Harun Küçük

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Associate Professor

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Education

2012 University of California, San Diego — Ph.D. History and Science Studies

2005 Sabancı University, Istanbul — M.A. History

2003 St. John’s College, Annapolis, MD — B.A. Liberal Arts

Professional Appointments

2021- Director, Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania

2020- Associate Professor with Tenure, Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania

2022 Fall Visiting Faculty, Sabanci University

2014-2020 Assistant Professor, Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania

2013-2014 Postdoctoral Fellow - Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (Department II)

Publications – Book

*Science without Leisure: Practical Naturalism in Istanbul, 1660-1732* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019) [Turkish translation forthcoming from Telemak Press]

Publications – Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2020 “The Bureaucratic Sense of the Forthcoming in Seventeenth-Century Istanbul,” *Journal for the History of Knowledge,* 1/1: [13] 1-16.

2018 “Arabic into Turkish in the Seventeenth Century,” *Isis*, 109/2: 320-325.

2017 “Early Modern Ottoman Science: A New Materialist Framework,” *Journal of Early Modern History,* 21/5: 407-419.

2016 “Darnton’s Cats, Bacon’s Rifle, and History of Science 101,” *Isis,* 107/4: 793-795.

2015 “Science Studies and Early Modern Ottoman Science,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies,* 47/3: 584-587.

2013 “Natural Philosophy and Politics in the Eighteenth Century: Esad of Ioannina and Greek Aristotelianism at the Ottoman Court,” *Journal of Ottoman Studies*, 41: 125-159.

Publications – Book Chapters

Forthcoming, with Aleksandar Shopov “Technology in the Ottoman Empire: Practices, Materials, Mobilities,” in Dagmar Schaefer, Francesca Bray, Matteo Valleriani and Tiago Saraiva, eds. *Cambridge History of Technology,* vol.1

2021 “Science and Technology,” in Çiğdem Kafesçioğlu and Shirine Hamadeh, eds. *Brill   
Companion to Early Modern Istanbul.* Leiden: Brill; pp. 607-633.

2020 “Emulating Petrine Russia: Thick Mechanicism and the *Foundations of Government* in Istanbul after the Rebellion of 1730,” in Dimitris Stamatopoulos, ed. *European Revolutions and the Ottoman Balkans*. London: I.B. Tauris; pp. 19-36.

2017 “Ibrahim Müteferrika’s Copernican Rhetoric,” in Sietske Fransen and Niall Hodson, eds. *Intersections: Translation and the Circulation of Knowledge in Early Modern Science.* Leiden: Brill; pp. 258-285.

2016 “New Medicine and the *Hikmet-i Tabiyye* Problematic in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul,” in Tzvi Langermann and Robert Morrison, eds. *Texts in Transit in the Medieval Mediterranean.* Pennsylvania State University Press; pp. 222-242.

2011 “Islam, Christianity and the Conflict Thesis,” in Geoffrey Cantor, Thomas Dixon and Stephen Pumfrey, eds. *Science and Religion: New Historical Perspectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; pp. 111-130.

Publications – Encyclopedia Entries

2015 “Science in Ottoman Turkish,” *Encyclopaedia of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures.* 3rd ed. Dordrecht: Springer; pp.3901-3903.

2014 “Impact of the Scientific Revolution and Western Science." In The Oxford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Science, and Technology in Islam. : Oxford University Press, 2014. http:// [proxy.library.upenn.edu:2688/view/10.1093/acref:oiso/9780199812578.001.0001/](http://proxy.library.upenn.edu:2688/view/10.1093/acref:oiso/9780199812578.001.0001/) acref-9780199812578-e-108.

2017 “Hüseyin Hezarfen Efendi,” *Encyclopaedia of Islam, Three*

Publications - Book Reviews

2019 Review of “Miri Shefer-Mossensohn, Science among the Ottomans: Cultural Creation and Exchange of Knowledge. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2015.” In *Turkish Historical Review* 10/1

2018 Review of “Ali Yaycıoğlu. Partners of the Empire: The Crisis of the Ottoman Order in the Age of Revolutions. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2016” *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review,* 9/2

2016 Review of “Nükhet Varlık. Plague and Empire in the Early Modern Mediterranean World: The Ottoman Experience, 1347–1600. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015,” *Early Science and Medicine,* 21/4

2014Review of “Marwa Elshakry. Reading Darwin in Arabic, 1860-1950. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013,” *Science,* 344/6179.

2014 Review of “Gülhan Balsoy. Politics of Reproduction in Ottoman Society, 1838-1900. London: Pickering & Chatto, 2013,” *Isis,* 105/3.

2012 Review of “Avner Ben-Zaken. Cross-Cultural Scientific Exchanges in the Eastern Mediterranean, 1560-1660. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010,” *Isis*, 130/1.

2011 Essay Review of “Aziz al-Azmeh. The Times of History: Universal Topics in Islamic Historiography. Budapest: CEU Press, 2007,” *History of the Human Sciences,* 24.

2008 Review of "Arnold Reisman. Turkey's Modernization: Refugees from Nazism and Atatürk's Vision. Washington, DC: New Academia Press, 2006," *Isis,* 99/1.

Web Publications and Appearances

2022 “Inflation and Science in the Ottoman Empire” Free Economics Public Courses (in Turkish)

2020- History of Science Series, *Culture & History, Medyascope* (in Turkish)

2020 “Science in Early Modern Istanbul” *Ottoman History Podcast 456.* [www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/](http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/)

2018 “Medicine in Seventeenth-Century in Istanbul,” *Culture & History, Medyascope* (in Turkish) medyascope.tv <https://www.pscp.tv/Medyascopetv/1LyxBQmgqMjJN>

2017 “İbrahim Müteferrika’s World” *Culture & History, Medyascope* (in Turkish) medyascope.tv <https://www.pscp.tv/Medyascopetv/1dRKZAkdeVNxB>

2014 “Medicine as an Exact Science” *The Recipes Project.* [recipes.hypotheses.org](http://recipes.hypotheses.org/3318)

2013 “Enlightenment and the Ottoman World,” *Ottoman History Podcast 127.* [www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/](http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2013/10/enlightenment-ottoman-empire-intellectuals.html)

Awards and Prizes

2013 Chancellor’s Dissertation Medal for Arts & Humanities, UCSD (one awarded every two years)

Grants and Fellowships

2018- Third-Party-PI for European Commission for Research and Innovation, Consolidator Grant: *An Enchanted World, Ottoman Style: Exploring Magic, the Supernatural and the Strange in Ottoman Mentalities,* Host: Marinos Sariyannis, Director, Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH, Crete. [~1.5 million Euros]

2018-2019 University of Pennsylvania, Dean’s Global Inquiries Fund [with Oscar Aguirre-Mandujano]

2015 University Research Foundation Grant, University of Pennsylvania, July

2015 Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania Middle East Center, June-July

2012 Predoctoral Fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (Department II, Director: Lorraine Daston) January-June.

2011 Mellon Fellowship, University of Oklahoma, History of Science Collections, August-September.

2008-2011 Research Fellowship, University of California, San Diego, Science Studies Program.

2005-2009 Regents Fellowship, University of California, San Diego.

2009 Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship Council of European Studies, Columbia University.

Invited Talks and Workshop Presentations

2022 “‘If only he who condemns my religion were himself a Muslim’: The problem of belief in seventeenth-century Istanbul,” Destabilizing Religion in the Middle East Lecture Series, UPenn Religious Studies, March 2, Philadelphia, PA

2022 “Max Weber Failed to Consider the Ottoman Empire,” Towards Global Histories of Surveying Cultures, February 21-22, Berlin, Germany [Keynote Address]

2022 “Weberian Categories and Models of Ottoman Modernity,” Enchantments and Disenchantments: Early Modern Ottoman Visions of the World, January 14-17, Crete, Greece

2021 “Science in the Middle East,” Camden County College, October 19, Blackwood, NJ [Public Lecture]

2021 “Not Caring about Science & Religion,” UPenn Religious Studies Departmental Colloquium, October 7, Philadelphia, PA.

2021 “Islamic Science, Cultural Difference and Colonization,” Cambridge History and Philosophy of Science Departmental Seminar, 13 May, Cambridge, UK.

2020 Invited book talks and Q&As at British Society for the History of Science Science Festival, CHSTM, Istanbul Medeniyet University, FSMVU Istanbul, Istanbul 29 Mayıs University, Sabancı University

2019 “Science without Leisure,” HTC Forum, 19 November, MIT, Cambridge, MA.

2019 “On the Material Conditions of Idealism: A Few Remarks on the Possibility of Science,” Current Trends in the History of Science in Muslim Societies: Debates, Approaches, and Stakes, December 11-12, NYU Abu Dhabi Institute, New York.

2019 “The power of prayer in early eighteenth-century Ottoman chronicles,” Nature and the Supernatural in Ottoman culture, December 14-15, Istanbul.

2019 “From Scholars to Bureaucrats, Physicians and Engineers: Some Remarks on the Social Transformation of Knowledge in the Ottoman Empire,” 1st Mid-Atlantic Ottoman Studies Workshop, 30 March, Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD [Keynote address].

2019 “Leisure in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul,” [with Walter Feldman] NYU Abu Dhabi Institute/Kevorkian Center, 29 January, New York [Public lecture].

2019 “Science without Leisure” Tarih Vakfı Ankara Tartışmaları, 4 January, Ankara (in Turkish) [Public lecture].

2018 “What Istanbul Can Tell Us about Seventeenth-Century Science,” Ottoman-Turkish Studies Seminar, 26 October, Columbia University, New York.

2018 “Histories of Ottoman Culture and Science: New Sources, New Approaches,” [with Hakan Karateke and A. Tunç Şen] 10 July, Columbia Global Centers, Istanbul (in Turkish) [Public panel].

2018 “Ibrahim Müteferrika, Mechanic and Cartesian,” A Locally Generated Modernity: Ottoman Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century, 19-21 February (20 Feb), NYU Abu Dhabi.

2018 “After the Crisis of the Seventeenth Century: Science, Philosophy and Leisure in the Eighteenth Century,” A Locally Generated Modernity: Ottoman Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century, 19-21 February (19 Feb), NYU Abu Dhabi.

2018 “Leisureless Science,” Science Studies Colloquium, 5 February, University of California, San Diego.

2017 “A Late Seventeenth-Century Turkish Translation of Ibn al-Baitar’s Pharmacopeia,” Translating Medicine in the Pre-Modern World: Materials, Images, Texts, 7-8 July, Wellcome Trust & Library, London.

2017 “Copernicus for Tax Collectors? Astronomy and the Making of the Ottoman Fiscal Calendar” *‘Ilm wa ‘Amal:* Theory and Practice in Medieval and Early-Modern Islamic Science Cultures, Stanford University, 12-13 April, Stanford, CA.

2017 “Ibrahim Müteferrika’s Copernican Rhetoric,” MAP Lecture Series, Philosophy Department, April 11, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

2017 “Ali Münşi (d.1750) and American Exotica” Consumers of the Exotic, 5-6 April, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

2017 “European Medical Authorities in Ottoman Texts,” Medicine, Environment and Health in the Eastern Mediterranean World, 1400-1750, 3-4 April, Christ’s College, University of Cambridge,Cambridge UK.

2016 “The Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Prayer Compass,” UCLA History of Science Colloquium, October 24, Los Angeles, CA.

2016 “Early Modern Ottoman Science: A New Materialist Interpretation,” Beyond the Scientific Revolution Workshop, University of Minnesota, October 20-21, Minneapolis, MN.

2016 “The Entangled Enlightenment of the Ottoman Empire,” Intertwined Enlightenments? Studies of Science and Empire in the Habsburg, Ottoman and Russian Realms during the Eighteenth Century, 19-20 May, Institute for Advanced Study, CEU, Budapest, Hungary.

2016 “Hypochondria in Seventeenth-Century Istanbul: Hayatizade’s Quintet of Modern Diseases in Context,” Ottoman Studies Lecture Series, April 14, NYU, New York, NY.

2016 “Fleeing the Inquisition: European Refugees in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul,” Annual Dean’s Lecture, Montgomery County Community College, April 12, Blue Bell, PA [Public lecture, sponsored by Penn MEC].

2016 “Natural Philosophy and New Medicine in the Eighteenth Century,” Medicine and Knowledge in the Middle East, April 1, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY.

2015 “Petros Baronyan’s Qibla Compass (1738): A Brief History of Magnetism in the Ottoman Empire,” Colloquium of the Department of History of Science and Technology, Nov 5, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.

2015 “Hypochondria in Early Modern Istanbul,” The Iago Galdston Lecture, Oct 8, New York Academy of Medicine, New York, NY [Public lecture].

2015 “Science and Philosophy in Istanbul, 1650-1750,” Summer Wednesday Night Lectures, July 22, St. John’s College, Annapolis, MD [Public lecture].

2015 “Come to Convert, Stay to Experiment: Johann Friedrich Bachstrom and the Magnetic Compass in the Ottoman Empire, 1728-1732,” New Sources for the Global History of Science, 8-9 May, Columbia University, New York, NY.

2014 “How Far Can the Senses Go? Empiricism in the Turkish Vernacular,” Between the Old and the New Organon: The Library of the Maurokordati and the Book of Nature*,* 14-15 December,Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany.

2014 “Between Revolution and War: Science, Social Order and the ‘Coldness’ between Russia and the Ottoman Empire in the Eighteenth Century,” *Keynote*, November 27-30, Balkan Worlds II: Balkan Perceptions of War and Revolution, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece.

2014 “The Vernacular, the Modern and the Useful: Science versus the 'Ulemā' in the Eighteenth- Century Ottoman Empire,” September 25, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

2014 “I Told You I Was Sick: Political Physiology in the Ottoman Empire, 1650-1732,” 27-28 June, Dimitrie Cantemir: Transferring Knowledge, Shaping Identities, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany.

2013 “Translation, Humanism and Empiricism in the Ottoman Empire, 1650-1750,” *Keynote,* 12-13 December, Re-Translation in Context, Bosphorus University, Istanbul, Turkey.

2012 “Esad of Ioannina, the First Ottoman Court Philosopher,” Tarihçe Conference Series, March 27, Şehir University, Istanbul, Turkey [Public lecture].

2011 “Early Enlightenment in Istanbul,” History of Science Colloquium, September 9, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.

2011 “The Beginnings of Ottoman Science” Science Studies Colloquium, January 31, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA.

2009 “Galileo’s Telescope,” Friday Lectures, 25 December, Sabancı University, Istanbul [Public lecture].

2009 “The Proper Study of Religion: Science, Islam and European Identity in the Nineteenth Century,” The Intellectual History Seminar, February 19, Royal Library, Copenhagen.

2008 “The Production and Consumption of Natural Knowledge in Istanbul in the Early Modern Era,” History Lecture Series, November 17, Sabancı University, Istanbul.

Conference Activity

2022 Supercommentator for 2022 Cain Conference: “Let’s get to work: Bringing labor history and the history of science together,” June 22, Philadelphia, PA.

2021 “Nationalism and the Decolonization of Asian Histories of Science,” Roundtable Participant, History of Science Society Annual Meeting, November 20, Online.

2016 “Papaya Soup for Hypochondriacs? Science as Practice and Culture in Early Modern Istanbul,” American Oriental Society Annual Meeting, March 18-21, Boston, MA.

2015 “Istanbul, an Epistemic Clearinghouse,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, November, November 19-22, San Francisco, CA.

2014 “Medical Experimentalism in the Ottoman Empire: *An Introduction for Beginners,*” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, November 6-9, Chicago, IL.

2013 “Experience in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, November 21-24, Boston, MA.

2013 “*Hamse-i Hayatizade*’den *Füyuzat-ı Mıknatısiye*’ye Tecrübe,” 18. Yüzyılda Osmanlı İmparatorluğu: Süreklilik ve Değişim, June 11-13, Şehir University, Istanbul

2010 “European Science in Istanbul during the Tulip Era,“ World History Association Symposium on Ottoman and Byzantine Civilizations in World History, October 21-24, Şehir University, Istanbul.

2010 “The Ottoman *Academia Scientarum*” Council for European Studies, Seventeenth International Conference, April 15-17, Montreal.

2010 Session commentator for Peter Dear, Science Studies in Context, March 19-20, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA.

2009 “Enlightened Visions of Turkish Philosophy from Samuel Schelwig to Jakob Brucker,” Sabancı-Heidelberg Workshop: The Well-Connected Domains, December 19-20, Sakıp Sabancı Museum, Istanbul.

2009 “Orientalism as a Human Science,” Science, Technology and the Humanities: A New Synthesis, April 24-25, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ.

2007 “Islamism to Realism: The Journey of 'Islam and Science' 1850-1950,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, November 1-4, Washington, DC.

2006 “The Genesis and Exegesis of Ernest Renan's *L'Islamisme et la science,*” Science and Religion Conference, July 26-29, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK.

Teaching

[Previously lecturer at Sabancı, Şehir and Boğaziçi Universities]

2023 Spring STSC 3088: Science, Labor and Capital

HSSC 5008 Graduate Seminar: Current Issues in Science and Technology Studies

2022 Fall STSC 0100: Introduction to the History of Science

2021 Fall STSC 001: Introduction to the History of Science

HSSC 511 Graduate Seminar: Current Issues in Sciencce and Technology Studies

2019 Fall STSC 001: Introduction to the History of Science,

STSC 329: The Rifle and the Compass: Early Modern Science and Warfare

2019 Spring STSC 208: Science and Religion: Global Perspectives,

HSSC 504 Graduate Seminar: Idealist and Materialist Causalities in the History of Science

Field Reading List with Christopher Fite

2018 Fall STSC 001: Introduction to the History of Science,

STSC 329: The Rifle and the Compass: Early Modern Science and Warfare

Field Reading List with Christopher Fite

2018 Spring STSC 208 Science and Religion: Global Perspectives,

STSC 400 Capstone Seminar [Undergraduate Thesis Seminar]

2017 Fall HSSC 505 Graduate Seminar in History and Sociology of Science: Introduction to the Historiography of Science

2016 Spring STSC 328 What is Prediction?

HSSC 504 Graduate Seminar in History and Sociology of Science Early Modern Science Bootcamp

2015 Fall STSC 001 Emergence of Modern Science

STSC 208 Science and Religion: Global Perspectives

2015 Spring STSC 328 What is Prediction?

HSSC 508 Graduate Seminar: Knowledge in Motion

2014 Fall STSC 208 Science and Religion: Global Perspectives

Department and University Service

2022- Liaison for Penn-Max Planck Exchange Program

2022- Departmental Governance Committee Chair

2022 Wolf Humanities Center Mellon Fellowship Committee

2020- Penn Middle East Center FLAS Fellowship Committee

2019-2021 Vice Provost for Education Fellowship Selection Committee

2019-20 STSC Major Undergraduate Chair

2018-20 Pre-Major Advisor

2017-9 History and Sociology of Science Workshop Organizer

2016-7 Katz Center, 2017-2018 Fellowship Committee (Nature between Science and Religion: Jewish Culture and the Natural World)

2015-6 Penn Middle East Center FLAS Fellowship Committee

2015-6 SAS Humanities Panel

2015-6 Department Website Committee

2014-5 Penn Middle East Center FLAS Fellowship Committee

Field Service

Manuscript reviewer for Renaissance Quarterly, Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences, British Journal for the History of Science, Journal of Ottoman Studies, European Journal of Turkish Studies, LIAS: Journal of Early Modern Intellectual Culture and its Sources, Notes and Records of the Royal Society.

2022- World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies Advisory Board

2022- American Research Institute in Turkey Fellowship Referee

2022- Council Member, History of Science Society

2021- Advisory Board, The Ottoman World Series, Stanford University Press

2021 Swiss National Science Foundation Grant Referee

2020- Editorial Board, *History of Science*

2020 Israel Science Foundation Grant Referee

2019- Editorial Board, *Encyclopedia of the History of Science*

2018- National Humanities Center Grant Referee

2017-2018 Consortium for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology Fellowship Committee

2017- Editorial Board, *Studies in Ottoman Science*