

**CEVAT DARGIN**

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**Education**

- PhD **Princeton University**  
Department of Near Eastern Studies, September 2021  
Dissertation: *State-Making in Dersim across Empire and Nation-State (1878–1938)*
- Committee Members: Michael A. Reynolds (chair, principal advisor) Ekaterina Pravilova (second reader). Examiners: Max Weiss, Bernard Haykel, Sabri Ateş
- General Examinations:  
Nationalism and Nation-State in the Middle East and Eurasia (Michael A. Reynolds)  
Islamic Political Thought (Muhammad Qasim Zaman)  
Ethnic and Religious Minorities in the Middle East and North Africa (Max Weiss)  
Methodology (Michael A. Reynolds)
- MA **New York University**  
Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, 2014  
Thesis: *Politics of Historiography and the De-Historicization of Kurdistan*
- MA **Brooklyn College of City University of New York**  
Political Science, 2012  
Thesis: *Global Water Politics: Case Studies of Turkey and China*
- BA **Bosphorus (Boğaziçi) University** (Istanbul, Turkey)  
Political Science and International Relations, 2007

**Other Training**

- Spring 2019 Advanced French Language Program, Alliance Française Paris, France  
Certificate of Advanced French
- Summer 2018 Advanced Russian Language Program, Middlebury Language Schools, Vermont  
Certificate of Advanced Russian
- Summer 2017 Intermediate Russian Language Program, Derzhavin Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia  
Certificate of Intermediate Russian
- Summer 2016 Advanced Persian Language Program, Dehkhoda Institute, University of Tehran, Iran  
Certificate of Advanced Persian
- Winter 2016 Ottoman Paleography, Princeton University

## Appointments

2022– Present University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Department of History, Manoogian Postdoctoral Fellow in Armenian Studies

## Research And Teaching Areas

- Modern Middle East, North Africa, Caucuses, Central Asia
- Ottoman Empire, post-Ottoman States, Iran
- Race and ethnicity, nationalism, colonialism, decolonization, minorities, Islam, Sufism, indigeneity, environmental history, world history, empire

## Publications and Manuscripts in Preparation

### Book Manuscript

*The Race Question in the Middle East: Ethnicity, Religion, Gender, and Environment in the Making of Dersim 38* (In preparation).

### Peer Review Journal Articles

“Ottoman Collapse or Absolute Sovereignty? The Dersim “Rebellion” as Myth in State-Making and State-Evasion,” *Past & Present* (Under review).

“‘An Old Boil in the Heart of Anatolia’: Imagining Dersim as ‘a State within State’ across Empire and Nation-State (1866–1939),” *Journal of Historical Geography* (Review process completed, revising for final submission).

### Working Papers

Self-Determination for Whom?: The Lausanne Treaty, the Question of Race, and the Politics of International Law

Aurora Mardiganian and Sabiha Gökçen: A Tale of Two Women in the Making of Modern Turkey

Colonialism and the Question of Race in the Middle East

“It is a shame. It is cruel. It is murder.”: A Kurdish Tribal Leader at the Crossroads of Tradition and Modernity (1863-1937)

Environmental Knowledge Production in Ottoman and Turkish Colonial Encounters

“An Oasis of Humanity within the Damned Empire”: Smuggling Armenian Genocide Survivors to Safety during World War I

Alevi Belief Cosmology as a Mobile and Invisible Governing Mechanism

Book Chapters

- 2022 “Imagined Rebels: Alevi Kurds in Turkish Nation-Building” (Turkish: Hayali İsyancılar: Türk ulus inşasında Alevi Kürtler” in *The Kurds and the Republic* (Turkish: *Kürtler ve Cumhuriyet*), ed. Ayhan Işık, et al. (Forthcoming).
- 2022 “‘A Legend of Banditry’ across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey: The Koçan (Koçuşığı) Tribe (1890–1938),” (Turkish: Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyet'e bir “Eşkivalık Efsanesi”: Koçan (Koçuşığı) Aşireti (1890-1938)) in *Brigandage, Treachery, Rebellion: Banditry from the Late Ottoman Empire to the Republic* [of Turkey] (Turkish: *Şekâvet, Hıyânet, İsyân: Geç Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyet'e Eşkivalık*), ed. Yalçın Çakmak and Ahmet Özcan (Istanbul: İletişim Yayınları, 2023), 69-89.

Book Review

- 2022 Review of *Inventing the Berbers: History and Ideology in the Maghrib*, by Ramzi Rouighi, *Revue des mondes musulmans et de la Méditerranée*, Vol. 152 (25 October 2022). URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/remmm/18189>

Short Essays and Opinion Pieces

- 2023 “Is Kılıçdaroğlu Turkey's Obama?” *Foreign Policy* [upcoming]
- 2023 “Turkish Elections, Kurdish Votes, and the Question of Race,” *Jadaliyya* [upcoming]
- 2014 “Why Does Televizyon Become Vizonte? Kurds and Orientalism from Within,” *Annual Review*, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University.
- 2011 “Turkey’s Shifting Foreign Policy Toward the Middle East and Its Relationship with Israel,” *Journal of Turkish Weekly*.
- 2011 “The Arab Spring and the Waves of Democracy,” *Journal of Turkish Weekly*.

**Languages**

- Turkish (native fluency)
- Kurdish (native fluency)
- English (fluent)
- Russian (advanced)
- Persian (advanced)
- French (advanced)
- Ottoman Turkish (advanced reading competency)
- Arabic (intermediate reading competency, in progress)

**Research Experience**

Turkey	Ottoman Imperial Archives (BOA), Turkish Republican Archives (BCA), Turkish military archives (ATASE), Turkish Historical Society, Turkish National Library.
France	Archives nationales, Archives diplomatiques, Bibliothèque nationale de France.
U.S.	American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions Archives (ABCFM), National Archives
U.K.	Foreign Office (FO), The National Archives
Russia	The Archive of the Foreign Policy of Imperial Russia, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
Iran	National Archives of Iran, Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran.

### Teaching Experience

2023	Instructor, HIST 341/POLSCI 395 <i>Nations and Nationalism</i> , University of Michigan.
2021	Undergraduate Research Mentorship, Princeton University.
2020	Assistant Instructor, <i>The Politics of Modern Islam</i> , Princeton University.
2020	Teaching Certificate at the McGraw Center for Teaching, Princeton University.
2017	Designed reading course <i>Minorities in the Middle East and North Africa</i> , Princeton University.
2017	Designed reading course <i>Nationalism and Nation-State in the Middle East and Eurasia</i> , Princeton University.
2014	Teaching Assistant, <i>Problems and Methods in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies</i> , New York University.
2011	Research and Teaching Assistant, <i>Political Systems of Africa</i> , Brooklyn College of City University of New York.

### Awards And Fellowships

2023	Assistant Teaching Professor of Non-Western World (Second Finalist)
2022	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Promise Armenian Institute, UCLA (declined).
2022	Research Grant, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.
2021	Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Princeton University.

- 2019      Research Grant, American Research Institute in Turkey.
- 2018      Research Fellowship, Donald and Mary Hyde Foundation.
- 2017      Language and Research Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University.
- 2016      Language and Research Grant, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University.
- 2015      Language and Research Grant, Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University.

### **Workshop Organized**

- 2022      “Modern State and “Internal” Colonialism: Peoples, Places, and Power across Empire and Nation-State.” Center for Armenian Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, November 3-4.

### **Selected Presentations**

#### Roundtable

- 2023      “A boil in the heart of Anatolia: Environmental Knowledge in the Making of Ottoman and Turkish Colonial Encounters.” Resisting Nature: European Imperial Projects and the Limits of Environmental Knowledge, American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), Boston, Massachusetts, March 22-26.

#### Public Lectures

- 2022      “Race, Environment, and the Modern Middle East: A Historical Microanalysis.” Co-organized by the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University and the Center for Armenian Studies at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, December 12.
- 2022      “A Disease in the Lungs of Anatolia”: Politics of Reform and Modernization at the Intersection of Armenian, Kurdish, and Kizilbash Questions.” Center for Armenian Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, September 14.
- 2022      “Rebellion as Myth in State Making and State Evasion: The Case of Dersim across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey (1878–1938).” New Horizons in Kurdish History Lecture Series, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, April 22.

#### Conferences and Workshops

- 2023 “Self-Determination for Whom?: The Treaty of Lausanne, the Question of Race, and the Politics of International Law.” Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program’s 2023 Annual Conference, “The Afterlives of Lausanne.” Northwestern University, May 25-28.
- 2023 “Ottoman Collapse or Absolute Sovereignty? The Dersim “Rebellion” as Myth in State-Making and State-Evasion.” Diaspora and Indigeneity: Intersections of Modern Jewish, Kurdish, and Amazigh History, Conference at the Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies, Germany, March 27–29,
- 2022 “Internal Colonialism in the Middle East: The Case of Dersim across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey (1877–1938).” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), Annual Conference, Denver, December 1-4.
- 2022 “Completing What the Ottomans Left Unfinished in Eastern Anatolia: Dersim as an Internal Colony across Empire and Nation-State (1877-1938),” Reverberations of Empire: Histories, Legacies & Lineages, Social Science and History Association (SSHA), Chicago, November 17-20.
- 2022 ““A Boil in the Heart of Anatolia”: Dersim in Myth and Reality Across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey,” The Middle East in Myth and Reality, The Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies (NSMES), Reykjavik, Iceland, September 22-24.
- 2022 “The Kizilbash Kurds’ Dangerous Mission: Smuggling Armenian Genocide Survivors to Safety During World War I.” Conference: “The First World War in the Middle East: Aftermath and Legacies,” Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres, Belgium, September 15-17.
- 2022 “The Middle East in Rebellion: Resistance to Nation-States and Colonial Administrations in the Aftermath of Ottoman Collapse (1918–1938).” Symposium: “An Anarchist Turn? Imperial Rule and Resistance in the Long Twentieth Century,” Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, July 7–8.
- 2022 “Regulating a Nonstate Space: Alevisim in Theory and Practice.” Shai Studies Conference, Islamic College, London, May14.
- 2022 “A Mobile and Invisible Religion: The Kizilbash Belief System in Practice.” Workshop: New Horizons in Alevi and Bektashi History, co-organized by the College of William and Mary and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, May 30–April 2.
- 2022 “Internal Colonialism in the Middle East: The Case of Dersim across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey (1877–1938).” Continuity and Change Throughout the Ottoman Longue Durée, Third Annual Mid-Atlantic Ottomanists Workshop, University of Mary Washington, April 1–3.
- 2019 “Alî Şîr: A Kurdish Nationalist Poet and Warrior in the Early 20th Century.” Workshop on Kurdish Nationalism and Russian Imperial Projects, Library of Foreign

Literature, Institute of Orientalism of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, June 10–11.

- 2016 “United Kingdom and the Kurds during World War I: A Critical Analysis of British Documentary Sources: 1914–1920.” Conference on Historical and Comparative Perspectives on Kurdish Politics, Buffett Institute, Northwestern University, November 2–4.
- 2015 “Identity in the Ideology, Art, and Literature of Kurdish Intellectuals at the End(s) of the Ottoman Empire.” Workshop on identity politics, New York University, April 28.

### Public Programs and Outreach

- 2023 Discussant, *Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyet'e Dersim'de Devlet İnşası* (State-Making in Dersim across Empire and Nation-State), *Kıymık*, Yalçın Çakmak
- 2023 Panelist, *Turkey and Democracy at the Crossroads*, organized by Writers for Democratic Action & Democracy Book Club and moderated by Peter Balakian, March 25.
- 2018 Panel organizer and Q&A Coordinator, *Zer: A film by Kazım Öz*, Princeton University.
- 2017 Panel organizer, *A Voice from Syrian Kurdistan: The Civil War, Refugees, and Women*, Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, Princeton University.
- 2015 Panel organizer, *Beyond the Arab Spring: Political (De)formation and Social Revolution in Rojava*, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, NYU.
- 2013 Public Programs and Outreach Assistant, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University.
- 2011 Research Assistant Intern, World Policy Institute, New York.

### Professional Affiliations

- Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
- American Historical Association (AHA)
- American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)
- Social Science History Association (SSHA)
- Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies (NSMES)
- Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association (OTSA)
- Iranian Studies Association (ISA)
- National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)
- Kurdish Studies Network (KSN)

### Work Authorization Status

- Legally authorized for unrestricted and permanent employment in the United States

### References

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Rosengarten Chair of Modern and Contemporary History; Professor of History; Acting  
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**Sabri Ateş** (committee member, examiner)  
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William H. Sewell, Jr. Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of History  
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The University of Michigan

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