

Forschungskolloquium zur Transregionalen Geschichte

Universität Regensburg
Department für Interdisziplinäre und Multiskalare Area Studies

Professur für Transregionale Wissenskulturen
Prof. Dr. Timothy Nunan

11.01.23, 16.15 Uhr - 18:45 Uhr, Hörsaal H51 & Zoom



Hale Eroğlu (Boğaziçi University)

“Transnational Encounters in China: The Ahmadiyya from India and Chinese Muslim Reformism”

Hale Eroglu is an assistant professor in the History department at Bogazici University. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard University and she works on the intellectual history of Chinese Muslims, with a specific focus on transnational networks. Her book on Chinese Muslim reformism and transnational connections will be published by Columbia University Press in Columbia Studies in International and Global History series.

My paper explores the intellectual connection between Chinese Muslim intellectuals and the Ahmadi mission in London during the Republican period in China (1911-1949). This transnational network, which connected China to London via India, is quite an interesting case because of the alleged “heterodox” nature of the Ahmadi version of Islam. Chinese Muslim intellectuals in the early twentieth century struggled to create modern Muslim citizens out of Muslim subjects of the Qing Empire (1644–1911). They had a dual task. First, they were determined to preserve their Islamic identity in the context of modern China. Second, they were willing to contribute to China’s progress as fellow Chinese citizens. This could be possible through the selection, appropriation, and adaptation of ideas both from Chinese intellectuals in China and Muslim intellectuals from different parts of the Islamic world. The Ahmadi formulation of Islam, despite its marginal nature, appealed to a group of prominent Chinese Muslim intellectuals as it offered an alternative for Chinese Muslims, who were looking for a theological ground for a modernist interpretation of Islam, which could also guarantee the peaceful and harmonious existence of Islam in a non-Muslim majority country. The historical analysis of this interaction will contribute not only to our understanding of Chinese modernization from a minority perspective but also to the pluralist possibilities of Islam in a modern global world.

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<https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5cuf-yorTluH9PDfKgVL92PZS21ugnd0CL2> In order to register for the mailing list, please write to timothy.nunan@geschichte.uni-regensburg.de

