

Jeannette Elizabeth Okur
 Department of Middle Eastern Studies
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D., German Language and Literature, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey April 2007
 (Specialty in Modern Turkish/Comparative Literature)
*Weibliche Umwurzelung: die Darstellung interkultureller
 Begegnungen in den Werken von Füzûzan, Alev Tekinay und Elif Şafak*
 [The Portrayal of Intercultural Encounters in the Literary Works of Füzûzan,
 Alev Tekinay and Elif Şafak]; Advisor: Gürsel Aytaç
- M.A., German Language and Literature, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin May 2001
- M.S., Curriculum & Instruction in English and German Education, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee May 1997
- B.A., American Literature/Creative Writing (Magna Cum Laude), Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont May 1992
 Minor: German

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Beliefs, Events and Values Inventory (BEVI) Administrator/Interpreter July 2023
- Introduction to Online Language Teaching course completion certificate, Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA), Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan July 2020
- Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Assessment Workshop completion certificate, University of Texas at Austin, rated “Superior” on American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Turkish OPI interview August 2011
- Sertifika: "A" Kuru Türkiye Türkçesi Kursu, [Highest level academic Turkish course completion certificate], Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey June 2002
- Austrian Teaching Certification in “Deutsch als Fremdsprache” [German as a Foreign Language], Karl Franzens University, Graz, Austria July 1995

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor of Instruction, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin Sept. 2023-present
- Assistant Professor of Instruction, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin Sept. 2018-Aug. 2023
- Faculty Affiliate, Program in Comparative Literature 2022-present

Faculty Affiliate, Center for European Studies	2011-present
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Middle Eastern Studies	2010-present
Lecturer, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin	2010-May 2018
Adjunct Lecturer in Turkish Cultural History, Glasgow School of Continuing Studies, Rice University, Houston, Texas	Spring 2010
Lecturer in Turkish and Turkish History, Department of Modern and Classical Languages, University of Houston, Houston, Texas	2009-2010
Coordinator of the Language Arts Program, Texas Gulf Institute, Houston, Texas	2008-2009
Tenure-Track Lecturer, Department of Turkish Language and Literature, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara, Turkey	2006-2008

PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE WORKS

Books

- Okur, J.E. (2021). *Her Şey Bir Merhaba ile Başlar!* [Everything Begins with a Hello!]. Austin, Texas: Center for Open Education Resources and Language Learning (COERLL), 434 pp.
Reviewed in: [The FLTMag](#) and [The American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages Newsletter](#)

Edited Books

- Okur, J.E. and F. Güven (2022). *Teaching Turkish and Turkic Languages During the Pandemic: Past, Present and Future Directions. Proceedings of the AATT Conference*. Madison, Wisconsin: Turko-Tartar Press, 249 pp.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- Okur, J.E. (2019). "Grape-Gatherers and Goat Herders: The Portrayal of Anatolian Village Women's Interaction with the Natural Environment in Contemporary Turkish Film". In H. Gürses and I. E. Howison (Eds.), *Animals, Plants, Landscapes: An Ecology of Turkish Literature*, (45-82). New York, New York: Routledge.
Reviewed in: [Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association](#)

Translations

- Okur, J.E. (2008). *Tales from Rumi. Mathnawi Selections for Young Readers*, ed. Ali Fuat Bilkan. Clifton, New Jersey: Tughra Books.

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

- Okur, J.E. (2007) "Çocuk Eğitimi ve Gelişimi Açısından Görsel Yayınlar (Müzakere)." ["Audiovisual Materials in Children's Education and Development"]. In E. Arslan (Ed.), *Türkiye III. Dinî Yayınlar Kongresi: Tebliğler-Müzakereler, 28-30 Ekim 2005/Ankara* [Proceedings from the 3rd Religious Publications of Turkey Conference: Presentations and Responses, October 28-30, 2005/Ankara], (223-230). Ankara, Turkey: Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı Yayınları.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

6. Okur, J.E. (2003/4). "Feminist Edebiyat Eleştirisi Açısından Selma Rıza'nın *Uhuvvet* Romanı Üzerine Bir İnceleme." ["A Feminist Literary Analysis of Selma Rıza's novel *Uhuvvet*"]. *Folklor/Edebiyat Kültür Dergisi*. 9/36, 155-172.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Books

7. Okur, J.E. *Transnational Kurdish Literature since 1980*. In preparation, 15% complete. 1 out of 6 chapters drafted. 49ms.pp.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

8. Okur, J.E. "Art and Justice in Bakhtiyar Ali's *Shari Mosiqare Spiyekan*" ["The City of White-Clad Musicians"]. In B. Ibhawoh and P. Ugor (Eds.), *Narrating Transitional Justice: History, Memory, Poetics, and Politics*. 28ms.pp. Montreal, Canada: McGill-Queen's University Press. Forthcoming, Fall 2025.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

9. Okur, J.E. "Splintered Collectivity, Despair and Hope in Firat Cewerî's Novels". In preparation, 50% complete. Expecting to submit December 2024. 15ms.pp.

Translations

10. Okur, J.E. *I'm Gonna Kill Someone [Birini Öldüreceğim]* by Firat Cewerî. In preparation, 90% complete. Expecting to submit, August 2024. 120 ms.pp.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Invited Scholarly Talks

"*Her Şey Bir Merhaba ile Başlar!* Project Presentation." Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning, University of Texas at Austin, February 2022.

"Open Conversations: UT Faculty & Open Education Practices", University of Texas Libraries, OER Working Group, University of Texas at Austin, May 2021.

"Harnessing Open Educational Resources to Promote Intercultural Communicative Competence", University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 2021.

"Leveraging Technology and Student Creativity for L2 Communication in Asynchronous Mode", Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services & Texas Language Center, University of Texas at Austin, November 2020.

"Contemporary Kurdish Novelists' Success in Germany", Kurdish Literature Across Borders, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, March 2018.

"Turkic Muslims' Literary Response to the Uninvited Russian 'Guest'", Islamic Studies Colloquium, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, November 2017.

"Open Educational Resources for Middle Eastern Languages", Digital Scholars in Practice University of Texas

Libraries Lecture Series, University of Texas at Austin, October 2017.

“Effective L2 Game Design for Language Learners at Play”, Texas Language Center Workshop on “Upping Your Game: Using Games and Gaming in Foreign Language Instruction”, University of Texas at Austin, October 2014.

“Voices from Turkey: Developing Novice-Level Students' Communicative and Cultural Proficiency”, Texas Language Center “Language Matters” Series, University of Texas at Austin, November 2013

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

“Teaching Turkish and Ottoman Literatures: When and Where, How and Why?” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association. Montréal, Canada. November 2023.

“Kurdish Prison Literature Goes Mainstream in Turkey.” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association. Denver, Colorado. December 2022.

“Splintered Collectivity, Despair and Hope in Firat Ceweri’s *Birini Öldüreceğim* and *Lehî*.” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association. Montreal, Canada/online. December 2021.

“Art and Justice in Bakhtiyar Ali’s *Shari Mosaqare Spiyekan*.” Confronting Atrocity Conference/Narrating Transitional Justice: History, Memory, Politics and Poetics. McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada/online. July 2021.

“Harnessing Open Educational Resources to Promote Intercultural Communicative Competence.” Consortium of Middle East National Resource Centers Virtual Language Workshop. University of Arizona. Tucson, Arizona/online. April 2021.

“Using *Her Şey Bir Merhaba ile Başlar!* to Teach Turkish Language and Culture”, Open Educational Resources and Language Learning (COERLL) and Open Language Resource Center (OLRC) Foreign Language OER Conference. University of Texas at Austin and University of Kansas/online. March 2021.

“Art and Justice in Bakhtiyar Ali’s *Shari Mosaqare Spiyekan*.” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association. Washington D.C./online. October 2020.

“Harnessing Open Educational Resources to Promote Intercultural Proficiency.” 5th Annual Conference of American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages. University of Pennsylvania/online. October 2020.

“Multiliteracies and Film: Development and Assessment of Critical Viewing Skills in the Advanced Turkish Classroom.” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association. New Orleans, Louisiana. November 2019.

“Backward Design and the Flipped Classroom in the Language Learning Framework for Turkish for the 21st Century.” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association. San Antonio, Texas. November 2018.

“The Ties that Bind State Perpetrators of Violence and Political Victims in Müge İplikçi’s *Kafdağı* [Mount Qaf] and Mehmed Uzun’s *Aşk Gibi Aydınlık Ölüm Gibi Karanlık* [Light Like Love, Dark Like Death].” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association. Washington, D.C. November 2017.

“*Her Şey Bir Merhaba ile Başlar!*: Effective Spiraling of Vocabulary and Grammatical Structures in an Intermediate-Mid to Advanced-Mid Turkish Language Textbook”, 2nd Annual Conference of American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. November 2017.

“Turkic Muslims’ Literary Response to the Uninvited Russian ‘Guest’.” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Convention. Boston, Massachusetts. November 2016.

“Voices from Turkey: Developing Novice Learners’ Communicative and Cultural Proficiency.” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association. Denver, Colorado. November 2015.

“Contemporary Turkish Literature’s Readership: Limited, but Politically Vocal.” Annual Meeting of American Comparative Literature Association. Seattle, Washington. March 2015.

“Walking a Fine Line between Sensitization and Sensationalism: The Narrative Logic and Potential Social Impact of Elif Şafak’s *Honour* and Feo Aladağ’s *When We Leave*.” Annual Convention of Modern Language Association. Chicago, Illinois. January 2014.

“Re-Telling the Classic: Postmodern Narrative Elements in Nazan Bekiroğlu’s *Yûsuf ile Züleyha – Kalbin Üzerinde Titreyen Hüzün* [Yusuf and Zulaikha – The Sadness Hovering over the Heart].” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association. New Orleans, Louisiana. October 2013.

“Goat Herders and Grape Gatherers: The Portrayal of Anatolian Mountain Village Women’s Interaction with the Natural Environment in Contemporary Turkish Film.” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association. Denver, Colorado. November 2012.

RESEARCH FUNDING

Current:

Okur, J.E. (PI). “Faculty Development Award: Kurmanji Courses at Zahra Institute; Kurdish Writers in Sweden”. University of Texas at Austin. Grant Period: 2024-2025. Funding Awarded: \$10,000; Account Number: 20-1662-2052

Okur, J.E. (PI) and Blyth, C. (PI). “Student and Teacher Perceptions of Recently Published Open Education Resources for Less Commonly Taught Languages”. Open Education Group OER Fellows Cohort. Grant Period: 2022-2023. Relative contributions to project: Okur (50%); Blyth (50%). Total Funding: \$1,000; to be awarded upon article publication.

Okur, J.E. (PI). “Global Virtual Exchange Award: MES 342 Cultural Translation.” Global Texas, University of Texas at Austin. Grant Period: 2020-2022 (postponed due to Turkish partner’s cancellation)
Funding Awarded: \$2,000; Account number: 20-1662-2052

Completed:

Okur, J.E. (PI). “Professional Development Award: “Beliefs, Events, and Values Inventory (BEVI) Administrator Training”, Texas Language Center, University of Texas at Austin. Grant Period: April-August 2023
Funding Awarded: \$1,000; Account number: 20-1662-2052

Okur, J.E. (PI). “Professional Development Award: Introduction to Online Language Teaching”, Texas Language Center, University of Texas at Austin. Grant Period: April-August 2020
Funding Awarded: \$750; Account number: 20-1662-2052

Okur, J.E. (PI). “Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program Grant: Effective Use of the Digital Social Reading Tool, eComma, and Learning Via Subtitling (LVS) Technologies in an Advanced Turkish Language Course.” College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin. Grant Period: January-August 2019
Funding Awarded: \$1,200; Account number: 20-1662-2052

Okur, J.E. (PI). “Course Development Grant: MES/REE/CL Youth and Violence in the Middle East and Eurasia.” Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, University of Texas at Austin.
Grant Period: April-August 2015
Funding Awarded: \$1,250; Account number 26-1801-1850

Okur, J.E. (PI). "Professional Development Award: Voices from Turkey", Audio-production of 130 online, auto-correct Turkish language exercises for Novice and Intermediate learners, co-authored with *Duygu Uslu-Ok*. Texas Language Center, University of Texas at Austin. Grant Period: April-August 2013
Funding Awarded: \$1,000; Account number: 20-1662-2052

AWARDS AND HONORS

April 2023 MAFLT LCTL Innovation Award, Honorable Mention in the OER Category, National Less Commonly Taught Languages Resource Center, Michigan State University

February 2015 Foreign Language Teaching Excellence Award, Texas Language Center, University of Texas at Austin (also nominated by students for this award in 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023)

ADVISING AND STUDENT-RELATED SERVICE

Ph.D. Students Supervised

Matthew Chovanec, Ph.D. in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, 2020. (Co-Chair with Kristen Brustad).
Current position: Director, International Middle East and North Africa, The College Board

Dissertation Committees

Seerwan Hariry, Ph.D. in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, 2019. (Member).
Current position: Assistant Professor of Arabic, Georgetown University in Qatar

Master's Thesis Committees

Asma Siddiqui, M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, 2024. (Member).
Grace Frazor, M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies/Master of Global Policy Studies, 2020. (Member).
Matt Lancaster, M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, 2020. (Member).
Mona Mostofi, M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, 2020. (Member).
Matthew Chovanec, M.A. in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, 2016. (Co-Chair with Kristen Brustad).
Jeanne Kaba, M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, 2016. (Member).
Doğan Okan, M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, 2015. (Member).
Luke Steidl, M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, 2012. (Member).

Undergraduate Honors Theses

Ksenija Angelina Braese, B.A. in European Studies, 2024 (Member)
Marlee Burns, B.A. in Plan II Honors, Middle Eastern Studies, International Relations and Global Studies, 2015. (Supervisor).
Courtney Graves, B.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, 2015. (Supervisor).

Turkish Language Student Mentoring

Undergraduate and graduate Turkish language students mentored at the University of Texas at Austin have won 62 national awards, scholarships, and fellowships, 2012-present

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Middle Eastern Studies (Department and Center)

Turkish Program Coordination

Supervisor of 7 visiting post-doc scholars from Turkey, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2014-present

Supervisor and Mentor to 4 Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants from Turkey, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, 2011-present

FLAS Scholarship Turkish Language Proficiency Evaluator, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2011-2023

Doctoral students' Turkish Language Exam Evaluator, Program in Ethnomusicology, Department of History, and Department of Middle Eastern Studies, 2011-present

Turkish Language Program Developer, includes advertising, student advising, diagnostic and evaluative language testing, development of curricular and assessment materials, evaluation of study abroad transfer credit, communication with program sponsors/donors, and hosting of prospective students, 2010-present

Turkish Studies Event Coordinator, includes the UT Turkish Film Series, the UT Turkish Choir, the UT Turkish-Ottoman Lecture Series, various Turkish Studies symposiums and conferences, and the weekly Turkish Tea & Conversation Hour, 2010-present

Middle Eastern Studies Committees

Graduate Admissions, Literature & Culture Track Sub-Committee Member, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, 2020-present

Executive Committee Member, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, 2016-present

Assessment Committee Chair/Member, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, 2015-present

Graduate Studies Committee Member, Department of Middle Eastern Studies and Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2015-present

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Scholarship Advisory Committee Member, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2011, 2012, 2019, 2020, 2022

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Member, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, 2012-2021

Arabic Lecturer Search Committee Member, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, 2014

Middle Eastern Studies Events Organization

Consortium of Middle East National Resource Center Language Workshop, Co-organizer (with Olla Al-Shalchi), hosted by Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Spring 2023

Middle East Film Series Committee Member, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2021-present

Turkish-Ottoman Lecture Series organizer, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2013-present

Turkish Literature in Translation Reading Group Co-organizer (with *İpek Şahinler*), Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2020-2022

Islamic Studies Colloquium Co-organizer (with Hina Azam), Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Religious Studies, Spring 2020

Beyond Borders lecture event organizer, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2017-2018

Rethinking Late Ottoman Civilization Symposium, Co-organizer (with Samy Ayoub and Firdevs Canbaz Yumuşak), hosted by Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, March 2017

Turkish Film Series organizer, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2011-2018

Middle Eastern Studies' Literary & Cultural Events Series Organizer, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2011-2012

Middle Eastern Studies Guest Lectures

Guest lectures in Proseminar for Master students, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2019-present

Guest lectures in MES 301C Gateway to the Middle East, Department for Middle Eastern Studies, 2014-present

College of Liberal Arts

Language Policy Advisory Committee (LPAC) Member, College of Liberal Arts, 2020-present

Center for European Studies

Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship Turkish Language Proficiency Evaluator, Center for European Studies, 2011-present

Program in Comparative Literature

Graduate Admissions Sub-Committee Member (evaluation of Turkish doctoral applicants), 2019, 2020, 2023, 2024

University of Texas at Austin

Course Evaluation System Supplemental Form Task Force Committee Member, Fall 2022

Faculty Council (C6) International Programs and Studies Committee Member/Vice chair/Chair, 2021-present

Faculty Coordinator of "UT Language and Culture in Turkey" Summer 2012 Study Abroad Program, 2011-2012
Planned and implemented all academic and financial components of this 9-week FLAS-eligible program
Participated in all student recruitment, selection, and orientation activities; advised, mentored, taught, and traveled with student participants in Turkey

Professional Service

Turkish Studies

American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages (AATT) Treasurer, January, 2020-present

American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages Newsletter Editor, January, 2019-2023

American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages Board Member, 2017-present

American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages Annual Pedagogy Conference Organizing Committee Member and/or Program Committee Member, 2017-present

American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) Delegate (representing UT Austin), 2023 to present

American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) Summer Fellowship for Advanced Turkish Language Study at Boğaziçi University Selection Committee Member, 2021, 2024

American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages [*Curricular Framework for College-Level Turkish Instruction*](#) (2020) Committee Member, Co-Author, 2016-2020

Sydney Fisher Best Graduate Paper Prize Committee Chair, Ottoman & Turkish Studies Association (OTSA), 2020

Sydney Fisher Best Graduate Paper Prize Committee Member, Ottoman & Turkish Studies Association, 2019

American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages' 3rd Pedagogy Conference, Co-organizer (with Feride Hatiboğlu), hosted by Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, November 2018

Halide Edip Adivar Award Selection Committee Member, Ottoman & Turkish Studies Association, 2016

American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages Roundtable on "Technology in the Service of Pedagogy" Organizer/Chair, held at the Middle Eastern Studies Association Meeting, 2015

Middle Eastern Studies

Consortium of Middle East National Resource Centers Virtual Language Workshop Program Committee Member, 2021

Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting Program Committee Member, 2012, 2018

Language Teaching

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Nelson Brooks Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Culture Selection Committee Member, 2021

Peer Reviewer (ad hoc since 2015)

Foreign Language Annals, Journal of Ottoman & Turkish Studies, Turkish Studies, and I.B. Tauris and Cogent Arts Humanities Series

Community Service

Guest lectures on Turkish language and culture at Liberal Arts and Science Academy, Austin Independent School District, 2018-present

Guest lectures on Ramadan at Dialogue Institute of Austin's Ramadan dinners held at area churches and synagogues in Austin, Pflugerville, Round Rock, Cedar Park and Georgetown, Texas, 2018-present

Guest lectures on Turkish language and culture and foreign language career paths at Harmony Public Schools in Austin and Pflugerville, Texas, 2015-present

Volunteer work with Raindrop Turkish House of Austin (ie. festivals, cooking classes, charity drives, youth programs and mentorship, etc.), 2010-present

Guest lectures on Turkey and Islam at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Texas at Austin, 2011, 2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 2020-present

Modern Language Association, 2013-present

Ottoman & Turkish Studies Association, 2012-present

American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages, 2010-present

Middle East Studies Association, 2010-present

American Comparative Literature Association, 2014-2020

LANGUAGES

English (native), Turkish (fluent), German (fluent), French (intermediate reading), Ottoman Turkish (intermediate reading), Kurmanji (novice)