



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

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HIER KLICKEN!

THE OTTOMAN-CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN ANATOLIA AS A CASE STUDY TO INVESTIGATE CULTURAL HERITAGE POLITICS IN TURKEY

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MITTWOCH, 07.12.2022
18–20 UHR

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EDMUND-SIEMERS-ALLEE 1
RAUM 221

ABSTRACT: In the late Ottoman period, the Orthodox Christian (Rum) communities of Cappadocia built numerous new churches in towns and villages. After the departure of the last Rums from Cappadocia on the background of the population exchange between Greece and Turkey, decided in Lausanne in 1923, these churches remained without congregations and were abandoned, converted into mosques, or turned into warehouses, factories, or even prisons. In the 2000s, a new touristic and memorial trend led to the restoration of some of these churches.

In this presentation, I will follow the different steps experienced by these churches from their construction in the late Ottoman decades to their current situation to investigate to what extent the religious heritage of Cappadocian Rums is integrated – or not – into the cultural heritage of the Republic of Turkey today. For that purpose, I will analyze the role of different actors: national and local administrations, the Greek Patriarchate of Constantinople, NGOs, and locals who personally participate in the rescue of this religious heritage complex.

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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

Orthodox Christians and Muslims in Cappadocia: Cross-communal Interactions in an Ottoman Countryside (1839–1923), Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.

‘The Many Lives of the Cezaevi-Kilise of Nevşehir’, in V. R. de Obaldía (ed.), *The Conversion of Spaces and Places of Worship in Anatolia, International Conference Proceedings, 10–11 April 2021*, Istanbul: self-publishing by ADO, ADiP, 2021, 234–240.

‘Cappadocia’s Ottoman-Greek-Orthodox Heritage: The Making, Unmaking, and Remaking of a Religious Heritage Complex’, in N. Cerezales, C. Isnart (eds), *The Religious Heritage Complex*, London: Bloomsbury, 2020, 51–66.

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