ABSTRACT: Karacaahmet is one of the predominant saints in Turkey. Our knowledge about his life, the places he lived in, and his shrines in Anatolia and the Balkans consists of both historical facts and legendary stories. It is believed that Karacaahmet was a healer, especially of mental illnesses, and one of the saints of Horasan (Horasan erenleri) and Anatolia (Rum abdallari, Anadolu erenleri) of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. This talk will elaborate on the significance of Karacaahmet for the religious history of Turkey with a special focus on his shrine in Üsküdar, Istanbul, until the 1990s. As the only ‘Alevi’ shrine under the management of the Istanbul Museum Directorate of Shrines, I will rely on the internal archives of the directorate to shed light on the ambivalent role the shrine had for the Turkish state, for ordinary people, and for Alevi.

GÖKÇEN BEYİNLİ is a TÜBİTAK postdoctoral fellow at Universität Hamburg. After working as a full-time journalist for ten years, she completed her MA in history at Istanbul Bilgi University in 2012 and earned her PhD degree in history at HU Berlin in 2018. She worked as a lecturer at HU Berlin and Izmir University of Economics, and as a collaborator in research projects in London, Oxford, and Istanbul. She is interested in the stories and experiences of devalued, marginalised or discriminated individuals, communities, places, and practices.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:
İslam ve Sair Halk: Laik Türkiye’de Hurafeler, Türbeler, Kadınlar, İstanbul: Kitap Yayınevi, 2021.