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Religiöse Orte in der Türkei: Wandel, Wechsel, Fortbestand
TEZ-Vortragsreihe im Wintersemester 2022/2023

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SHARED SANCTITY IN OTTOMAN NARRATIVES: THE CASE OF EYÜP SULTAN

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MITTWOCH, 09.11.2022
18–20 UHR

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ABSTRACT: The district of Abū Ayyūb owned a significant status in Ottoman Istanbul due to its historic core centred around the shrine complex of Abū Ayyūb al-Anṣārī (d. ca. 669), a well-known companion of the Prophet Muhammad in Medina. As various medieval Arabic sources attest, he lost his life during the Umayyad Siege of Istanbul in the seventh century and was buried around the city walls. Claimed to be discovered following Ottoman conquest of Constantinople, his grave turned into a shrine. At the crossroad of early Islamic, Byzantine and Ottoman periods, the legacy of the shrine signified a representational sacred space imbued with religious and political symbolism.

A close reading of Ottoman sources on the origins and history of the shrine reveals a multi-layered picture with different storylines and elements. My paper dwells on to what degree Ottoman sources relied on the previous Arabic narratives and produced their own version(s) and how this situation is related with presentist approaches pertaining to Islamization of the city, Ottoman legitimacy of rule and shared sanctity in the cityscape.

FERAY COŞKUN obtained her B.Sc. from Middle East Technical University, Department of History, M.A. in History from Boğaziçi University, and Ph.D. in Turcology from FU Berlin. She was a visiting scholar at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient. Currently, she is an assistant professor at Özyeğin University and also a collaborating scholar in the ERC Project GHOST: ‘Geographies and Histories of the Ottoman Supernatural Tradition’.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

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