



ARIT LECTURE on ZOOM - Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 7:00 PM Istanbul

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqfuytrDgsHNLmUHC7wnOcpkMmmtfnyXbk>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



An Attempted Pogrom in the Early Twentieth-Century Ottoman Society: Let Adapazarı not be Adana!

A compelling incident occurred in the district of Adapazarı on February 25, 1911. Three Armenian and two Greek local men were caught while having sexual intercourse with a Muslim prostitute in an Armenian bathhouse and then were brought in. Thereupon, Sırrı Bey, the district governor of Adapazarı (appointed on April 29, 1910), gave a political character to this incident—in light of the the Adana Massacre of 1909—in order to have them be imprisoned, put on trial before the judge and be condemned.

Through this particular event, Dr. Kurt tries to explain why intercommunal killings happen in some situations, but not in others. He argues that with careful microhistorical research it is possible to reveal certain local factors that lead to restraint. He also shows likelihood of idea of Ottoman unity (*İttihad-ı Anasır*) between Ottoman Muslim and non-Muslim peoples in a borderland region to the Balkans as well as exploring political space for negotiations among local actors. Through microhistory and sociolegal analysis, he employs this specific adultery event to understand state-society relations within the late Ottoman context.

Ümit Kurt is a historian of the late Ottoman Empire with a particular focus on the transformations of the imperial structures and their role in constituting the republican regime. Moreover, his research and teaching are grounded on theories of state and class, social identity and ethnicity. Kurt completed his dissertation in the Department of History at Clark University. Currently, he is a research Fellow at Polonsky Academy in the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and teaching in the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.