

BANU KAYIR

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EDUCATION

PhD, University of Chicago, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (2022–)
Coursework completed; comprehensive exams pending (Fall–Winter 2025)

MA, University of British Columbia, History (2018–2021)
Faustian Bargain: How the Academics in Turkey Dealt with University Purges, 1960s–1980s
Supervisor: Alexei Kojevnikov
Focus: States of Emergency, Politics of Displacement, Intellectual Freedom

MA, Bogazici University, Modern Turkish History (2015–2017)
In Pursuit of Answers to Difficult Questions: A Long Story Narrated by Two Journals of the Jewish Community
Supervisor: Asim Karaomerlioglu
Focus: Nationalism, Survival Mechanisms of Minorities, Sephardic Community

BA, Ankara University, Spanish Language and Literature (2009–2014)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Transimperial encounters among Ottoman, Persian, and Russian Muslim intellectuals and their efforts to translate and indigenize modern political notions such as anarchism and nihilism.

AWARDS

University of British Columbia
Faculty of Arts Graduate Award (2018–2020)
International Tuition Award (2018–2020)
Summer Research and Writing Fellowship (2019)

PRESENTATIONS

Middle East History and Theory Workshop, University of Chicago (Feb 20, 2025)
Boundless Mercy vs. Defined Justice: The Political Undercurrents of the Theological Clash Between Mûsa Cârullah Bigi and Ottoman Shaykh al-Islam Mustafa Sabri Efendi

2nd Early Career Scholars Conference, Athens (Sep 2021)
Curbing Academic Freedoms: New Strategies

STS Graduate Colloquium, University of British Columbia (Apr 2019)

Academic Purges in Turkey: Establishing an Anti-Democratic Tradition

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago (Fall 2024)
Islamicate Civilizations I — with Prof. Cecilia Palombo

Teaching Assistant, University of British Columbia, Department of History (2018–2020)
World History from the 16th to 20th Century, European History 1900–1950, Islamic World History

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Online Cultural and Historical Research Environment (OCHRE), University of Chicago (2023)

Translator, *Recovering the Past: The Pioneers of Anatolian Archaeology*, EU–Turkey Anatolian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Project (2021)

LANGUAGES

Turkish, Ottoman Turkish, English, Spanish; Russian (reading), Persian (reading)
