

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)

Beyond modernization. Governing through intermediaries in Turkey
Elise Massicard (Sciences Po Paris CERI)

This presentation draws on an original research on muhtarlık - the oldest institution surviving from the Ottoman Empire. It argues that despite being often despised as a remnant of the past, muhtars are institutionalized intermediaries still crucial to everyday forms of government, even in the age of e-devlet. It shows that personalized interactions are not some sort of parasitizing of institutions but integrated into vernacular forms of government - and therefore that the "modern" state depends on informal realities to function, without being capable of controlling them. In that perspective, it intends to break with the dominant vision of Turkish politics in terms of modernization.

Bio

Elise Massicard is a permanent senior research fellow at the French National Center for Scientific Research / Centre d'Etudes Internationales, Paris. From 2010 to 2014, she was a research fellow at the French Institute of Anatolian Studies in. She was also a visiting fellow at the University of California at Berkeley (2009) and at Northwestern University (2019). Her research focuses on the political sociology of contemporary Turkey, especially social movements, political parties, state-society relations, government practices, identity politics, everyday politics, and political territoriality (local governments, EU dimension). She has authored *Street-Level Governing. Negotiating the State in Urban Turkey* (Stanford UP, 2022), and *The Alevis in Turkey and Europe: Identity and Managing Territorial Diversity* (Routledge, 2012). She has co-edited with Nicole Watts *Negotiating Political Power in Turkey: Breaking up the Party* (Routledge, 2013) and with Marc Aymes and Benjamin Gourisse, *Order and Compromise. Government Practices in Turkey from the Late Ottoman Empire to the Early 21st Century* (Brill, 2015). She has published extensively in academic journals. She is a founding member and a member of the Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, and a founding member of the Consortium for European Symposia on Turkey (<http://cest-turkey.org/>)