

## **RESEARCH SEMINAR**

**SRII, Wednesday,**

**September 13, 2023, 14:00**

**Venue: Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul**

**Istiklal Caddesi 247, P.k. 125 Beyoglu, TR-344 33 Istanbul**

### **Didem Unal Abaday (Helsinki University)**

#### **Gender Policy Backsliding in Anti-Gender Times and Feminist Activist Responses**

In contemporary Turkey, examples of opposition to gender equality are common both in policy, politics, and public discourse. This presentation will briefly introduce the discourses of various types of actors who argue against gender equality politics, and point out the political implications of this rising anti-gender discourse and policy for a feminist-inspired future vision. It will also discuss feminist collective action frames and strategies that fiercely contest the current rise of the anti-gender political projects in Turkey.

### **Stefan Williamsson-Fa (Lund University)**

#### **Sounding Karbala in Istanbul: A Study of Mersiye Laments in Contemporary Alevi and Sufi Devotional Life**

This project investigates practices of devotional lament, mersiye, in honour of the Family of the Prophet amongst diverse religious communities in Istanbul. In the first instance it is concerned with documenting current forms of mersiye performance amongst Alevi and Sunni-Sufi practitioners, in both ritual and non-ritual contexts. Building on my previous work on Shi'ism in Turkey, this project investigates contemporary processes of sectarianization in order to question conventional understandings of sectarian boundaries and relations.

### **Luigi Prada (Uppsala University)**

#### **Theodosius' obelisk and the cultural appropriation of Egyptian antiquity in Late Antique Constantinople.**

This talk will look at the import of Egyptian antiquities in Constantinople during the IV century CE as a key part in Constantine the Great's and his successors' plan truly to transform their royal residence into the New Rome.