

HANDE SÖZER

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Education

PhD 2004-2012	University of Pittsburgh Anthropology	Thesis Title: Managing (In)visibility by a Double Minority: Identity Maintenance among Alevi Bulgarian Turks Thesis Advisor: Robert M. Hayden
	University of Pittsburgh Russian and East European Studies	Advanced Graduate Certificate, 2008 Graduate Certificate, 2006
MA 2001-2004	Boğaziçi University Sociology	Thesis Title: ÇATOM Project: Field Supervisors in-between “the State” and “the Social” Thesis Advisor: Meltem Ahıska
Major 1994-1999	Middle East Technical University International Relations	Prep School, 1994-1995

Academic Experience

Associate Prof. 2024-	Sociology TED University, Sociology Department	
Associate Prof. 7 September 2023	Higher Education Council, Political Science Political Anthropology, Political Sociology, International Studies	
Assistant Prof. 2015-2024	Sociology METU Northern Cyprus Campus, Political Science and International Relations Program	
Dr. 2012-2015	Anthropology METU Northern Cyprus Campus, Political Science and International Relations Program	
Teaching Fellow 2010-2012	Anthropology University of Pittsburgh, USA	
Teaching Assistant 2004-2007	Anthropology University of Pittsburgh, USA	

Other Work Experience

Managing Editor 2007-2008	East European Politics and Societies (EEPS) Sage Publications
Management Trainee 2000-2001	Organization and Research and Development Department Kentbank, Istanbul.

RESEARCH

Publications

Book

Sözer, H. (2014) *Managing Invisibility: Dissimulation and Identity Management among Alevi Bulgarian Turks*, Balkan Studies Library No 15, Leiden: BRILL, ISBN 978-90-04-27918-6

Book Chapters

Sözer, H. (2024) "Political Borders, Ethnic Frontiers and Migrant Identity: Transformations of the Ethnonational and Ethnoreligious Frontiers of Syrian Refugees and Locals from Turkey after 2011," *Migration, Belonging and Identity: Transforming and Transformative Migrant Identities*, Lexington Books, pp. 99-127 ISBN: 978-1-66695-632-0.

Sözer, H. (2023) "Türkiye'de Güncel Azınlık Deneyimini Anlamada Siyasi Antropolojik Bir Yaklaşım Denemesi: Etnik Grupların Değişken Deneyimleri" *Geçmişten Günümüze Azınlıklar ve Etnik Gruplar: Kimlik, Etnisite, Kültür*, Yelda Tutar Serter (ed), Nobel Akademik Yayıncılık, 145-168, ISBN: 978-605-71746-7-3.

Sözer, H. (2023). "Türkiye'de Çocuk Evliliklerinin Siyaseti: Çocuğun Yaralanabilirliğinin İnşası." *Sosyal Bilimlerde Araştırmalar*, Özgür, Gaziantep, 259-286, <https://doi.org/10.58830/ozgur.pub97.c467>.

Sözer, H. (2023) "Kahramanmaraş Depremzedeleri Arasında Kırılğan Grupların Tespiti ve Güvenlik, Güvence, Güvene İlişkin Politikaların Geliştirilmesi" *Kahramanmaraş Merkezli Depremler Sonrası İçin Akademik Öneriler*, Özgür, Gaziantep, 414-424, ISBN: 978-975-447-613-2.

Articles in National Academic Journals

Sözer, H. (2022) "The "European Refugee Crisis" as the Crisis of Liberal Tolerance: Three Modalities of Liberal Exclusion," *Alternatif Politika*, 14(2), 229-262. <https://doi.org/10.53376/ap.2022.08>

Sözer, H. (2021) "Neoliberal Küresel İnsaniyetperverliğin Yerel Tezahürleri: Türkiye'de Suriyeli Mültecilerle Çalışan İnsaniyetperverlik Aktörlerinin Anlatıları," *METU Development*, 48 (6): 77-110.

Sözer, H (2020) "Bir Çocuk İstismarı Formu Olarak Çocuk Evlilikleri: Kültüre Sığınmanın Sınırları" *Sosyoloji Araştırmaları Dergisi*, 23(1): 157-191. <https://doi.org/10.18490/sosars.728332>

Articles in International Academic Journals

Sözer, H. (2020) "Humanitarianism with a Neo-liberal Face: Vulnerability Intervention as Vulnerability Redistribution" *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 46 (11): 2163-2180, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2019.1573661> SSCI

Sözer, H. (2019) "Categories that Blind Us, Categories that Bind Them: The Deployment of Vulnerability Notion for Syrian Refugees in Turkey," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 34(3): 2775-2803, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/fezo20> SSCI

Hayden, Robert M., Hande Sözer, Tugba Tanyeri-Erdemir and Aykan Erdemir (2011) "The Byzantine Mosque at Trilye: A Processual Analysis of Dominance, Sharing, Transformation and Tolerance," *History & Anthropology*, 22(1): 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02757206.2011.546851> SSCI

Sözer, Hande (2010) "Bulgarian Turks as an Internally Fragmented Ethnic Minority across an External Border of the EU" *European Union Center of Excellence, European Studies Center Newsletter*, January, 5, 7.

Book Review

Sözer Hande (2016) Review of *Choreographies of Shared Sacred Sites: Religion and Conflict Resolution*, edited by Elazar Barkan and Karen Barkey. New York: Columbia University Press, 75(1), 168-169. <https://doi.org/10.5612/slavicreview.75.1.168> SSCI

Awards, Grants, Research Projects

BAGEP 2015
2015-2017

Science Academy Distinguished Young Scientist Award
"The in/visibilities of Syrian Refugees in Turkey"

PI
Field sites: Gaziantep
Hatay, Şanlıurfa, Antalya,
İzmir,
Edirne, Kırklareli,
Çanakkale

BAP 1.1.2014-30.7.2014	METU NCC Scientific Research Project “Alternating between Invisibility and Hypervisibility: Marginalization Patterns of Syrian Refugees in Turkey” Osmaniye, No: SOSY-14-D	PI Field sites: Gaziantep, Kilis, Hatay, Mardin, İstanbul.
BAP 17.2.2014-24.3.2014	METU NCC Scientific Research Project “Arab Alevis’ Accounts of Sunni Syrian Refugees in Hatay within the Context of Syrian Crisis” No: SOSY-14-O-1	PI (Researcher: O.Gürçüoğlu) Field site: Hatay.
NSF-DDGI 1.6.2009-30.11.2010	National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant “The Effects of Shifting Borders on Ethnic Identity: The Case of Bulgarian Turks” No: BSC 0920941	Co-PI and Researcher (PI: Robert M. Hayden) Field sites: Razgrad, Kırcaali (Bulgaria), Bursa, Çorlu, Edirne.
EUCE 1.6.2009-1.6.2010	University of Pittsburgh European Center of Excellence (EUCE) Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant “Unchanging Border, Shifting and Fragmented Frontiers: Bulgarian Turks’ Movement Across Political and Symbolic Borders”	
CREES-BAN 18.8.2008-15.10.2008	University of Pittsburgh Russian and East European Studies Center (CREES) and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Exchange Program	Field site: Sofia (Bulgaria).
NSF REG 15.7.2008-31.08.2008	National Science Foundation (NSF) Pre-dissertation Research Award “Retention of Minorities and Religious Sites after the Reversal of Dominance: Muslim Religious Sites in Bulgaria” No: REG 0829018	Researcher (PI: Robert M. Hayden) Field Sites: Razgrad, Rusçuk, Şumnu, Rusçuk, Veliko Tırnavo, Aydos, Burgaz, Kırcaali, Plovdiv, Dobruca, Sofya (Bulgaria)
June-September 2005	University of Pittsburgh Anthropology Department Small pre-dissertation grant	Researcher Field site: Aydın
MA research December 2000	Southeastern Anatolian Project and Women’s Development Project in the Case of ÇATOM	Researcher Field site: Mardin

Presentations

- 2023 “Kahramanmaraş Depreminde Kimsesi Kalmayana Kimse Olmak: Deprem Bölgesindeki Kırılğan Grupların Tespiti ve Bu Grupları Koruyuc Mekanizmaların Geliştirilmesi,” “Kahramanmaraş Depremi Sonrası Neler Yapılabilir” Symposium, <https://depremsempozyumu.com/>, 19 February, online.
- 2022 “Vulnerability Interventions That Make the Vulnerable More Vulnerable: Humanitarian Actors’ Accounts of Syrian Refugee Women and Children in Turkey” International Studies Association Annual Convention, “A Wider Discipline for A Smaller World,” 28 March- 3 April, online.
- 2021 “Appropriating the Global Neoliberal Humanitarianism: Humanitarianism Narratives of Local Humanitarian Actors working with Syrian Refugees in Turkey” The Migration Conference 2021, 9, Conference, 6-10 July, online.
- 2021 “From a “Crisis” of Humanitarianism to a crisis of “Europe”: Is Indifferent Tolerance or Differentiating Tolerance be better than Illiberal Tolerance?” ‘International Conference: Refugees - Fears, Understanding, Empathy’ Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 17 May, online.

- 2020 “Entangled Vulnerabilities, Counter-productive Interventions: Humanitarian Actors' Engagement with Child Labor and Child Marriage among Syrian Refugees in Turkey” American Anthropology Association, Raising Our Voices, On-Demand, 30 October, the record is available at <https://youtu.be/9m4O9xmRxfU>
- 2019 “When the “Vulnerable Refugee” Label Makes Refugees More Vulnerable: Humanitarian Actors’ Deployment of Vulnerability Notion for Syrian refugees in Turkey” Sabancı University International Politics Center, “Exploring the Dimensions of Refugee Inclusion: Social Structures, Institutions and Strategies” Conference, Istanbul, 28–29 November.
- 2018 “Rethinking the Most Virtuous Aspects of Humanitarianism: Appropriation of “the Vulnerable Refugees” Plot Regarding Syrian Refugees in Turkey,” 25th International Conference of Europeanists: Europe and the World: Mobilities, Values and Citizenship, Columbia University Council for European Studies Conference, Chicago, 27-30 March.
- 2017 “How does a humanitarian “crisis” transform into “crisis” of humanitarianism? The Expansion of the Humanitarian Space with a focus on Syrian Refugees in Turkey.” American Anthropology Association, 116th Annual Meeting, “Anthropology Matters,” Washington DC, 29 November-3 December.
- 2017 “Does Religious Plurality indicate an Unproblematic Religious Pluralism? Alevi Bulgarian Turks’ Relation to Alevi and non-Alevi Religious Sites in Bulgaria and Turkey.” Recreating Pluralism; Socio-Religious Continuity in Post-Ottoman Societies Workshop, Swedish Institute of Istanbul, 18-23 June.
- 2016 “The Dead, the Disappeared and the Disguised Syrian Refugees in Turkey: The Problem of Evidence in Studying the Most Visible Invisible Groups,” American Anthropology Association, 115th Annual Convention, “Evidence, Accident, Discovery” Minneapolis, 16-20 November.
- 2016 “Syrian Refugees in Turkey: Being Stranded in an Uncertain Present, in between a Deadly Past and a Precarious Future,” The Association for the Study of Nationalities 2016, 21st Annual World Convention, Columbia University, NYC, 14-16 April.
- 2015 “Invisibilities of Syrian Refugees in Turkey: A study of Exclusion Patterns on Local Level,” International Workshop on Social Transformation and Migration in Turkey, Boğaziçi University, Political Science and International Relations, Istanbul, 8-9 January.
- 2012 “Alevi Bulgarian Turks: a Marginalized Community at the Margins of Europe,” 19th International Conference of Europeanists, Columbia University Council for European Studies Conference, Boston, 25 March.
- 2011 “Alevi Bulgarian Turks’ Dissimulations in Bulgaria and Turkey” Anthropology in the Era of Globalization: Ethnography, Ethnology and Comparative Analysis, University of Pittsburgh, Anthropology Department, 9 December.
- 2011 “A Minority with a minority: Alevi Bulgarian Turks across the Bulgarian Turkey Border” 8th Annual Graduate Student Ethnography Conference, Stony Brook Manhattan Campus, NYC, 15 April.
- 2009 “An Attempt to Map the 'Margins of Europe' by Focusing on its Frontiers: The Bulgarian Turkish Frontier as a Case Study,” Graduate Students Conference “Complexities of ‘Europe’: Between knowledge, power, citizenship and identity, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Cambridge, 12 October.

Invited Talks

- 2019 “Research Ethics,” Sustainable Environment and Energy Systems Program, Spring Seminars, METU NCC, 22 February.
- 2018 “Research Ethics,” Sustainable Environment and Energy Systems Program, Spring Seminars, METU NCC, 14 February.
- 2017 “Research Ethics,” Sustainable Environment and Energy Systems Program, Spring Seminars, METU NCC, 22 February.

- 2015 “Syrian Refugee’s Marginalization Experiences in Turkey: Is a Choice between a Protracted Conflict Zone and a “Protracted Uncertainty” Zone Real Choice?” Economy and Politics Seminar, METU NCC, 18 November.
- 2011 “Minorities within Minorities: Alevis in Islam,” Teachers’ Workshop, Asian Studies Center, Latin American Studies Center and International Business Center, University of Pittsburgh, 14 June.
- 2009 “Kocatepe Mosque: Neighboring Differences and Negotiating Tensions,” Second Annual Social Anthropology Graduate Symposium, METU Ankara, 29 May.
- 2008 “Competition over the Identities of Religious Sites among Turkish Muslims in Bulgaria,” Russian and East European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh, USA, 6 April.
- 2008 “Competition over the identities of religious sites among Turkish Muslims in Bulgaria,” Sofia University Ethnography Institute, Sofia, Bulgaria, 21 November.
- 2008 “Nature Cannot Leave an Empty Space: Alevi and Sunni Turks of Bulgaria,” Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Ethnology Institute, Sofia, Bulgaria, 25 November.

Conference Organization

- 2014 Member of Organization and Scientific Examination Committee, Symposium on Women in Contemporary Media in Terms of Labor and Representation, METU NCC, 8-9 May.
- 2013 Member of Committee, “The Study on the Solution of Cyprus Question,” METU NCC, Mediterranean Studies, 28-29 March.

Membership to Scientific Communities

- 2020- International Studies Association
 2020- European Association of Anthropologists
 2015- Young Science Academy (Young BAGEP)
 2006- American Anthropology Association

Thesis Advisership

- 2022 Falay, Kübra Nur (2022) “Reading Friday Sermons as Pragmatic Politics: Sermons in Turkey in 2016-2022” Unpublished MA thesis, Political Science and International Relations, METU NCC, Güzelyurt, TRNC.
- 2022 Gökler, Nagehan (2022) “Violence and LGBTIQ+ in Turkey: From Latent Violence to Manifest Violence with Double Arm,” Unpublished MA thesis, Political Science and International Relations, METU NCC, Güzelyurt, TRNC.
- 2019 Khadija Saleh Timami (2019) “What’s in a Label? An Analysis of the Impact of Labelling on the Experiences of Somalian ‘Refugees’ in Kenya,” Unpublished MA thesis, Political Science and International Relations, METU NCC, Güzelyurt, TRNC.
- 2017 Onurhan Pehlivanoglu (2017) “The Role of the State and Ukrainian Political Elites in the Resurrection of Ethnic Conflicts: Euro-Maidan and Civil War in Post-Soviet Ukraine,” Unpublished MA thesis, Political Science and International Relations, METU NCC, Güzelyurt, TRNC.
- 2015 Oya Gürcüoğlu (2015) “An Analysis of Hatay Arab Alevis’ Accounts of Their Relations with Syrian Refugees in Hatay After Syrian Crisis in 2012,” Unpublished MA thesis, Political Science and International Relations, METU NCC, Güzelyurt, TRNC.

TEACHING

Courses

The List of Offered Courses

2024-	TED University, Sociology SOC 224 Social Anthropology SOC 303 Urban Sociology TED University, Migration Studies MIGS Globalization, Multiculturalism and Migration	
2012-2043	METU NCC, Political Science and International Relations SOCL 109 Introduction to Sociology and Politics SOCL 134 Social Anthropology PSIR 101 Introduction to Sociology and Politics PSIR 214 War and Peace Studies PSIR 218 Political Sociology PSIR 308 Gender and Politics PSIR 309 Research Methods in Political Science PSIR 311 Nations and Nationalism PSIR 400 Graduation Project PSIR 500 Thesis Seminar PSIR 505 Research Methods in Social and Political Sciences	
2004-2012	University of Pittsburgh, Anthropology Anthropology of Food (Teaching Fellow) Cultural Anthropology (Teaching Assistant)	Summer 2007, 2011, 2012 Fall 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, Spring 2004, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011

SERVICE

Administrative Duties

Unit Director 22.10.2021-1.10.2023	METU NCC	METU NCC Disability Services Unit
Program Coordinator Relations 20.9.2019-2.9.2024	METU NCC	Political Science and International
Committee Member 29.9.2019-2.9.2024	METU NCC	Social Sciences Academic Board
Committee Member 29.9.2019-2.9.2024	METU NCC	Graduate Studies Academic Board
Committee Member 17.1.2018-2.9.2024	METU NCC	Gender Equality and Prevention of Sexual Harassment Committee
Committee Member 2.11.2018-2.9.2024	METU NCC	Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Committee
Committee Member 17.6.2016-1.9.2016	METU NCC	Equality, Diversity and Dignity Committee

Advisor to Student Societies

2016-2018	TEDx Society in METU NCC
2013-2014	Archery Society

Other Activities

Competitions

21-23 October 2022

“Open Design Challenge of Digital Anthropology”: 72-Hour Hackathon
UNESCO and Liiv Center (<https://liivcenter.org/design-challenge/>)
Project: “Triangle of Discrimination: Triangle of Intervention”
Rank: 3

Certificates

7.5.2024

“Ethics of Artificial Intelligence” Gözlemevi

24.08.2022

“Create High-Fidelity Designs and Prototypes in Figma,” Google UX Design

31. 07. 2022

“Conduct UX Research and Test Early Concepts,” Google UX Design

23.07.2022

“Build Wireframes and Low-Fidelity Prototypes,” Google UX Design

10.7.2022

“Start the UX Design Process: Empathize, Define, and Ideate” Google UX Design

18.05.2022

“Foundations of UX Design,” Google UX Design

18.05.2022

Editorial Lessons,” METU Ankara, Continuous Education Center, Certificate

Program

Languages

Turkish

Native Language

English

Fluent

Russian

Beginner

Bulgarian

Beginner