

ZEYNEP OKTAY

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EDUCATION

- November 2010-June 2017* **Sorbonne University École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, France**
PhD in Islamic Civilization
- October 2006-June 2010* **Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey**
MA in Turkish Language and Literature
Area: Classical Turkish Literature
- September 2002-June 2006* **Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, USA**
BA in Comparative Literature (French and English Literatures)
- September 1995-June 2002* **Robert College, Istanbul, Turkey**

WORK EXPERIENCE

- May 2019-* **Boğaziçi University, Department of Turkish Language and Literature**
Assistant Professor
- June 2014-May 2019* **Boğaziçi University, Department of Turkish Language and Literature**
Part-time Instructor
- February 2017-June 2017* **Boğaziçi University, Department of History**
Part-time Instructor
- December 2014-December 2016* **University of St. Andrews School of History, Fife, Scotland, UK**
Research Fellow
ERC project: The Islamisation of Anatolia, c. 1100-1500
- November 2013-April 2014* **The Islamisation of Anatolia, c. 1100-1500, University of St. Andrews School of History**
Research Consultant
- October 2011-June 2013* **Istanbul Medeniyet University, Istanbul, Turkey**
Research Assistant

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- November 2010-June 2017* **École Pratique des Hautes Études, PhD Dissertation**
"The Perfect Man in Bektashism and Alevism"
- June 2009- June 2010* **Boğaziçi University, Master's Thesis**
"Kaygusuz Abdâl's *Mesnevî-i Baba Kaygusuz*: Critical Edition and Textual Analysis"
- March 2005-June 2006* **Dartmouth College, Senior Thesis**
"Cities of the Imagination: Texts as Photographs in Pierre Loti's *Aziyadé* and *Fantôme d'Orient*, Patrick Modiano's *Rue des Boutiques Obscures* and Paul Auster's *The New York Trilogy*"

PUBLICATIONS

- Oktay-Uslu, Zeynep. "Selfhood and Mystical Meaning in the Poetry of Yunus Emre." In *Handbook of Turkish Literature*, ed. Didem Havlioğlu and Zeynep Uysal. Routledge, *forthcoming*.

- Okday-Uslu, Zeynep. "Alevilik Bize Güncel İslam Tartışmaları Hakkında Ne Söyler?" In "Dinin Geleceği," ed. Ayşe Çavdar and Volkan Ertit, special issue, *Pasajlar Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi* Vol. 8 (2021): 53-78.
- Okday-Uslu, Zeynep. "Alevi-Bektashi Literature as a Discursive Tradition: Interpretive Strategies, Orality, Charisma Loyalty," In "Entangled Literatures and Histories in the Premodern Ottoman World," ed. N. İpek Hüner Cora and Michael Pifer, special issue, *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* Vol 7. No 2 (2020): 33-53.
- Okday-Uslu, Zeynep. "Erken Dönem Bektaşî ve Abdal Şiirinde Farsçanın Rolü: Kaygusuz Abdal Örneği." Festschrift in Honor of Zehra Toska, ed. Fatma Büyükkarcı Yılmaz and Tülay Gençtürk Demircioğlu, *Journal of Turkish Studies: Türklük Bilgisi Araştırmaları* Vol 54 (2020): 251-264.
- Okday-Uslu, Zeynep. "Alevism as Islam: Rethinking Shahab Ahmed's Conceptualization of Islam through Alevi Poetry." *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*. 2020. DOI: 10.1080/13530194.2020.1792831
- Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "The *şat̄hiyye* of Yunus Emre and Kaygusuz Abdāl: The Creation of a Vernacular Islamic Tradition in Turkish." *Turcica* 50 (2019): 9-52.
- Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "Yunus Emre Şiirleri ve Kemal Ümmî'nin *Kırk Armağan*'ının 15. Yüzyıla Ait Bilinmeyen Bir Yazması Üzerine." *Journal of Turkish Studies: Türklük Bilgisi Araştırmaları* 50 (2018): 389-398.
- Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "Giriş: Aleviliğin ve Bektaşiliğin Kültürel ve Edebi Kaynaklarını Nasıl Anlarız?" Special Section on Alevi-Bektashi Literature, ed. Zeynep Oktay Uslu, *Şerhh Şiir ve Eleştiri Dergisi* 6 (2017): 112-117.
- Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "Yunus Emre ve Kaygusuz Abdal'ın Türkçe Şathiyeleri: Yerel Bir Dindarlık Geleneği Nasıl Doğdu?" Special Section on Alevi-Bektashi Literature, ed. Zeynep Oktay Uslu, *Şerhh Şiir ve Eleştiri Dergisi* 6 (2017): 176-199.
- Okday, Zeynep. "Layers of Mystical Meaning and Social Context in the Works of Kaygusuz Abdal." In A.C.S. Peacock and Sara Nur Yıldız (eds). *Literature and Intellectual Life in Fourteenth- and Fifteenth-century Anatolia*. Würzburg: Ergon Verlag Würzburg in Kommission (Istanbul Texte und Studien), 2016, 73-99.
- Okday, Zeynep. *Mesnevî-i Baba Kaygusuz*. Massachusetts: Harvard University Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, 2013. 320 pp.
- (Trans. Zeynep Oktay). Corbin, Henry. *Bir'le Bir Olmak: İbn Arabî Tasavvufunda Yaratıcı Muhayyile*. İstanbul: Pinhan Yayınevi, 2013.
- Okday, Zeynep. "Hüseyin Ferhad İçin Üç Kör Nokta." *Yeni yazı* 9 (2011): 50-61.
- (Ed. Zeynep Oktay). Ahmet Mithat Efendi. *Berlinde Üç Gün*. İstanbul: Notos Kitap, 2009.
- Okday, Zeynep. Preface. *Berlinde Üç Gün*. By Ahmet Mithat. İstanbul: Notos Kitap, 2009, pp.13-20.

PRESENTATIONS

- Okday-Uslu, Zeynep. "Yunus Emre Şiirinde Benlik ve Mana." *Yunus Emre, Hacı Bektaş Veli ve Ahi Evran Sempozyumu*. İstanbul Lütüfi Kırdar Kongre ve Sergi Sarayı, 4-5 December 2021.
- Okday-Uslu, Zeynep. "Sufi Metaphysics as Literary Theory: Şeyh Galib's Beauty and Love." *Pre-modern Comparative Literary Practice in the Multilingual Islamic World(s)*. OCCT, University of Oxford, 22-24 July 2021.
- Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "Aux sources de l'alévisme : l'évolution des doctrines abdāl et bektachi." Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes, İstanbul, 7 December 2020.

Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "Alevi-Bektashi poetry as discourse: Interpretive communities and discursive categories." *Online workshop: Approaching the pir-talip relationship as a tool for understanding Alevi deyiş/nefes*, Universität Leipzig, 9-10 October 2020.

Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "Alevism as Islam: How Alevi Poetry Forces us to Rethink Shahab Ahmed's Conceptualization of Islam," *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, 14-17 November 2019.

Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "The Role of Persian in Early Bektaşhi and Abdal Poetry: The Case of Kaygusuz Abdal," *Persian as a Lingua Franca in the Ottoman Empire*, Universität Hamburg, 12-13 July 2019.

Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "Rum Abdallarının Eserlerinde İnanç Unsurlarının Dönüşümü: 14.-17. Yüzyıllar." *Zehra Toska Onuruna Sempozyum*, Boğaziçi University, Department of Turkish Language and Literature, 9 February 2018.

Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "The Making of a Genre: How Folk Tradition and Sufi Tradition Come Together in the Turkish Şaḫhiyye." *Aesthetic Dimensions of Alevi Cultural Heritage Lecture Series*, Orient-Institut Istanbul, 11 October 2017.

Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "Situational Identities in Late Medieval Sufi Poetry: The Case of Kaygusuz Abdal." *New Religiosities in Turkey Workshop 2 (2016): Biography, Personal Identity, Ego, the Self, and Self-Transformation*, Orient-Institut Istanbul, 17-19 March 2016.

Okday Uslu, Zeynep. "The notion of syncretism and its relation to orality in the formation of the doctrines of Alevism and Bektashism." *International Conference, Islamisation: Comparative perspectives from History*, University of St. Andrews, Scotland UK, 20-21 March 2015.

Okday, Zeynep. "Kaygusuz Abdal and the Religious Doctrine of the *Abdâlân-ı Rûm*." *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting 2014*, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington DC, 22-25 November 2014.

Okday, Zeynep. "Yunus Emre ve Kaygusuz Abdal'ın Şaḫhiyelerinde Dil Algısı." *I. International Congress of Turkish Culture: Turkish Sufi Culture and Traditions*, Istanbul, Süleyman Şah University, 13-15 October 2014.

Okday, Zeynep, "Risâle-i Şeyh Sâff'de Anlatı Katmanları ve Öğretinin Çoğul Yapısı." *Ordu University International Symposium on Classical Turkish Literature*, Ordu University, 10-12 May 2012.

Okday, Zeynep. "L'Homme Parfait dans l'Alévisme et le Bektachisme anatolien : Hypothèses préliminaires sur les niveaux d'enseignement." *Doctoral Workshop, French Institute for Anatolian Studies (IFEA)*, 1 June 2011. [The Perfect Man in Anatolian Alevism and Bektashism: Preliminary Hypotheses on the Levels of Teaching]

HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Research Fellowship, University of St. Andrews School of History, December 2014 – December 2016.
First place in Turkish Language and Literature in ÖYP (Faculty Member Recruitment Program) national rankings, 2011.

Dartmouth College Senior Thesis, High Honors degree, 2006.
Dartmouth College, Cum Laude degree, 2006.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Vice Director, Nafi Baba Sufism, History and Cultural Heritage Research Center (since December 2021)
Vice Chair, Boğaziçi University Department of Turkish Language and Literature (since November 2020)
Erasmus Coordinator, Boğaziçi University Department of Turkish Language and Literature (since July 2020)
Executive Board Member (deputy), Nafi Baba Sufism, History and Cultural Heritage Research Center (December 2019-December 2021)

Board Member, Nazım Hikmet Culture and Art Research Center (since May 2021)

LANGUAGES

Turkish	Native	English	Excellent
Ottoman Turkish	Excellent	French	Excellent
Persian	Very Good	Arabic	Very Good
Russian	Fair		