

Workshop

Mosque Politics: Re-Mapping Turkish Power and Religious Policies in the Western Balkans



Date: 13 June 2025

Conference Venue: Orient-Institut, Şahkulu Mah., Galip Dede Cad. No. 65, 34421 Beyoğlu–İstanbul

Conference committee:

Prof. Dr. Christoph K. Neumann, Director, Orient-Institut Istanbul (OII)

Prof. Dr. Kerem Öktem, Orient-Institut Istanbul and Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Conference Language: English

10:00 – 10:15

Welcome

Christoph Neumann, Director, OII, Istanbul

Christian Hagemann, Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

10:15 – 11:00

Introduction: Mosques, imperial frames, religious infrastructures

Kerem Öktem, Orient Institut and Ca' Foscari University of Venice

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break

11.30 – 13:15

Panel I: Framing Turkish policies in the Balkans and Beyond

Elif Becan, Université Libre de Bruxelles: *Beyond Neo-Imperial Narratives: Rethinking Turkish Influence and Expansion Strategies in the Western Balkans*

Erdi Öztürk, London Metropolitan University: *Transnationalizing Turkish Islam: The Strategic Use of Religion in Foreign Policy*

Lura Pollozhani, University of Graz: *Rebranding Turkey from soft to economic power and security provider*

13:15 – 14:30

Lunch

Keynotes

14:30 – 15:30

Nathalie Clayer, EHESS and CETOBAC: *Studying the Construction of Mosques (stakes, actors, spaces and materialities): the example of (Interwar) Albania*

15:30 – 16.30

Rebecca Bryant, University of Utrecht: *Imperial Infrastructural approaches*

16:30 – 17:00

Coffee break

17.00 – 19.00

Panel II: Policies, impacts, reactions

Amir Duranović, University of Sarajevo: *Building and restoring mosques in Bosnia: The Turkish case*

Ivo Strahilov, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski: *Turkey's involvement in heritage-making in Bulgaria and beyond - Preliminary observations* (Online intervention)

Chiara Maritato, University of Turin: *Turkey's transnational religious actors and women's presence in Balkan mosques*

László Szerencsés, Stockholm University Institute of Turkish Studies: *Inclusion and Exclusion of Islamic Communities: Turkey's Failed Co-optation of the Muslim Elites of Serbia*

19:00 – 19:30

Concluding Panel: Moving beyond Neo-Ottomanism?

20:15 – 23:00

Dinner

End of the Conference

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