed project's main premise is that the so-called Islamic principles of abstinence and morality, as advocated by contemporary Muslim elite, are the result of specific historical negotiations that date back to the 19th century. Research has long shown how rarely the Islamic prohibition of drinking and extramarital sex has been strictly implemented in the Ottoman Empire throughout its history. For centuries, religious scholars did not regard the consumption of cannabis, opium, or tobacco as a 'vice', the umbrella term later shared by them and global anti-vice activism efforts. This project aims to clarify how scientific developments, international relations and transnational advocacy networks have reshaped Muslim concepts of abstinence, broadening them to a general prohibition of certain commodities that had originally evoked different normative meanings.

The project will analyse public debates and regulatory regimes concerning intoxication and prostitution in the Ottoman Empire/Turkey from the 1850s to the 2000s. The focus is on transnational and local networks of actors who have dominated debates on intoxicants and prostitution.

Sources in the original language (Ottoman, Turkish, French, German and English) documenting public debates in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey and the impacts of supranational organisations, such as the World Health Organisation, will be analysed with historical hermeneutical methods and with approaches based on the history of knowledge and gender history. These sources have not been previously studied in historiography for reconstructing an important part of social history of Turkey.

The innovative potential of this project lies in its critical understanding of Ottoman/Turkish conceptions of abstinence as the products of a dialogical process. The project is the first attempt within the general scholarship to understand the effects of supranational organisations on regulatory policies in the local context of a Muslim majority country.

**Keywords**

Geschichte der modernen Türkei

Geschichte der Rauschmittel

Geschichte der Sexarbeit

Geschichte der Abstinenz

Weltgesundheitsorganisation

Yeşilay Cemiyeti (Gründer Halbmond)

Öffentliches Gesundheitswesen

Politischer Islam

Säkularisierung

Reformbewegungen