**Curriculum Vitae**

**Rıza Yıldırım**

Assistant Professor

Department of History

TOBB University of Economics and Technology

Ankara, Turkey

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Work experience

**2010 – .... :** Assistant Professor, Vice-chair of History Department, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara.

**2009 - 2010:** Assistant Professor, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara.

**2007 – 2009:** Post-doctoral Research Scholar, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University,

Project: “Scriptualization of Oral Knowledge: The Sacred Texts of the Qizilbash/Alevi Community in Turkey (the *Buyruq*)”

Education

**2008** Ph. D., History, Bilkent University, Ankara

* Thesis title: “Turkomans between Two Empires: The Origins of the Qizilbash Identity in Anatolia (1447-1514)”
* Thesis supervising committee: Halil İnalcık, Ahmet Yaşar Ocak, Oktay Özel (also studied with Stanford Shaw).
* CGPA: 3.89 (out of 4.00).

**2001** M. A., History, Bilkent University, Ankara

* Thesis title: “*Dervishe*sin Early Ottoman Society and Politics: a Study of *Velayetname*s as a Source for History.”
* Thesis supervisor: Dr. Oktay Özel.
* CGPA: 3.96 (out of 4.00).

**1998:** B. S., Physics, Bilkent University, Ankara.

Publications

* “Shi’itization of the Futuwwa Tradition in the Fifteenth Century”, submitted to *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, (expected to be published in the late Summer of 2012)
* “An Ottoman Prince Wearing Qizilbash *Tāj*: The Enigmatic Career of Sultan Murad and the Qizilbash Affairs in the Ottoman Domestic Politics, 1510-1513”, *Turcica* 43 (2011): 91-119.
* “‘Heresy’ as a Voice of Tribal Protest against Bureaucratic State: The Bektashi Case of Seyyid Rustem Gazi in the Ottoman Rumelia”, *Bulgarian Historical Review* 3-4 (2011), (to be published in the 2012 Spring)
* “Inventing a Sufi Tradition: The Use of the Futuwwa Ritual Gathering as a Model for the Qizilbash *Djem*”, in *Sufism and Society: Arrangements of the Mystical in the Muslim World, 1200-1800*, edited by John Curry and Erik S. Ohlander (New York: Routledge, 2011: 164-82.
* “History Beneath Clouds of Legend: Seyyid Ali Sultan and his Place in Early Ottoman History according to Legends, Narratives, and Archival Evidence”, *International Journal of Turkish Studies* 15/ 1-2 (2009): 21-62.
* “Dervishes, Waqfs and Conquest: Notes on Early Ottoman Expansion in Thrace”, *Held in Trust: Waqf in the Islamic World*, ed. Pascale Ghazaleh (Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2011): 23-40.
* “Ritual as a Microcosm of Society: The *‘Ayn-i Cem* of Alevi”, *Innovation in Alevi Ritual: Reconstruction and Transmission of Ritual Knowledge Within Turkish Alevi Communities from the 16th to the 21st Century*, ed. Janina Karolewski, Robert Langer ve Michael Ursinus, Heidelberger Studien zur Geschichte und Kultur des modernen Vorderen Orients (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, Europäischer Verlag der Wissenschaften, 2012) (forthcoming)
* *Seyyid Ali Sultan (Kızıldeli) ve Velâyetnâmesi*, Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 2007. (Winner of Science encouragement award by Turkish Historical Society 2011)
* *Bektâşi Erkânnâmesi*, İstanbul: Horasan Yayınları, 2006. (co-authored with Dursun Gümüşoğlu)
* “Abdallar, Akıncılar, Bektaşîlik ve Ehl-i Beyt Sevgisi: Yemînî’nin Muhiti ve Meşrebi Üzerine Notlar”, *Belleten* LXXV/272 (2011): 51-85. (“Abdals, Akinjis, Bektashism, and the Love for the House of Muhammad: Notes on Yemini’s Environment and Faith”)
* “Efsanede Gizli Gerçek: Bir Tarih Kaynağı Olarak Seyyid Ali Sultan Velâyetnâmesi”, *Tarih ve Toplum: Yeni Yaklaşımlar*, 6 (2008), 1-43. (“The Truth Concealed in the Legend: The Hagiography of Seyyid Ali Sultan as a Source for History”)
* “Hacı Bektaş Veli ve İlk Osmanlılar: Aşıkpaşazâde’ye Eleştirel Bir Bakış”, *Türk Kültürü ve Hacı Bektaş Veli Araştırma Dergisi* 51 (2009), 107-146. (“Haci Bektas Veli and Early Ottomans: A Critical Approach to Ashikpashazade’s Account”)
* “Bektaşi-Alevi Geleneğine Göre Seyyid Ali Sultan”, *Türk Kültürü ve Hacı Bektaş Veli Araştırma Dergisi* 53 (2010): 59-87. (“Seyyid Ali Sultan According to the Bektashi-Alevi Tradition”)
* “Muhabbetten Tarikata: Bektaşî Tarikatı’nın Oluşum Sürecinde Kızıldeli’nin Rolü”, *Türk Kültürü ve Hacı Bektaş Veli Araştırma Dergisi* 53 (2010): 153-190. (“From Banquet to Order: The Role of Kizildeli in the Formation of the Bektashi Order”)
* “Bektaşi Kime Derler?: ‘Bektaşi’ Kavramının Kapsamı ve Sınırları Üzerine Tarihsel bir Analiz Denemesi”, *Türk Kültürü ve Hacı Bektaş Veli Araştırma Dergisi* 55 (2010): 23-58. (“Who is Called ‘Bektashi’?: A Historical Analysis on the Content and Boundaries of the Term”)

Awards and Scholarships

* **2011:** Turkish Historical Society 80th Anniversary Science Encouragement Award (with *Seyyid Ali Sultan (Kızıldeli) ve Velâyetnâmesi*)
* **2008-2009**: Post-doctoral Research Fellowship by the Turkish Cultural Foundation, New York.
* **2005-2006:** Residential research fellowship in the Anatolian Civilizations Institute (Koç University, Istanbul) with the project title: “Investigating *Qizilbash* Identity through Ottoman and *Alevi-Bektashi* sources: A Comparative Analysis”
* **1998-2005:** Bilkent University “Graduate Study Honor Scholarship,” which covers full tuition and monthly stipend.
* **1992-1998:** Bilkent University full tuition, housing and monthly scholarship during B.S. studies.
* **1992-1996:** TUBITAK (The Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Institute) Scholarship.
* **1992, June:** Ranked 281th nationwide in the Turkish Central University Placement exam (ÖYS) (out of approximately 1.2 million examinees)

Language Skills

**Turkish:** Native.

**English:** Fluent

**Ottoman Turkish (Paleography):** Very good in reading skills. Able to work with many types of Ottoman documents, including *fermān*, *berāt*, *mühīmme*, *sicil* registers, and *fetvā*s.

**Persian**: Good, reading classical texts.

**French:** Good reading skill.

**German:** Intermediate.

**Arabic:** Intermediate.

Invited Talks/Lectures

**October 23, 2011:**“Inventing a Sufi Tradition: Fütüvvet Ritual Gathering as a Model for the Kızılbaş Cem”, Orient-Institut, İstanbul. (Within the lecture series *Islam in Anatolia through Ages*)

**December 2, 2008:** “Turkey’s Alevi Enigma: A Historical Perspective”, presented at Colombia University within the *Religion and Politics Lecture Series* organized by Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, an Religion at Colombia University, New York.

**May 21, 2008:** “Ritual as a Microcosm of Society: *‘Ayn-i Cem* of Alevi”, presented at Harvard University within the series *Seminars on Modern Turkey* organized by Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, Cambridge.

**April 27, 2006:** “Observing some early symptoms of socio-religious protest in the Ottoman Empire: A Case Study on the *Velâyetnâme of Seyyid Ali Sultan*”, presented at the Anatolian Civilizations Institute of Koç University, Istanbul.

**May 5, 2005:** “Mystic leaders in the Early Ottoman Conquests in Thrace”, presented at Sabancı University, Istanbul.

Selected Seminars/ Workshops

**July 12, 2011:**“Divan of Sadık Abdal: An Unknown Source for the Religious History of the Fifteenth Century Ottoman Balkans”, 12th International Congress of Ottoman Social and Economic History (ICOSEH), 11-15 July 2011, Retz (Lower Austria).

**November 24, 2009:** “Notes on the Qizilbash Sacred Texts, the Buyruq”, presented at MESA Annual Meeting, Boston, USA.

**October 30, 2007:** “*‘Ayn-i Cem* in the Traditional Alevi Society: The Ritual as a Microcosm of the Society and its Dialogue with the Text”, presented in *Reception Processes of Alevi Ritual Practice between Innovation and Reconstruction*, October 30-31, 2007, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg. (The proceedings of the conference will be published.)

**September 12, 2007:** “Akhi Legacy in the Qizilbash Movement”, presented in *ESCAS (European Society for Central Asian Studies) Tenth Conference: Central Asia, Sharing Experiences and Prospects*, September 12-15, 2007, Middle East Technical University, Ankara. (The proceedings of the conference will be published.)

**June 30 – July 13, 2007:** Participated as a fellow with full scholarship in the International Summer School in Istanbul with the title “State, Ethnos, Religion: the Legacy of Empire and the Nation-state” organized by International Summer School on Religion and Public Life (ISSRPL) and supported by some leading institutions among which are Boston University, Andover-Newton Theological School (USA), Bilgi University (Turkey), Rice University (USA), University of Verona (Italy), The American Jewish Committee (USA).

See [www.issrpl.org](http://www.issrpl.org/)

**May 8, 2006:** “Investigating Socio-Cultural Backgrounds of Qizilbash ‘Heresy’ in the Ottoman Empire”, in Archeology, Anthropology and Heritage in the Balkans and Anatolia: The Life and Works of F. W. Hasluck, 1878-1920. Second International Conference in University of Wales Gregynog, 6th-9th May 2006.

**March 19, 2005:** “The Role of Dervishes, Zaviyes and Waqfs in the Early Ottoman Expansion in Thrace: The Case of Seyyid Ali Sultan” in Annual History Seminar in the Department of Arabic Studies of The American University in Cairo with the title “The Uses of Waqf: Pious Endowments, founders, and beneficiaries”, in Cairo.

Fields of Interest

* Ottoman history, with a special reference to dissident religious groups, especially the Qizilbash and the Bektashi
* Safavid history with special reference to the emergence and development of the Qizilbash under the Safavid shaikhs and shahs.
* Ottoman-Safavid rivalry and the emergence of Qizilbash identity in this context.
* Orality-literacy, nomadism-settled life, tribalism-state organization in a comparative perspective.
* Popular culture and courtly-high culture with special reference to differentiation of the both from each other in the Ottoman history.
* Social (collective) memory as a conveyor of illiterate knowledge with special reference to the emergence and development of Qizilbash tradition, in connection with the *buyruq*, *velayetnâme,* and popular romance genres.
* Social, political, intellectual, and religious history of Qizilbash (*Alevi*) society.
* Interaction between environment, way of life, mentality, and forms of creed: anthropological approaches with special reference to the development of Qizilbash/Alevi faith in Turkey.
* Islamic Mysticism (*Tasavvuf*) with special reference to its echoes in lower strata of Ottoman society: Popular Sufism.
* Islamic history with special reference to the sectarian contest between Shi’a and Sunni Sects.
* History of ‘Divergent’ Religious Movements in the Islamic World.

Courses Offered

* Ottoman History I, 1300-1566
* Ottoman History II, 1566-1914
* Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire
* Ottoman Social Structure
* History of Islamic People I
* History of Islamic People I
* History of Civilizations
* History of Ancient Civilizations I
* History of Ancient Civilizations II
* European History I

References

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