

**Dr. Zeynep Türkyilmaz**  
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***From Flood Operations to Internal Colonization:  
Rethinking the Republic's "Perennial Dersim  
Question" (1925-1947)***

Termin: **10.02.2021, 18.00 Uhr c.t.**

Only two decades after the Armenian Genocide, eastern Anatolia became the scene for another genocide-cum-taboo. Dersim, a loosely defined region characterized as ethnically non-Turk, religiously non-Sunni, uncivilized, and medieval, by the Ankara Government, deemed undesirable, and became the target of the young republic's most comprehensive military operation. Despite recent academic interest in the details of the military operation and different forms of violence inflicted on Dersimlis, why Dersim and why such radical measures have remained inadequately addressed. This talk will seek answers to these two fundamental questions in Kemalist elites' ethnographic phantasies they created on Dersim.



Using official reports, archival documents, and published material, this presentation will demonstrate how 1930's intense ethnographic explorations designed and desired Dersim as an "Internal Colony," and in so doing obligated the Kemalist elite with a burden to pursue this mission at any cost.

**Speaker:** Zeynep Türkyilmaz received her Ph.D. from the Department of History at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2009. She worked at the Dartmouth College as an assistant professor of history between 2011 and 2016. She is currently a PSI fellow affiliated with Global History Program at FU. Her research and teaching interests include state-formation, gender, nationalism, colonialism, and religious communities with a focus on heterodoxy and missionary work in the Middle East from 1800 to the present. Most currently, she is working on the trajectory of the Pontus Question in the Ottoman Black Sea between 1916 and 1923.

**The presentation will be held in English / Der Vortrag findet auf Englisch statt**

Registrierlink für Zoom:

[https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sdOmupzopEtVrIW\\_IG54WLHRBwk972lfG](https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sdOmupzopEtVrIW_IG54WLHRBwk972lfG)