

## **Entangled Histories of Sexual Modernity: Transfer, Translation and Adaptation of Sexual Discourses in the Late Ottoman Empire and the Early Turkish Republic, 1850-1950**

The research project entitled "Entangled Histories of Sexual Modernity: Transfer, Translation and Adaptation of Sexual Discourses in the Late Ottoman Empire and the Early Turkish Republic, 1850-1950" focuses on the transfer, translation and negotiation of modern sexual knowledge during the Ottoman Turkish modernization process. It is concerned with the shared epistemologies of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries informed by modern medical-scientific discourses of sexology. Around the turn of the century, numerous texts emerged in the Turkish-speaking Ottoman Empire that addressed sexuality within a scientific framework. By translating the vocabulary of European sexology, these texts clashed different regimes of gender and sexuality that made erotic desire, sexual acts, and subjectivities intelligible. During the same period, themes, tropes, and figures of decadence, degeneracy, and sexual purity that marked the boundaries of sexual and racial otherness were also circulating across borders. These common themes, tropes, and figures function as nodes of the entangled histories of modern sexualities in which meanings of racialized sexual otherness are interwoven. Employing an intertextual and interdiscursive methodology, this research focuses on the interrelationships between medico-legal discourses of normality and pathology and literary narratives of degeneracy, decadence, and purity. Drawing on a variety of sources, I interrogate how these concepts and narratives constructed incoherent discourses of modern sexuality.