

**BETÜL BAŞARAN, Ph.D.**  
**St. Mary's College of Maryland**

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**Narrative Biography**

Betül Başaran is Professor of Religious Studies at St. Mary's College of Maryland and specializes on the Islamic Middle East. Her primary area of expertise is the social, economic and legal history of the Ottoman Empire, and her courses contribute to the cross-disciplinary areas of Asian Studies, Women Gender and Sexuality Studies, History, and Religious Studies. She uses an integrated and comparative approach in her teaching, with an emphasis on cross-cultural encounters between the Muslim world, Europe and the Mediterranean. She is the author of *Selim III, social control and policing in Istanbul at the end of the eighteenth century: between crisis and order* and has published a number of book chapters on the artisans and population of Ottoman Istanbul. She has worked extensively in the Ottoman archives and taught Ottoman language at the University of Chicago and Georgetown University. Her work in progress includes a manuscript about Ottoman princesses Dürrüşehvar and Nilüfer, who were married to the princes of the ruling family of Hyderabad, India after the abolition of the Islamic caliphate in 1924.

In 2016, Dr. Başaran directed a four-week National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers at the Institute of Turkish Studies, Washington D.C. entitled "Transcending Boundaries: The Ottoman Empire, Europe and the Mediterranean World, 1500-1800". During the 2018-19 academic year, she was a fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. for her project tentatively titled "Cross-cultural Intimacy and Marriage between Foreigners and Ottoman Women in the Early Modern Era".

***Curriculum Vitae***

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
St. Mary's College of Maryland, 2019-

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
St. Mary's College of Maryland, 2011-2019

Visiting Professor of Ottoman History, Georgetown University, Fall 2015

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
St. Mary's College of Maryland, 2007- 2011

Instructor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies,  
St. Mary's College of Maryland, 2004 –2007

Instructor, University of Chicago, Center for Gender Studies, 2003

Instructor, University of Chicago, V. Graham School for General Studies, 2003

Instructor, University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2002

Instructor of Ottoman Turkish, University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2000-2003.

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., 2006

The University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations  
Dissertation title: “Remaking the Gate of Felicity: Migration, Social Control, and Policing in Istanbul at the End of the Eighteenth Century”

M.A. in Ottoman History, 1997

Bilkent University, Department of History, Ankara-Turkey

M. A. Thesis: “Reinterpreting American Missionary Presence in the Ottoman Empire: American Schools and the Evolution of Ottoman Education Policies (1820-1908).”

B.A. in International Relations, 1994

Bilkent University, Department of International Relations, Ankara-Turkey

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Folger Shakespeare Library, short-term fellow, in residence September-December 2018

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, Summer Seminar for College and University Professors, 2016 (Director) <http://grants.smcm.edu/neh-summer-seminar-2016/>

Mellon Service and Learning Grant, 2014-15 (community/student discussion groups at the Islamic Center of Lexington Park, MD)

Institute of Turkish Studies Sabbatical Grant, 2011-12

Faculty Development Grants, St. Mary's College of Maryland, 2005-2010, 2013-15, 2017-18

Lecture and Fine Arts Grants, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2010-2011

The Whiting Dissertation Year Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2005-2006

American Research Institute in Turkey, John Freely Fellow, 2003-2004

The University of Chicago, Turkish Studies Research Travel Grants, 2001-2002

**FIELDS OF EXPERTISE AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Ottoman social, economic and legal history (early-modern and modern periods)

Ottoman urban and labor history (early modern and modern periods)

Ottoman and Turkish language and literature

History of the Islamic Middle East

Mediterranean and European History (early modern and modern periods)

Women, family and gender in the Islamic Middle East

Modern Middle East

Turkish Political and Social History

Eighteenth-century Studies

Study of Islamic societies

**LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

Turkish: native fluency

Ottoman Turkish: advanced

Arabic: advanced-level reading proficiency

Persian: intermediary-level reading proficiency

French: intermediary-level reading proficiency

German: basic-level reading proficiency

**TEACHING:**

**Undergraduate:**

100 Freshman Seminars (on “Marriage/Family” and “Muslims in the United States”)

200 Women, Resistance, and Reform in the Middle East

200 Foundations of Islam

200 Introduction to Islamic Civilizations

300 Religion, Politics, and Modernity in the Muslim World

300 Islamic Empires in the Medieval and Early Modern Eras

300 Women, Gender, and Politics in the Muslim world

300 Democracy in the Muslim World

300 Marriage, Family, and Religious Values: A Comparative Perspective

300 Religious Studies Internship

300 Nitze Honors Seminar: Islamic *and/or* Secular? Changing Patterns of Leadership in the Muslim World: the case of Turkey

400 Senior St. Mary's Project Proseminar

**Graduate:**

Intro to Ottoman documents (University of Chicago)

Graduate seminar on Ottoman Paleography (University of Chicago)

Readings in Ottoman Turkish (Georgetown University)

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Monographs:**

*Between Crisis and Order: Selim III, Social Control and Policing in Istanbul at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century: Between Crisis and Order*, Leiden: Brill, 2014.

**Book Chapters:**

*Forthcoming* "Crime, Violence and Urban Policing" in Shirine Hamadeh and Çiğdem Kafescioğlu (eds.), *Early Modern Istanbul*, Brill Companions to European History, Leiden: Brill, expected date of publication 2019 (accepted for publication).

Betül Başaran and Cengiz Kırılı, "Some Observations on Istanbul's Artisans during the reign of Selim III (1789-1808)," in (ed.) Suraiya Faroqhi, *Bread from the Lion's Mouth: Artisans Struggling for a Livelihood in Ottoman Cities*, New York/Oxford: Berghann Books, 2015.

"18. Yüzyıl Sonlarında Osmanlı Esnafı (Ottoman Artisans during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century), co-authored with Cengiz Kırılı, in *Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyet'e Esnaf ve Ticaret (Artisans and Trade from the Ottoman Empire to the Republic)*, Fatmagül Demirel (ed.), Istanbul: Türk Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları, 2012.

“The 1829 Census and the Population of Istanbul during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries,” in *Studies on Istanbul and Beyond: The Freely Papers, Volume I*, ed. Robert G. Ousterhout, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum Publications, 2007.

#### **Published Conference Papers:**

“III. Selim ve İstanbul Şehir Siyaseti, 1789-1792 (Selim III and Urban Policies in Istanbul),” Proceedings of the International Conference on Urban Violence and Public Order in the Ottoman Empire, 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> centuries,” in Noémi Lévy, Alexandre Toumarkine (eds.), *Osmanlı'da Asayiş, Suç ve Ceza (Public Order, Crime, and Punishment in the Ottoman Empire)*, Istanbul: Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları, 2007.

“A Reinterpretation: American Schools and the Evolution of Ottoman Education Policies During the Hamidian Period (1876-1908),” *IRCICA, International Congress on Learning and Education in the Ottoman World, Istanbul-Turkey. Volume 2: papers in English*, prepared for publication by Ali Çaksu; preface by Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Istanbul: 2001.

“On Ottoman History Textbooks and Reform (1839-1918),” in *The Great Ottoman, Turkish Civilization, III: Philosophy, Science and Institutions*, Ankara: 2000, pp. 379-388.

#### **Encyclopedia entries:**

“Istanbul Kefalet ve Teftiş Defterleri/Surety and Inspection Registers of Istanbul”, in *Büyük İstanbul Tarihi*, Coşkun Yılmaz (ed), Istanbul: ISAM Yayınları, 2015

#### **SELECTED CONFERENCES, INVITED LECTURES AND SEMINARS**

“Cross-Cultural Intimacy and Marriage between Europeans and Ottoman Women in the Early Modern Era,” Folger Shakespeare Library, Material Witness Session, April 25, 2019

“[Ottoman Princess Brides: Princess Niloufer in Hyderabad and a Visual Journey of Exile](#)” Women’s History Month Events at the Library of Congress, African and Middle Eastern Division, March 12, 2019

“Cross-Cultural Intimacy and Marriage Between Europeans and Local Women in the Ottoman Empire”  
The Great Lakes Ottomanist Workshop (GLOW), University of Chicago March 30-31, 2018

“[Snapshots of Ottoman Women in Court Records](#),” Women’s History Month Events at the Library of Congress, African and Middle Eastern Division, March 13, 2018

Skilliter Centre conference on The Ottomans and Entertainment,  
Skilliter Centre for Ottomans Studies, University of Cambridge,  
June 29-July 2, 2016 (paper accepted, but did not attend due to NEH Seminar)

“Transcending Boundaries: The Ottoman Empire, Europe and the Mediterranean World, 1500-1800.” National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers, Institute of Turkish Studies, Washington D.C. Summer 2016

International Conference on Ottoman Studies I: Janissaries, May 25 2015  
“Janissaries and Artisans in late 18<sup>th</sup>-century Istanbul”  
with Dr. Cengiz Kırılı.

Appartenance locale et ses droits: les personnes et les choses, Journée d'études 13-14 décembre 2014, Institut Français d'études Anatoliennes (IFEA)  
“Some Observations on Istanbul's Artisans during the reign of Sultan Selim III (1789-1807)”  
with Dr. Cengiz Kırılı.

International Conference on Istanbul II, Istanbul 29 Mayıs University, Turkey, May 27-29, 2014  
Paper: “Social Fabric, Immigrants, and Order in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Ottoman Istanbul: An overview and update on the the last decade of research”

Workshop on Correspondence Analysis, Şehir University Center for Urban Studies, Istanbul, Summer 2012 (series of seminars on the application of Correspondence Analysis to Ottoman census studies)

“Justice in Ottoman Society: Institutions, Actors and Practices,” Institut Français d'études Anatoliennes (IFEA), 6-7 January, 2012-- Workshop participant

“Osmanlı Toplumunda Yerel Aidiyetin Sınırları Semineri (Seminar on the Formation of Local Identities in Ottoman Society),” Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes (IFEA), December 13, 2011

Paper: “Nizam-ı Teftiş-i İstanbul: Sultan III. Selim döneminde İstanbul'un asayışı ve kefalet defterleri (Regulations for the Inspection of İstanbul: The Registers of Sultan Selim III).

Working in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey: Ottoman and Turkish Labor History within a Global Perspective, İstanbul Bilgi University, November 18-20, 2011

Paper: “Sultan Selim III and Artisans of İstanbul at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century,” co-authored by Cengiz Kırılı (Boğaziçi University)

Eighteenth-Century Crossroads in Ottoman Studies Workshop: Negotiating Communal, State, and Moral Boundaries, Central European University, Budapest May 26-28, 2011

Panel: Urban Renewal, Commerce, and Trans-regional Networks of Cultural and Political Activism

WOCMES 2010 (The World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies)  
Barcelona, July 19-24<sup>th</sup>

Panel Organizer: “City and Society in İstanbul 'Between Old and New', 1789-1807”

MESA 2009, Nov. 21-24, Boston

Panel Organizer: “The Ottoman *Mahalle* (neighborhood) in Court Records, 17-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.” Panel I: İstanbul, Panel II: Provinces

Paper: “*Unidentified City Dwellers and Public Order in İstanbul Neighborhoods at the End of the 18th Century*”

MESA 2008, Nov. 22-25, Washington D.C.

Panel Title: Early modern Istanbul reconsidered: communication, urban space, and knowledge

Paper Title: Immigrants as Part of the Social Fabric and Urban Space in Istanbul

Eleventh International Congress of Social and Economic History of Turkey, IAOSSEH  
(*International Association of Ottoman Social and Economic History*)

Bilkent University (Ankara), 17-22 June, 2008

Panel Title: Immigration, Settlement, and Identity

Paper Title: Population Control in early-modern Istanbul

Taft Seminar Lecture on Popular Cultures, May 1, 2008

Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati,

“Migrants, Janissaries, and Coffeehouses in 18<sup>th</sup> century Istanbul”

MESA 2007, Nov. 17-20, Montreal

Panel Title: Competing Discourses of Justice and Violence in the Ottoman Empire in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries

Paper Title: “Public Order and Immigrants in Istanbul at the end of the Eighteenth century”

Faculty Seminar, Spring 2007, St. Mary’s College of Maryland

“Women in Islamic Court Records in Ottoman Istanbul at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century”

MESA 2006, Nov. 18-21, Boston

Panel Organizer: “Urban Violence and Public Order in the Ottoman Empire, 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Centuries”

Paper Title: “We Have No Security”: Petitions for Expulsions from Istanbul Neighborhoods at the End of the Eighteenth Century

International Conference on Urban Violence and Public Order in the Ottoman Empire, 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> centuries,” Bosphorus University, Istanbul, Dec. 2-4, 2005

“Selim III and the *Kefalet* Registers of 1791-93 in Istanbul”

MESA 2005, November 19-22, Washington D.C.

“Policing Istanbul at the End of the Eighteenth Century: Selim III and his Urban Policies”

Middle East History and Theory Conference at the University of Chicago, May 13-14, 2005

“Selim III (r. 1789-1807) and Istanbul at the end of the Eighteenth Century”

