



Migration History Talk

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Wednesday, 30 November 2022

**The Crimean War Within the Context of the Eastern Question and
Migrations from Russia to the Ottoman Empire in the 19th Century**

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Candan Badem, Visiting Fellow, Oxford Nizami Ganjavi Centre

17:30 – 19:00 h

This talk will be held in person at the University of Neuchâtel, Espace Tilo Frey (FLSH), room R.N.04, on WEBEX ([at this link](#)), as well as live-streamed on our YouTube channel ([at this link](#)).

The Migration History Talks are co-organized by the History Department of the University of Neuchâtel and the nccr – on the move.

For any further information, please send an email to jean-thomas.arrighi@unine.ch.

Abstract

The Crimean War (1853-56) was the first modern war and a major European war, or a proto-World War. It was a case of Russian diplomatic isolation after the aggression against the Ottoman Empire, the so-called 'sick man of Europe' or the object of the 'Eastern Question'. The conduct and outcome of the war were largely determined by the technological and industrial capacities (including means of transport) of the belligerent states. Blockade as an instrument of economic warfare became a determinant factor. The media and public opinion were also prominent in this war. As the war drew towards a long war of attrition and economic blockade, with the possibility of Sweden and Austria joining the allies against Russia, Russian authorities came to understand that they could not continue the war. The war disclosed the weakness of archaic formations and gave an impulse to the process of political reform in Russia and the Ottoman Empire. It also gave rise to mass emigrations of Muslims from Russia into the Ottoman Empire. The talk will also try to draw parallels with the present conflict in Ukraine.

About the Speaker

Candan Badem is an Associate Professor of History. He holds his BA degree from Boğaziçi University (1992), an MA degree from the University of Birmingham, Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies (2001), and a PhD from Sabancı University (2007). In 2016, he was banned by a decree law from working in state universities in Turkey because of his signature on a declaration by academics urging the government to stop violence against civilian Kurds. In the academic year 2020-21, he was a scholarship holder at Jagiellonian University in Krakow and a visiting researcher at Uppsala University in 2021-22. His current research at the Oxford Nizami Ganjavi Centre is on the Russian-Ottoman borderlands in South Caucasus at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries.

Selected Publications

- Badem, Candan (ed.) (2021). *The Routledge Handbook of the Crimean War*. Abingdon: Routledge Publishers, 2021.
- Badem, Candan. (2014). "'Forty Years of Black Days?' The Russian Administration of Kars, Ardahan and Batum, 1878-1918." In *Russian-Ottoman Borderlands: The Eastern Question Reconsidered*, edited by Mara Kozelsky, Lucien Frary, 221-250. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.
- Mirzoyan, Sonya, and Candan Badem. (2014). *The Construction of the Tiflis – Aleksandropol – Kars Railway (1895-1899)* [together with Armenian and Turkish translations]. The Hague: The Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation.
- Badem, Candan. (2010). *The Ottoman Crimean War 1853-1856*. Leiden and Boston: Brill Academic Publishers.
- Badem, Candan. (2011). "The Question of the Equality of Non-Muslims in the Ottoman Empire during the Crimean War." In *The Crimean War 1853-1856. Colonial Skirmish or Rehearsal for World War? Empires, Nations, and Individuals*, edited by Jerzy W. Borejsza, 79-90. Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Neriton; Instytut Historii PAN.