

About the authors

Bekim Agai heads the research group “Europe from the outside – Formations of Middle Eastern views on Europe from inside Europe” seated at the Institute for Oriental and Asian Studies at Bonn University and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. He received his Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from Bochum University, Germany, in 2003. His research focuses on travelogues of journeys from the Middle East to Europe, Islam and Muslims in Europe, the history of ideas in the 19th century, and the emergence and development of modern Turkey.

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Bâki Asiltürk received his Ph.D. from Marmara University, Istanbul, in 1997 with a dissertation on European travels in Turkish literature. He currently holds the position of associate professor at the Department of Turkish Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, at Marmara University, where he teaches History of Modern Turkish Literature, Modern Turkish Poetry, Biographic Reading, Writing Techniques, and Western Literature. He concentrates his research on Modern Turkish Poetry. Among his publications are *Osmanlı seyyahlarının gözüyle Avrupa* (Europe as seen by Ottoman travellers), *Hilesiz terazi: şiir yazıları* (Fair balance: poetry prose) and *1980 kuşağı Türk şiirinin poetikası* (The poetics of the 1980 generation's Turkish poetry).

Caspar Hillebrand received a diploma in Translation Studies from Bonn University, Germany, in 2010 and is currently doing his Ph.D. as a member of the research group “Europe from the outside – Formations of Middle Eastern views on Europe from inside Europe” at the Institute for Oriental and Asian Studies at Bonn University. His thesis focuses on a 19th-century travel report on Europe, which was written by the Ottoman historian and intellectual Hayrullah Efendi.

Nazlı İpek Hüner received her B.A. degree in Social and Political Sciences and her M.A. degree in History at Sabancı University, Istanbul. As of 2012 she is a Ph.D. student at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. Her fields of interest are cultural history, literature, perceptions and narratives in the early modern Ottoman world.

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Leyla v. Mende graduated from Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, with a Master’s degree in Islamic Studies, Politics and Law. She is currently doing her Ph.D. as a member of the research group “In Search of Europe: Considering the Possible in Africa and the Middle East” at Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin. In her dissertation project she analyzes the representations of post-Ottoman South-east Europe in Ottoman travel writing at the turn of the 20th century.

Mehdi Sajid received his M.A. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies and Philosophy from the University of Bonn, Germany, in 2008. His current research includes Modern Arabic travelogues to Europe and the dynamics of transnational Muslim networks in interwar Europe. He currently holds a research-assistant position in the research group “Europe from the outside – Formations of Middle Eastern views on Europe from inside Europe” at the University of Bonn. His Ph.D. thesis focuses on the intellectual contribution of the Lebanese journalist Shakīb Ḥarslān (1869–1946) to the ongoing debates in the Arab World during the interwar period.

İrvin Cemil Schick received his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1989. He currently teaches at İstanbul Şehir University, after having spent many years at M.I.T. and Harvard University. He is the author of *The erotic margin: Sexuality and spatiality in alteritist discourse*, *The fair Circassian: Adventures of an orientalist motif* (in Turkish), and *Writing the body, society, and the universe: On Islam, gender, and culture* (in Turkish), the editor of *European captive women and their Muslim masters: Narratives of captivity in “Turkish” lands* (in Turkish) and the co-editor of *Women in the Ottoman Balkans: Gender, culture and history*.

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