

ARIT LECTURE on ZOOM - on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 7:00 PM Istanbul

Please register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZApdOCqrjLiGt2H9aBjJLfuA9-W-\\_EMIRnO](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZApdOCqrjLiGt2H9aBjJLfuA9-W-_EMIRnO)

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

## “They Vowed to Never Return:” Photographic Documentation and Armenian Mobility at the End of Empire by Hazal Özdemir



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In her dissertation, Hazal Özdemir explores Armenian circular mobility between the Ottoman Empire and the United States between 1896-1908. By 1896 the administration of Abdulhamid II encouraged Armenians to emigrate but required them to denaturalize and sign documents attesting that they would never return. As part of this process, Armenians – who had become undesirable subjects – were required to submit two identity photographs. In this talk, Özdemir examines how and why the Hamidian regime archived these photographs – asking how the production, distribution and archiving of denaturalization records contributed to engineering a new kind of emigration database to keep Armenians from reclaiming their subjecthood or returning to the empire. She investigates how the circulation of photographs and denaturalization records created a bureaucratic network serving the demographic aspirations of the Hamidian government. Creating an emigration database

and requiring Armenian migrants to denaturalize, Özdemir argues, were complementary techniques of bureaucratization and border-building.

Hazal Özdemir is a Ph.D. Candidate in History at Northwestern University. She graduated from Boğaziçi University’s Department of History in 2017 and received her master's degree in the History of Art and Photography program at Birkbeck, University of London. Her dissertation project is funded by institutions such as the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) and the Society of Armenian Studies (SAS) in the 2021-2022 academic year.