



Contemporary
Turkish Studies

LSE Contemporary Turkish Studies Public Seminar

Wednesday, 18 February 2015

16:30-18:00

Venue: Room COW1.11, 1st Floor, Cañada Blanch Room,
Cowdray House, LSE

“Regime of Denial and Forensic Epistemologies in Cases of Torture in Post-1980 Turkey”

Speaker: Dr. Başak Can (Koç University, İstanbul)

Chair: Associate Professor Esra Özyürek (LSE)

Dr. Başak Can explores the struggle that occurs around the bodily evidence of torture by looking at the official and alternative forensic epistemologies and institutional forms. The systematic denial of torture is built into institutions, mechanisms, and practices in Turkey. Human rights physicians challenged this denial regime of the state by mobilizing their professional expert witnessing through alternative and independent medical reports both within and without official medico-legal institutions. Dr. Can shows that as physicians develop complicated forensic techniques to inspect torture, not only do the methods of torture change, but so do the boundaries of the very field of the legitimate use of violence.

Başak Can received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania and she currently works as an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at Koç University. She also holds an MA degree in Sociology from Boğaziçi University. Her dissertation, titled, *“State-Making, Evidence-Making, and Claim-Making: The Cases of Torture and Enforced Disappearances in Post-1980 Turkey”* examines the struggles over the production of the truth of state violence in Turkey in the three decades following the infamous 1980 military coup. Her research explores the complex relationship between narratives of witnesses, evidence of medicine and law of the state, and how they reshape the boundaries of the political, the ethical and the social anew.

This event is free and open to all. No ticket is required.

For further information about the LSE Contemporary Turkish Studies and its seminars and other activities, please contact:

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