



Amnesia, remembrance and identity formation in
post-Ottoman societies

Religious discourse and
ethnic and national identities:
Said Nursi, the Nurcu movement
and the redefinition of cultural
heritage

SPRING LECTURES 2010

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|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday February 23 19.00 | Camilla Nereid | <i>In the Light of Said Nursi - Kemalist modernization and the religious alternative</i> |
| Tuesday March 16 19.00 | Fulya Atacan | <i>The Nurcu Movement and ethnic identity: Kurdish and Turkish nationalism</i> |
| Tuesday April 13 19.00 | Alparslan Açıkgenç | <i>Said Nursi's Impact on the Renovation and Restoration of Islamic Philosophy and Theology</i> |
| Tuesday May 18 19.00 | Recep Şentürk | <i>Recharging Nature with Meaning: Resistance of Said Nursi to the Pozitivist Disenchantment of the World</i> |
| Tuesday June 15 19.00 | Şerif Mardin | <i>In retrospect: "Religion and Social Change in Modern Turkey: The case of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi" (1989)</i> |

Camilla Nereid is a research fellow/PhD candidate at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway. Among her publications are:

“In the Light of Said Nursi – Turkish nationalism and the religious alternative,” in *Bergen Studies on the Middle East and Africa*, C. Hurst & Co (Publishers), London, 1997

Kemalism on the Catwalk - the Turkish hat law of 1925, *Journal of Social History* 2011, Volume 44 (3).

Commentator on Turkish events in various Norwegian news media.

Fulya Atacan is Professor at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Yıldız Technical University in Istanbul. She is specialized in religion and social change. Among her publications are:

“Explaining Religious Politics at the Crossroad: AKP-SP” in B. Rubin, A. Çarkoğlu eds: *Religion and Politics in Turkey*, Routledge Curzon, London, 2005, s. 45-59;

A Kurdish Islamist Group in Modern Turkey: Shifting Identities, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 2001, Vol. 37, N. 3, s. 111-144.

“A Portrait of a Naqshbandi Sheikh in Modern Turkey” in Elisabeth Özdalga ed.: *Naqshbandis in Western and Central Asia*, Swedish Research Institute, Istanbul, Vol. 9, 1999, s. 147-157.

Alparslan Açıkgenç is Professor in the Department of Philosophy, Fatih University, Istanbul. BA. Ankara University, Theology; M.A. Ph. D. The University of Chicago. Previously taught at the Middle East Technical University. He is specialized in Early Islamic Philosophy and Modern Western philosophy. His research areas are logic, philosophy of science and epistemology (metaphysics). Among his publications are:

Books

Being and Existence in Sadra and Heidegger: A Comparative Ontology (Kuala Lumpur: International Institute of Islamic thought and Civilization, 1993)

Scientific Thought and its Burdens (Istanbul: Fatih University Publications, 2000)

Bilgi Felsefesi (Istanbul: İnsan Yayınları, 1992)

Articles

Transcendent Rationality, Ibn Rushd and Kant: A Critical Synthesis, *Alif* 16 (1996)

The Environmental Context for the Advancement of Sciences, *Islamic Studies* 39 (2000), 571–579

The Emergence of Scientific Tradition in Islam, *Kultur: The Indonesian Journal for Muslim Cultures* 1 (2001), 91-114

Holistic Approach to Scientific Traditions, *Islam and Science* 1 (2003), 99-114

Recep Şentürk is a professor of sociology at Fatih University, and a research fellow at the Center for Islamic Studies (ISAM), Istanbul. He holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University, Department of Sociology (1998), and specializes in sociology of knowledge, human rights and Islamic studies with a focus on the Ottoman Empire, Egypt and Turkey. He authored in English *Narrative Social Structure: Hadith Transmission Network 610-1505* (Stanford U.P. 2005), and in Turkish *Sociology of Turkish Thought: From Fiqh to Social Science* (Istanbul 2008) *Islam and Human Rights: Sociological and Legal Perspectives* (Istanbul 2007) *Malcolm X: Struggle for Human Rights* (Istanbul 2006), *Social Memory: Hadith Transmission Network 610-1505* (Istanbul 2004), *Sociologies of Religion* (Istanbul 2004), *Modernization and Social Science in the Muslim World: A Comparison between Turkey and Egypt* (Istanbul [1996] 2006). He edited *Ibn Khaldun: Contemporary Readings* (2009) and *Economic Development and Values* (2009). His forthcoming book is *Open Civilization: Cultural Foundations of Pluralism* (2010). Şentürk was a visiting research fellow at Emory University Law School during the academic year 2002-2003 as part of Islam and Human Rights Project. He had also been invited to Great Britain as a British Academy fellow in 2005 to conduct research and give lectures on human rights in Islam from a legal and sociological perspective.

Şerif Mardin got his Ph. D. from Stanford University in 1958. He has held positions as professor in Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University, Department of Political Science, Bogazici University. He has also held positions as visiting professor in Princeton University, Harvard University, University of California, Los Angeles, and Berkeley, Oxford University, Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris), and American University (also as tenured professor). He is presently professor at Sabanci University.

Professor Mardin is a prolific writer in English as well as Turkish.
Among his many noteworthy publications are:

The Genesis of Young Ottoman Thought, Princeton: Princeton University Press, (1962)

Center Periphery Relation: a Key to Turkish Politics? *Daedalus*, Winter 1972

Religion and Social Change in Modern Turkey. The Case of Bediuzzaman Nursi, Albany & New York: SUNY Press, 1989

“The Nakşibendi Order in Turkish History”, in R. Tapper ed.: *Islam in Modern Turkey*, London: I. B. Tauris, 1991