

NORTH-BY-NORTH TURKISH STUDIES READING GROUP 2016-2017: IPLAI READING GROUP PITCH

OBJECTIVE: The North-by-North Turkish Studies Reading Group will provide a space for critical, interdisciplinary discussion about contemporary Turkey. Over the course of the 2016-2017 academic year we will meet bimonthly. Each session will be devoted to discussion of a recent book on Turkey. Texts will range from works of academic scholarship, manuscripts in progress, recent translations of 20th-century Turkish literature into English, as well as long-form journalistic accounts of the country. Group leaders will help participants access copies of the texts and participants will be encouraged to try to read the whole text prior to the scheduled meetings. While the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill is world renowned and there are numerous faculty and graduate students working on the Middle East in some capacity at the university, there are relatively few spaces where Montreal-based scholars, journalists, writers, and documentary film-makers working on contemporary Turkey can gather together in the city. Our group will provide a place on campus where people with both professional and personal interests in Turkey can gather and will also serve as bridge to connect McGill academics to people working on and interested in Turkey in Montreal more broadly. Given Turkey's geopolitical importance and recent events in the country that have propelled it into daily headlines, the group this year is particularly topical. The group will also be able to build upon its work last year, when its meetings were sponsored in part by the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill.

GROUPS LEADERS: The group will be organized and led by Kate Elizabeth Creasey, Timur Hammond, and Ipek Tureli. Kate develops factual television series for American and Canadian cable networks at CMJ Productions II in Montreal. She is also a PhD student in modern Middle Eastern history at UCLA. She is currently writing a cultural history of military rule in 1980s Turkey. Timur Hammond recently received his PhD in geography from UCLA. Currently, he is an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Vermont and is working on a manuscript about the transformation of the Eyup district of Istanbul. Ipek Tureli is an assistant professor in the School of Architecture at McGill. She has published on architecture and urban space in Istanbul.

CONTACT INFO FOR GROUP LEADERS:

Kate Elizabeth Creasey: kcreasey@ucla.edu

Timur Hammond: Timur.Hammond@uvm.edu

Ipek Tureli: ipek.tureli@mcgill.ca

REQUESTED MEETINGS DATES AND TIME & PROVISIONAL TEXT OUTLINE:

Date: Friday, October 28, 2016 Time: 2-4pm

Lerna Ekmekcioglu, *Recovering Armenia: The Limits of Belonging in Post-Genocide Turkey* (Redwood City, CA: Stanford University Press, 2016).

Date: Friday, December 9, 2016 Time: 2-4pm

Timur Hammond, *Matters of Belief: Islamic Place Making in 20th Century* (Manuscript in Progress).

Date: Friday, January 20, 2016 Time: 2-4pm

Ece Temelkuran, *Turkey: The Insane and Melancholy* (London: Zed Books, 2016).

Date: Friday, March 17, 2016 Time: 2-4pm

Stefan Ihrig, *Ataturk in the Nazi Imagination* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap, 2014).

Date: Friday, May 12, 2016 Time: 2-4pm

Sevgi Soysal, *Noontime in Yenişehir* (London: Milet Publishing, 2016).