

BAŞAK CAN
CURRICULUM VITAE
October 2019

Koç University Sociology Department
Rumeli Feneri Yolu Sarıyer İstanbul
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EDUCATION

- 2014 PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology, The University of Pennsylvania
Dissertation Title: *State-making, evidence-making, and claim-making: Enforced disappearance and torture in the post-1980 Turkey.*
- 2008 MA in Sociology. Bogazici University. İstanbul. Turkey.
- 2004 BA in Economics. Bogazici University. İstanbul. Turkey.

PRESENT APPOINTMENT

- 2019 September – 2020 June Member, Institute for Advanced Study, School of Social Science, Princeton
- 2018 October – 2019 June Fellow, Humbolt University Research Lab, Berlin
- 2014 - Present Assistant Professor, Koç University, İstanbul

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Anthropology, State Ethnography, Violence, Human Rights, Medical Humanitarianism
Medical Anthropology, Anthropology of Biomedicine, Caregiving, Organ Transplantation
Gender, Women’s Labor, Women’s Care Work

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES

- 2019 Caring for Solidarity?: The Intimate Politics of Grandmother Childcare and Neoliberal Conservatism in Urban Turkey. *New Perspectives on Turkey*. 60(1): 85-107.
- 2019 Turkey’s Failed Coup as an Ongoing Media Event and the Formation of Public Affect. (with Ergin Bulut) *Media, Culture & Society*. 41(1):149-157.
- 2017 The Gendered Workplaces of Women Garment Workers in İstanbul. *Reproductive Health Matters* 25:sup1, 47-55.
- 2017 Tıbbi Antropoloji Niçin Önemlidir?: Yerel Biyolojiler ve Hekimlik Pratiği (“Why Does Medical Anthropology Matter?: Local Biologies and Clinical Practice”). *Toplum ve Hekim (Society and Physician)* 32(4):316-320.
- 2017 1980 Sonrasında Toplumsal Hareket olarak Tutuklu Aileleri: Karşılaşmalar ve Tanıklık (“Prisoners’ Families as a Social Movement in the Aftermath of 1980: Encounters and Witnessing”). *Toplum ve Bilim (Society and Science)*141:173-194.
- 2017 Gündelik Hayat, İktidar İlişkileri ve Etik Kodların Kesişiminde Etnografik Araştırma (“Ethnographic Research at the Intersections of Everyday Life, Power Relations and

- Ethical Codes”). *Moment Dergi: Hacettepe Üniversitesi İletişim Fakültesi Kültürel Çalışmalar Dergisi* 4(1):155-172.
- 2016 The Criminalization of Physicians and the Delegitimization of Violence in Turkey
Medical Anthropology: Cross-Cultural Studies in Health and Illness 35(6): 477-488.
- 2016 Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and State Violence: Medical Documentation of Torture in Turkey. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 30(3): 342-358.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2019 “Cementing Hegemony in New Turkey: The Construction of Spectacle of Istanbul and the Rise of Right-Wing Masculine Populism.” In Cameron McCarthy, Koeli Goel, Warren Crichlow et. al (ed.) *Spaces of New Colonialism: Reading Schools, Museums, and Cities in the Tumult of Globalization*. New York: Peter Lang. (with Ergin Bulut and Nurçin İleri) (*Forthcoming*).
- 2019 “The Necropolitics of Documents and the Slow Death of Prisoners In Turkey” Invited book chapter for *Turkey’s Necropolitics: Mobilizing Death and Destruction*. Ed: Banu Bargu, Edinburg University Press (*Forthcoming*).
- 2019 “The (Non)Denial of Torture, Human Rights and Medical Expertise” in *Research Handbook on Law, Medicine and Society*. Eds: Marie-Andrée Jacob and Anna Kirkland, Edward Elgar Publishing (*Forthcoming*).
- 2016 Çalışma, Beden ve Kadınlık: İstanbul’da Konfeksiyon Atölyelerinde Çalışan Kadınların Deneyimleri (“Work, Body and Femininity: Women Workers’ Experiences in Istanbul Garment Ateliers”) *Hastalıkta Sağlıkta Kadın Olmak*. 45-68 Nobel Tıp Kitabevleri Yayıncılık: İstanbul.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2015 Book Review. Banu Bargu. *Starve and Immolate: The Politics of Human Weapons*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014, xx + 480 pages. *New Perspectives on Turkey*. 52: 169-172

WORK IN PROGRESS

- 2019 “Ritualizing resistance: The mothers of the disappeared and the intimate politics of human rights in Turkey” *American Ethnologist*. (*Submitted*).
- 2019 “İstanbul’da Huzurevinde Yaşlanan Bir Kadın Olmak” (“Being an Aging Woman in a Nursing Home in Istanbul”) *Koç-Kam Araştırma Yayınları* (With Pınar Yanardağ). (*Submitted*)
- 2019 When Justice Becomes Emotional: Spectacular and Sincere Televised Confessions After Turkey’s Failed Coup (with Ergin Bulut) *Communication, Culture & Critique*. (*Submitted*).

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 – 2020 Member, Institute for Advanced Study, School of Social Sciences, Princeton (\$50,000)
- 2019 – 2020 Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University (\$80,000) (*Declined*)

- 2019 Blickwechsel: Contemporary Turkey Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Project for Research Lab: Constitutional Politics in Turkey – II, “Documentation of Human Rights Violations under Custody: Forensic Medicine and the State of Emergency in Turkey” (€ 3,600)
- 2018 Raoul Wallenberg Institute Human Rights Research Grant Program, “Documenting Bodies: State Doctors and Human Rights in Turkey” (TL 15,000)
- 2016 – 2017 KU General Seed Research Fund program, “The Field of Kidney Transplantation in Turkey: Familial Sacrifice, Ethical Dilemmas and Biomedical Practice” (TL 25,000)
- 2016 – 2017 Koc-Kam Gender Studies Center, Koc University, Research Funds, “Gender and Aging Bodies: Women in Nursing Homes” (TL12,000)
- 2011 – 2012 Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$19,000)
- 2010 Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (\$3,500)
- 2009 Summer Departmental Field Fund, University of Pennsylvania (\$3,000)
- 2008 – 2013 Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (\$20,000/year)

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

- 2018 “Constructing the People Through a Confessional Political Culture in Turkey’s Crisis of Hegemony.” InterAsian Conversations: Media and Politics in India and Turkey Workshop. Delhi, India (March 16) (with Dr. Ergin Bulut).
- 2016 “Ethical questions in Social Science Research,” Theory, Research and Ethics in Sociology. SOM-DER Conference (Nov 5-6).

WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

- 2018 “Write to Publish: Turning qualitative research writing into publishable work” workshop led by Prof. Niko Besnier. Koc University (Co-Organizer with Dr. Ergin Bulut) (March 30).
- 2018 2-hour workshop on journal publishing (Inviting Prof. Niko Besnier of University of Amsterdam) (Co-Organizer with Dr. Ergin Bulut) (March 29).
- 2018 2-hour workshop on ERC grant applications (With Prof. Niko Besnier) (Co-Organizer with Dr. Ergin Bulut) (March 29).
- 2016 “The Political Body as the Margin of the State: Fasting, Ill, and Tortured Bodies under Detention.” Emerging Regimes of Truth in “New Turkey”’s Public Spheres Workshop, Koc University (Co-Organizer with Dr. Elif Babül) (July 25-26).

PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2018 “Medical humanitarianism, human rights, and the suffering body” American Anthropological Association, San Jose (November 14-18).

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “The Impossible Neutrality of Medicine: Doctors in Times of Hunger Strikes in Turkey” for panel titled Doctors and the State: Political Climates of Medicine in the Middle East and Beyond, American Anthropological Association, Vancouver (Nov 22)

- 2019 “The vulnerability of researchers in times of rising authoritarianism: the ethics and politics of research in official clinical settings in Turkey” for panel titled Risks of Research in Threatening Contexts, Reproductive Health Working Group Workshop, Istanbul (June 26-28)
- 2018 “Reluctant expert witness: Torture documentation in state hospitals in Turkey” “Medical humanitarianism, human rights, and the suffering body” American Anthropological Association, San Jose (November 14-18).
- 2018 “The kidney transplantation and dialysis in Turkey: Familial sacrifice, ethical dilemmas and biomedical practice” (June 1), Seed Fund Seminar Series, Koc University.
- 2017 “Knowledge, Facts, and Evidence in the Era of 'Post-Truth'” (Roundtable) American Anthropological Association, Washington DC (November 29 – December 3).
- 2017 “The field of kidney transplantation in Turkey: Familial sacrifice, ethical dilemmas and biomedical practice”, European Sociological Association Conference, Athens (August 29-September 1).
- 2017 “Intergenerational Solidarity and Neoliberal Patriarchal Bargain: Grandmothers’ childcare in Turkey”, Association of Anthropology, Gerontology and the Life Course (with Pınar Yanardağ) (June 8-9).
- 2017 “Turkey’s Failed Coup and the Declaration of New Turkey as a ‘Weird Global Media Event’: Performing Confession and the Post-Coup Aesthetics of Populism” Society for Cinema & Media Studies, Chicago (with Ergin Bulut) (March 22-27).
- 2016 “Beyond the Intimate v.s. Medical Divide: The Invisible Collaboration with Patient Attendants in Turkish Public Hospitals.” Reproductive Health Working Group Workshop Meeting. Beirut. Lebanon (July 12-15).
- 2016 “Neo-liberalization of moral networks of care: Transformation of the role of patient attendants in public hospitals in Turkey.” European Association of Social Anthropologists Meeting: Anthropological Legacies and Human Futures. University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano. Italy. (July 20-23).
- 2016 Presentation of preliminary fieldnotes of patients’ attendants (refakatçı) research, “‘Writing From the Periphery:’ An ethnographic writing workshop with anthropologist and writer Kirin Narayan” Organized by Eva-Marie Dubuisson, Bogazici University; Ayse Parla, Sabancı University; Susan Rottmann, Ozyegin University. Bogazici University, Istanbul. (May 21-22).
- 2015 “Capitalist work as an embodied experience: the case of women garment workers in Istanbul.” Reproductive Health Working Group Workshop Meeting. Beirut. (July 13-15).
- 2015 “Capitalist work as a gendered experience: Methodological challenges in feminist ethnographies work.” Japan Anthropology Workshop Meeting, İstanbul. (Sept. 1-4).
- 2012 “Medico-Legal Documents in the Making of the State: Turkish Case”. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco. (November 14-18).
- 2012 “Forensic Witnessing.” 10th Forensic Medicine Congress, Istanbul.
- 2009 “Re-construction of Turkish Identity and the metadiscourses on the Kurdish Language” paper presented at “Semiotic Approaches to Mass Mediated Racial and Racist Discourses” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Koc University

Designed syllabus; formulated assignments; led seminar discussion; graded written work

Contemporary Social Theory (2014 Fall, 2015 Fall, 2016 Fall, 2017 Fall), Social Anthropology (2014 Fall, 2015 Fall, 2016 Fall, 2017 Fall), Sociology of Gender (2015 Spring, 2016 Spring, 2017 Spring, 2018 Spring), Qualitative Research Methods (Graduate course) (2015 Spring, 2016 Spring, 2017 Spring, 2018 Spring)
 The University of Pennsylvania (2009-2011)
Led seminar discussion; contributed to the formulation of assignments; graded written work
 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Medical Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, World Cultures

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018Sept-2019Jun Principal Investigator. Blickwechsel: Contemporary Turkey Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Project for Research Lab: Constitutional Politics in Turkey – II, “Documentation of Human Rights Violations under Custody: Forensic Medicine and the State of Emergency in Turkey”

2018Aug-2019Jan Principal Investigator. Raoul Wallenberg Institute Human Rights Research Grant Program, “Documenting Bodies: State Doctors and Human Rights in Turkey”

2018 Feb-present (New Project in Development) Principal Investigator. Neo-liberalization of moral networks of care: Transformation of the role of patient attendants in public hospitals in Turkey. Interdisciplinary collaboration at Koc University with Ilker Kayı (MD).

2016Nov-2018Feb Principal Investigator. The field of kidney transplantation in Turkey: Familial sacrifice, ethical dilemmas and biomedical practice.
 Funding/support: KU General Seed Research Fund program.

2016-2017 Principal Investigator. Gender and aging bodies: Women in nursing homes. Koc-Kam Gender Studies Center, Koc University, Research Funds.

2015-2017 Co-investigator. Haber Merkezinde Kadın Olmak: Spikerler ve Beden Emeği. Interdisciplinary collaboration at Koc University with Dr. Ergin Bulut (PhD. Mava).

2015-2016 Co-investigator. Grandchildren’s care at the intersection of necessity and joy: Unpaid labor, kinship and leisure. Qualitative interdisciplinary social work and anthropological research with grandmothers who take care of their grandchildren. Semi-structured face-to-face interviews in participants’ home.

2011-2013 Dissertation Fieldwork Research, Istanbul, Turkey.

2009-2010 Preliminary Dissertation Fieldwork Research, Istanbul, Turkey

2007 Project assistant in “Women’s Rights at Work” Project funded by Heinrich Böll Foundation.

2007 Masters’ thesis field research in Gaziosmanpaşa Istanbul, Turkey

2006 Research Co-coordinator in “The Politics of Archives in Turkey” project funded by Scientific Research Projects at Bogazici University.

GRADUATE ADVISING

Advisor, Master of Arts in Comparative Studies in History and Society, Koç University

Fulya Pinar, "Feminist Lawyers in Istanbul: Re-thinking the Boundaries Between the Legal and the Non-legal" MA Thesis, completed and defended 15 August 2016

Balacan Fatima Ayar, "The family medicine practices in Turkey through the family physicians' perspectives." MA Thesis, completed and defended August 2017.

Bilal Akar, "The Transformation of the Kurdish Theatre Field in Turkey between 1991 and 2017," MA Thesis, completed and defended August 2018.

İzem Aral, "Rethinking Disability and Motherhood: The experiences of Mothers of Deaf Children in Turkey," MA Thesis, completed and defended August 2018. (Co-advisor with Dikmen Bezmez)

Burcu Pehlivan, "Abortion in Turkey: The Politics of Pronatalism, Medical Professionals and Women's Pregnancy Loss Experiences," CSHS MA Thesis, completed and defended August 2019

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Reviewer for *American Ethnologist*, *American Anthropologist*, *Medical Anthropology*, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Social Anthropology* and *Toplum ve Bilim*

Jury member for Raoul Wallenberg Institute's Human Rights Research Grant Program 2019-2020

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Medical Anthropology
American Anthropological Association
Society for Cultural Anthropology
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

REFERENCES

Philippe Bourgois

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Department of Anthropology B7-435 Semel
University of California, Los Angeles

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