

**LSE Contemporary Turkish Studies Public Seminar**

Tuesday, 8 December 2015

16:30-18:00

Venue: Graham Wallace Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Old Building, LSE

**“The State in Training:  
Human Rights Translations and  
Encounters with Europe in Turkey”**

**Speaker: Dr. Elif Babül**

(Mount Holyoke College, USA)

**Chair: Associate Professor Esra Özyürek (LSE)**

**The State in Training** is a book project that traces the establishment of human rights as a governmental standard in Turkey, in tandem with the country's pending accession to the European Union (EU). Focusing on human rights training programs for Turkish state officials that are conducted to fulfil EU membership requirements, it uncovers how transnational standardization schemes and programs for good governance affect local bureaucracies. The book maps out how the translation of human rights to markers of good governance, such as professionalization and expertise shapes both the enactment of the state and the politics of human rights in Turkey. Based on long-term fieldwork between 2007-2014, the project articulates both the perils and the promises of these programs for the subjects and objects of governance in the country.

**Elif Babül** is an ACLS Fellow and Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Mount Holyoke College. Along with her primary specialization in national and transnational mechanisms of governance and the politics of human rights in Turkey, her research interests include everyday forms of state power and political authority, citizenship and national belonging, and the politics of gender in Turkey and the Middle East. Babül's research was supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, Social Science Research Council, and the Wenner Gren Foundation fellowships. Her publications include articles in both English and Turkish in journals such as *American Ethnologist*, *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* and *New Perspectives on Turkey*; as well as edited volumes such as *Diaspora and Memory: Figures of Displacement in Contemporary Literature, Arts and Politics*.

**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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