



SRII AUTUMN LECTURE

October 30, 2018, 19:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu – Tünel)

Dr.

Susan Rottman

Özyeğin University

RESPOND Lecture IV: Reflections from the Field: Family and Gender for Syrian Migrants in Istanbul

Drawing on interviews and ethnographic fieldwork conducted during summer 2018, this paper analyzes family and gender dynamics for Syrian migrants in Istanbul. It explores how families are separated by legal regimes and struggle to maintain relationships with parents and children in far-flung geographies. Another pressure on families is changing roles due to factors such as the linguistic competence of children, work opportunities for young men and lack of employment options for older men. As in other migration contexts, generational role reversals are putting pressures on customary notions of parenthood. These familial pressures are impacting gender roles as well, and the paper focuses particularly on affects on middle aged women and young men. Challenging simplistic portraits of migration as empowering or disempowering for women or men, the paper shows that gender roles must be viewed intersectionally as strongly impacted by the social class and life stage of migrants. Finally, I argue that an important area for further study is the role of hospitality in conceptualizing gender and social identities as well as integration for Syrian women.

Dr. Susan Beth Rottmann obtained her B.A. degree in Comparative Religion from Cornell University in 2001, her M.A. degree in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2006, and her Ph.D. degree in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2012. She has received several major research grants, including a Fulbright-Hays DDRA and grants from the Social Science Research Council, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, the American Research Institute in Turkey and the Institute of Turkish Studies. Currently, she teaches in the Social Sciences Faculty at Özyeğin University in Istanbul where she is researching forced migration between Turkey in Europe as a primary investigator of an EU Horizon 2020 research grant called RESPOND - Multilevel Governance of Mass Migration in Europe and Beyond. Dr. Rottmann is also finalizing an ethnography of ethics and belonging for German-Turkish return migrants to be published with Berghahn Books in 2019

Admission only after registration to event@sri.org.tr !