CEVAT DARGIN

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RESEARCH PROFILE

Historian of empire, state formation, and historical geography whose research situates the modern Middle East within global histories of empire, sovereignty, and international order.

EDUCATION

Princeton University 2015–2021
Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies

New York University 2012–2014
M.A. in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

City University of New York, Brooklyn College 2010–2012
M.A. in Political Science

Boğaziçi (Bosphorus) University 2002–2007
B.A. in Political Science and International Relations

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Norwich University 2025–Present
Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern and North African History and Director of International Studies Program, Department of History and Political Science

Columbia University 2023–2024
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

University of Michigan 2022–2023
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History

Princeton University Spring 2022
Postgraduate Research Associate

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

Modern Middle Eastern and Global History
The United States in the World
Empire, Colonialism, and State Formation
War, Revolution, and Global Order
Nationalism, Race, Indigeneity, and Minority Politics
Late Ottoman and Post-Ottoman History
Historical Geography and Environmental History
Political Islam and the Islamicate World
Ottoman, Turkish, Kurdish, Armenian, and Alevi Studies

BOOK PROJECTS

Roads to Dersim: Kurds, Empire, Race, and the State (under consideration at Stanford University Press)
Examines how infrastructure, race, and empire fused into a model of governance in Dersim across the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, illuminating broader processes of state formation and the production of statelessness across the Middle East whose consequences endure into the present.

Mapping Empire: The United States and the Post-Ottoman Middle East (research in progress)
Examines how American scholars, experts, and policymakers imagined, mapped, and sought to reshape political space and sovereignty during and after World War I, tracing the relationship between knowledge production, territorial order, and the emergence of the United States as a global power.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer–Reviewed Articles

"Anticipatory Historical Geographies of Violence: Imagining, Mapping and Integrating Dersim into the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish State, 1866–1939," *Journal of Historical Geography* 81 (2023): 162–178.

Book Chapters

"The State of the Kurdish Question since the End of the Ottoman Empire," in *The I.B. Tauris Handbook of the Late Ottoman Empire: History and Legacy,* eds. Hans Lukas Kieser and Khatchig Mouradian (London: I.B. Tauris, 2025).

"Hayali İsyancılar: Türk ulus inşasında Alevi Kürtler" [Imagined Rebels: Alevi Kurds in Turkish Nation–Building], in *Kürtler ve Cumhuriyet* [The Kurds and the Republic], eds. Ayhan Işık, et al., 217–228 (Ankara: Dipnot, 2023).

"Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyet'e bir 'Eşkıyalık Efsanesi': Koçan Aşireti (1890–1938)" ["A Legend of Banditry Across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey"], in *Şekâvet, Hıyânet, İsyan: Geç Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyet'e Eşkıyalık* [Brigandage, Treachery, Rebellion: Banditry from the Late Ottoman Empire to the Republic of Turkey], eds. Yalçın Çakmak & Ahmet Özcan, 69–89 (İletişim, 2023).

Articles Under Review & In Development

"The *Rhetoric of Rebellion*: Inventing the Rebel Kurd and the Making of Modern Sovereignty in the Middle East" (under review at *International Journal of Middle East Studies*).

"Charting Transitions: Perspectives on the Late Ottoman Empire and Post-Ottoman Transformations" (in development; intended for submission to the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*).

"Self-Determination for Whom? Race, Cartography, and Sovereignty in the Post-Ottoman Settlements" (in development; intended for submission to the *American Historical Review*).

Book Reviews

Review of *Losing Istanbul: Arab–Ottoman Imperialists and the End of Empire,* by Mustafa Minawi, *Journal of Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* 11, no. 1 (2024): 256–259.

Review of *Inventing the Berbers: History and Ideology in the Maghrib,* by Ramzi Rouighi, *Revue des mondes musulmans et de la Méditerranée*, 152 (2022): Online.

Review of *Contributions to Zagrology: V. F. Minorsky and C. J. Edmonds Correspondence (1928–1965*) by Gennady Kurin and Metin Atmaca. *Journal of Iranian Studies.* 2025.

Public Scholarship and Op-Eds

"America's Kurdish Pivot in the "New" Middle East," *Voices on Peace and War* (March 27, 2026).

"What Happens in Syria Does not Stay in Syria," *Voices on Peace and War* (September 16, 2025).

"Precarious Alliances: Turkey, Israel, Öcalan, and the Kurds Amid Shifting Middle Eastern Geopolitics," *Voices on Peace and War* (January 23, 2025).

"Turkish Elections, Kurdish Votes, and the Question of Race," *Jadaliyya* (2023) [online].

"Kimin için Self Determinasyon? Lozan Antlaşması, Kürt Sorunu ve Uluslararası Hukukta Irk Meselesi" [Self–Determination for Whom? The Treaty of Lausanne, the Kurdish Issue, and the Question of Race in International Law], *PolitikART,* 318 (2023): Online.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Conducted multilingual archival research in:
Turkey: Ottoman Imperial Archives (BOA), Republican Archives, Turkish General Staff Archives (ATASE), Turkish Historical Society, National Library of Turkey.
France: Archives nationales, Archives diplomatiques, and Bibliothèque nationale de France.
United Kingdom: The National Archives and Foreign Office Records.
United States: The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions Archives.
Russia: Archive of the Foreign Policy of Imperial Russia and Institute of Oriental Studies
Armenia: National Archives of Armenia, Archives of Radio Yerevan.
Iran: National Archives and Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Research Conducted for *Mapping Empire*
National Archives and Records Administration (United States): The Inquiry Papers and records of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, including reports, memoranda, and cartographic materials relating to the post-World War I settlement.

Planned Archival Research for *Mapping Empire*
United States: Library of Congress (Woodrow Wilson Papers); American Geographical Society Library; Hoover Institution Library & Archives (Paris Peace Delegation Propaganda Collection).

International: British National Archives; French Diplomatic Archives; Russian Foreign Policy Archives; Ottoman and Turkish archival collections.

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Turkish (fluent-native), Kurdish (fluent-native), Russian (advanced), Persian (advanced), French (advanced), Ottoman Turkish (reading competency), Arabic (basic).

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of History, University of Michigan 2022–2023

Research Grant, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research 2022

Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Princeton University 2021

Research Grant, American Research Institute in Turkey 2019

Research Fellowship, Donald and Mary Hyde Foundation Research Fellowship 2018

Language Study Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies 2017

Research Grant, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University 2016

Language Study Grant, Mossavar–Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Norwich University

The U.S. in the Middle East **(**upcoming, Spring 2027) — traces American engagement with the region from the nineteenth century to the present.

Political Islam (capstone seminar, Spring 2026*)* — examines Islamic thought and movements in relation to modernity, colonialism, and political power.

Israel & Palestine (Spring 2026) — traces the historical roots and contemporary dynamics of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict.

History of the Middle East (Spring & Fall 2025) — survey of political, social, and environmental change from antiquity to the present.

Introduction to Global and Regional Studies (Spring & Fall 2025) — interdisciplinary overview of global systems, institutions, and transnational interactions.

Columbia University

Armenians and the Modern World (Spring 2024) — transimperial histories of diaspora, genocide, and global Armenian experience.

University of Michigan

Nations and Nationalism (Spring 2023) — theories of nation–building, identity, and belonging in comparative and global contexts.

Princeton University

Undergraduate Research Mentorship 2021–2022

The Politics of Modern Islam (Assistant Instructor) Fall 2020

Minorities *in the Middle East and North Africa* (reading seminar) Fall 2017

Nations and Nationalism in the Middle East and Eurasia (reading seminar) Spring 2017

WORKSHOP ORGANIZED

"Modern State and Internal Colonialism: Peoples, Places, and Power across Empire and Nation–State." University of Michigan (2022). In collaboration with Melanie S. Tanielian, Hakem Al–Rustom, and Gottfried Hagen.

INVITED LECTURES AND BROWN BAG TALKS

ROA–VdRBw Partnership Seminar: "The 2026 U.S. National Defense Strategy, Germany, and the Middle East in a Changing American-Led Security Order." Würzburg, Germany (2026).

Norwich University: "Remapping Syria and the Middle East After Assad." Center for Peace and War, Northfield, VT (2025).

UC Berkeley: "*'Final Solution' to the Dersim Question: Ottoman Afterlives, Racialized Violence, and Kurdish Resilience.*" Annual Kurdish Studies Lecture, Berkeley, CA (2025).

University of Chicago: "*'The Black Box of the Republic': Dersim '38 and the Making of the Modern Turkish State*." Zahra Institute, Chicago, IL (2025).

Stanford University: "*Empire of Mountains: Environmental Racialization and Colonial Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey*." Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, Palo Alto, CA (2024).

New York University: "*Roads to Civilization: Imagining, Mapping, and Integrating Dersim into the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish State*." Ottoman and Turkish Studies, New York, NY (2024).

UC Berkeley: "*Empire of Questions: The Late Ottoman Empire and Dersim '38*." Center for Armenian Studies, Berkeley, CA (2024).

UCLA: "*Empire of Questions: The Late Ottoman Empire and Dersim '38*." The Promise Armenian Institute, Los Angeles, CA (2024).

Harvard University: "*Rebellion as Myth in State–Making: The Case of Dersim across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey*." New Horizons in Kurdish History Lecture Series, Cambridge, MA (2022).

University of Michigan: "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, (2022).

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Reacting Consortium, Game Development Conference, Canisius University, Buffalo, NY (2026).

Columbia University: "Founding Acts: Historical Perspectives on State Violence in the Early Turkish Republic." Workshop, New York, NY (2026).

Middle Eastern Studies Association: "*Legacies of Command: Ottoman Epistemologies and Post-Ottoman State Formation in Dersim*." Annual Conference. Washington, DC (2025).

International Symposium of Military Academies, Represented Norwich University at an international forum on military education, emerging technologies, and leadership. Kosovo (2025).

Yale University: "*Race, Rhetoric, and Rebellion: Afterlives of Ottoman Collapse in the Making of Dersim '38*." Macmillan Center Council on Middle East Studies. Conference: *The Long Twentieth Century of Kurds and Kurdistan* (2024).

Oxford University: "*The Orient of the Orientalized: The Kurdish Other at the Intersection of Western Orientalism and Ottoman Colonialism*." The Institute of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Conference: *Orientalism and Western Travelers to the Levant before the First World War* (2024).

Princeton University: "*Roadlessness: Ottoman Modernity Navigating Uncharted Territories*." Conference: 4th Annual Mid–Atlantic Ottomanist Workshop (2023).

University of Michigan: "*Roadlessness: Ottoman Modernity Navigating Uncharted Territories*." Conference: *11th Workshop on Armenian and Turkish Scholarship* (2023).

Middle Eastern Studies Association: "'*You are Real and Pure Turks!': Racialization and Colonial Violence in the Middle East*." Annual Conference. Montreal, Canada (2023).

Northwestern University: "Self–Determination for Whom? The Treaty of Lausanne, the Question of Race, and the Politics of International Law." Conference: *The Afterlives of Lausanne* (2023).

American Society for Environmental History: "*A Boil in the Heart of Anatolia: Environmental Knowledge in the Making of Ottoman and Turkish Colonial Encounters*. Roundtable: *Resisting Nature: European Imperial Projects and the Limits of Environmental Knowledge*. Annual Meeting, (2023).

Heidelberg University: "*Ottoman Collapse or Absolute Sovereignty? The Dersim 'Rebellion' as Myth in State–Making and State–Evasion*." Conference: *Diaspora and Indigeneity: Intersections of Modern Jewish, Kurdish, and Amazigh History*. Germany (2023).

The Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies: "*Ottoman Collapse or Absolute Sovereignty? The Dersim 'Rebellion' as Myth in State–Making and State–Evasion*." Annual Meeting: *The Middle East in Myth and Reality,* Reykjavik, Iceland (2022).

Middle Eastern Studies Association: "*Internal Colonialism in the Middle East: The Case of Dersim across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey (1877–1938*)." Annual Conference. Denver, CO (2022).

Social Science and History Association: "*Internal Colonialism in the Middle East: The Case of Dersim across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey (1877–1938)*." Annual Conference. Session: Reverberations of Empire: Histories, Legacies & Lineages, Chicago, IL (2022).

Third Annual Mid–Atlantic Ottomanists Workshop: "*Internal Colonialism in the Middle East: The Case of Dersim across Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey (1877–1938)."* Workshop: *Continuity and Change Throughout the Ottoman Longue Durée*, University of Mary Washington, VA (2022).

Flanders Fields Museum: "*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,* Ypres, Belgium (2022).

Hokkaido University: "*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,* Sapporo, Japan (2022).

Islamic College, **London:** "*Governing a Nonstate Space: Alevism in Theory and Practice*." Shi'i Studies Conference (2022).

Harvard University and College of William and Mary: "*A Mobile and Invisible Religion: The Kizilbash Belief System in Practice*." Workshop: New Horizons in Alevi and Bektashi History (2022).

Russian Academy of Sciences: "*Alî Şîr: A Kurdish Nationalist Poet and Warrior in the Early 20th Century*." Workshop: Kurdish Nationalism and Russian Imperial Projects**,** Moscow, Russia (2019).

Northwestern University: "*United Kingdom and the Kurds during World War I*." Conference: Historical and Comparative Perspectives on Kurdish Politics. Buffett Institute (2016).

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Review and Editorial Service

International Journal of Middle East Studies
The British Academy
Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism
Social Sciences & Humanities Open
Journal of Peace and War Studies
Journal of Historical Geography

Departmental / University Service

Faculty Delegation Leader, Norwich University Delegation to the ROA–VdRBw Partnership Seminar, Würzburg, Germany, September 2026. Led and prepared Norwich students for an international seminar focused on NATO, the Bundeswehr, U.S. forces in Europe, and contemporary transatlantic security.

Director, Global and Regional Studies, Norwich University, 2025–Present
Led curriculum review and redesign of the International Studies major; coordinated program administration, student advising, and curricular planning.

STUDENT RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Honors Thesis Advisor, Norwich University, 2026–Present

Capstone Advisor, Norwich University, 2025–Present

Independent Study Supervisor, Norwich University, 2025–Present

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Podcast: "Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyet'e Dersim'de Devlet İnşası" (State–Making in Dersim across Empire and Nation–State). *Kıymık*, podcast hosted by Yalçın Çakmak **(**2023).

Panel: "Turkey and Democracy at the Crossroads." Panel organized by Writers for Democratic Action & Democracy Book Club. Moderated by Peter Balakian (2023).

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Faculty Fellow, John and Mary Frances Patton Peace and War Center, Norwich University, 2026–Present

Middle Eastern Studies Association, MESA

American Historical Association, AHA