Ringvorlesung Turkologie Sommersemester 2023 | Canon, heritage and the nation: Narratives of modernity between past and future in Republican Turkey (1923-2023) | 15.03.2023-26.06.2023 | Wednesdays 18.30 - 20.00 CET | Hybrid Event, University of Vienna, Department of Near Eastern Studies (Hörsaal)

Religion and Editorial Field in Republican Turkey

Nathalie Clayer (EHESS, CNRS, Paris)

Abstract

Through the "editorial trajectory" of Ömer Rıza Doğrul (1893-1952), the aim is to revisit the question of the expression of Islamic religious sensibilities in republican Turkey, from 1923 until the beginning of the 1950s. However, the editorial trajectory of this committed Muslim intellectual and journalist, author of a commentary/translation of the Quran, published in Latin characters from 1934 onwards - a trajectory defined both by the works published and by the publishers with whom they appeared - is not limited to a production on Islam by Islamist publishers. It also includes other works, including novels, essays and self-help books (often, but not always, translated from English or Arabic). Their analysis and the consideration of publishing houses show that the expression of a religious (modernist) sensibility has been restrained in a variable way according to the periods, and that it has itself managed to metamorphose into other forms such as the novel, but also self-help, thanks to publishing houses of different sensibilities (Islamist, generalist, spiritualist, or even politically totally opposed).

Bio

Nathalie CLAYER is professor at the EHESS and a senior research fellow at the CNRS-CETOBaC (Paris). Her main research interests are space, religion, nationalism and state-building process in the Ottoman and post-Ottoman space. Her publications include Une histoire en travelling de l'Albanie. (1920-1939) (Paris, 2022); Aux origines du nationalisme albanais (Paris, 2007/ 2018; Arnavut Milliyetçiliğinin Kökenleri (Istanbul, 2013)); with Fabio Giomi and Emmanuel Szurek (eds.), Kemalism: Transnational Politics in the Post Ottoman World (London, 2018) and with Xavier Bougarel, Europe's Balkan Muslims. A New History (London, 2017).