

Canan Bolel

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EDUCATION

2022 Ph.D. Near and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Washington
2014 MSc Sociology, London School of Economics and Political Science
2013 M.A. Political Science, Sabanci University
2011 B.A. Economics, Sabanci University

PRACTICAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

September 2022 – August 2023 Manager of the Sephardic Studies Digital Collection, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, University of Washington

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2023 Translation Studies Course Development Grant, Simpson Center for the Humanities
2022 New Horizons in Jewish Studies Graduate Essay Prize, UC Irvine
2022 Nominated for Distinguished Dissertation Award, University of Washington
2021 Nominated for Husky 100, University of Washington
2021 Student Professionalization Grant, University of Washington
2020 Student Professionalization Grant, University of Washington
2019 Dissertation Writing Fellowship (two-year), Posen Society of Fellows
2019 Graduate Fellowship, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, University of Washington
2019 Student Professionalization Travel Grant, University of Washington
2018 Maurice Amado Foundation Travel Grant, Association for Jewish Studies
2018 Student Professionalization Travel Grant, University of Washington
2018 Middle East Studies Association Travel Grant
2018 Summer Research Funding, American Academy for Jewish Research
2018 Graduate Student Seminar Grant, American Academy for Jewish Research
2018 Student Professionalization Travel Grant, University of Washington
2017 Residential Doctoral Fellowship, ANAMED, Koc University
2017 Grant for Ottoman Language Study, Yildiz Technical University
2016 Jewish Studies Opportunity Grant, Stroum Center of Jewish Studies
2016 Richard M. Willner Memorial in Jewish Studies Fellowship Award, University of Washington
2016 Grant for Hebrew Language Study, Middlebury College
2016 Nominated for the Alvord Fellowship in the Humanities (one per department)
2016 Public Scholarship Fellowship, Simpson Center for the Humanities
2015 Graduate Interest Group Grant, Simpson Center for the Humanities
2015 Departmental Travel Grant, University of Washington
2015 Student Professionalization Travel Grant, University of Washington
2014 Hall-Ammerer-WRF Fellowship Award, University of Washington
2012 Full Scholarship for Graduate Studies, Sabanci University
2011 Full Scholarship for Graduate Studies, Sabanci University
2010 Academic Excellence Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies, Sabanci University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2027 *The Complete Historical Plays of Beki L. Bahar* (in progress, book proposal to be submitted in September 2025)
A collaborative translation project of Bahar's works with Dr. Laurent Mignon.

2026 *Perilous Lives: Marginal Jews of Ottoman İzmir* (in progress, book proposal to be submitted in January 2025)

Articles

2025 "Proximities and Distances in Aleksandar Hemon's *The World and All That It Holds*" (in progress, to be submitted in April 2025)

2025 "Jewish Quarter/Jewish Disease: İzmir's Jewish Community and the Cholera Outbreak of 1893" (in progress, to be submitted in January 2025).

2025 "Imageries of Foreignness and Rivalries of Power in the Kosher Meat Market of Late Ottoman Istanbul" (in progress, to be submitted in January 2025).

Book Reviews

2024 Canan Bolel review of *The Diario: The Daring Escape of Two Sephardic Jews from Turkey to America During World War I*. (Albion-Andalus Books, 2024) *Sephardic Horizons* (upcoming)

2018 Canan Bolel review of *Extraterritorial Dreams: European Citizenship, Sephardi Jews, and the Ottoman Twentieth Century* by Sarah Abrevaya Stein. (The University of Chicago Press, 2016) *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* 5, no.1 (April 2018): 208-210.

2018 Canan Bolel review of *The Merchants of Oran: A Jewish Port at the Dawn of Empire* by Joshua Schreier. (Stanford University Press, 2017) *Jewish Culture and History* 20, no. 2 (September 2018): 190-192.

2016 Canan Bolel review of *Living in the Ottoman Realm: Empire and Identity, 13th to 20th centuries* by Christine Isom-Verhaaren and Kent F. Schull, eds. (Indiana University Press, 2016) *Turkish Studies* 17, no. 4 (September 2016): 736-739.

2015 Canan Bolel review of *The Sociologist and the Historian* by Pierre Bourdieu and Roger Chartier, eds. (Polity Press, 2015) *LSE Review of Books*.

Other Writing

2024 "What's behind the 'L.'?" *AJS Perspectives: The Conversion Issue*. (upcoming)

2024 "Butchers, Rabbis, Foreignness—and Tax Revenue," *Ayin Press*. (upcoming)

2020 "Learning from the history of Ottoman Jews & 19th-century cholera outbreaks during COVID-19," *Stroum Center for Jewish Studies Blog*.

2019 "Me, Myself, and I (and marginal bodies of Ottoman Jews)," *AJS Perspectives: The Body Issue*.

2018 "The Allure and Burden of the Ottoman Archives," *ANAMED Blog*.

2017 "The Adventures of Two *İzmirli*s with the Hebrew Language," *Stroum Center for Jewish Studies Blog*.

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 Ladino Day: A conversation with Leigh Bardugo. University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. December 8.
- 2024 “Voicing in Ladino, Translating into Ladino: The Sephardic Holocaust on Paper.” Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington. November 6-8.
- 2024 “A Brief Introduction to Sephardic History and Culture.” Seattle Jewish Community School, Seattle, Washington. October 16.
- 2023 “Reimagining Elias Canetti as a Sephardic Writer.” University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. October 31.
- 2022 “The Cholera-Stricken of Nineteenth-Century Izmir: What Can They Say About Jewish Modernity?” University of California Irvine, Irvine, California. November 17.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conferences organized

- 2023 “Jews amidst the Embers of the Ottoman Empire, University of Washington, Seattle. May 21-22. (*co-organized with Devin Naar and Liora Halperin*)

Panels organized

- 2023 “Pedagogical Approaches in Teaching Jewish Language Varieties.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, San Francisco, California. December 17-19.
- 2019 “Jewish Marginalities and Marginal Jews.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, California. December 15-17.
- 2019 “Margins, Marginals, and Marginalities in the Late Ottoman Empire.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana. November 14-17.

International conferences

- 2024 “Navigating the Waves of Anarchy: Apathy within the Jewish Community of Istanbul and the Dynamics of Philanthropy in the 1930s.” The Politics of Giving in the Late Ottoman Empire and Early Turkish Republic (1853-1950), Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies, Newnham College, University of Cambridge. July 10-13.
- 2023 “The Foreigner Within: Ashkenazi Butchers, Sephardic Jews and Imageries of Foreignness in the Late Ottoman Empire.” Jews amidst the Embers of the Ottoman Empire, University of Washington, Seattle. May 21-22.
- 2022 “Jewish Women’s Cholera Experiences: At the Center of an Epidemic, on the Margins of Scholarship.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts. December 18-20.
- 2022 “Rethinking Interdisciplinarity in Sephardic and Mizrahi Studies.” Reimagining Sephardic Studies: Provocations from Outside the Fold, Columbia University and University of California Los Angeles. May 1.
- 2022 “Promises, Anxieties, and Authenticity: What Can Be Gleaned from Advertisements in Early Twentieth-Century Ottoman Jewish Press?” Taube Department of Jewish Studies, University of Wrocław, Poland. February 21-23.
- 2019 “The Ottoman Jewish Body and Nineteenth-Century Theories of Disease.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, California. December 15-17.
- 2019 “Jewish Body, Jewish Quarter, Jewish Disease: Cholera Epidemics in Late Ottoman Izmir.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana. November 14-17.
- 2018 “Ottoman Jews and the Emergence of Modern Psychiatry in the Ottoman Empire During the Late Nineteenth Century.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts. December 16-18.

- 2018 “No Place for Jewish Madwomen: A Reading of Female Body During the Crisis of Overcrowding in the Mental Asylums of Istanbul.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas. November 15-18.
- 2018 “Expanding the Cast of Characters: Tracing Marginal Jews of the Late Nineteenth Century Izmir in the Ottoman Archives.” Jews and Culture in the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey Conference, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel. May 28-29.
- 2018 “Spatial Marginalities and Marginal Spaces of Nineteenth-Century Izmir.” ANAMED Annual Symposium, Istanbul, Turkey. April 19-20.
- 2017 “Jewish Bodies, Missionary Activities: Tracing Marginal Spaces of Nineteenth-Century Izmir in the Scottish Missionary Records.” Conference on the Social, Cultural and Economic History of Izmir and the Region, Izmir, Turkey. November 24-25.
- 2017 “Out of Sight, Out of Mind: The Role of Mount Pagus in the Spatiotemporal Jewish Identity in Izmir During the Nineteenth-Century.” Conference on the Environmental History of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey, University of Hamburg, Germany. October 27-28.
- 2017 “Quest for an Affective Linguistic Space on the Verge of Extraterritoriality: Failure of Conceptualization of Ladino as the Portable Homeland during Late Ottoman Empire.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC. November 18-21.
- 2015 “‘A Slum that Offended Every Sense at Every Hour:’ Geography of a Spatialized Selfhood of Izmir Jewry During the Late Nineteenth Century.” Great Lakes Ottomanist Workshop, SUNY Oswego, New York. May 9-11.

Graduate student conferences

- 2020 “Bodies to Heal, Bodies to Convert: Protestant Missionaries and Jews in Nineteenth Century Izmir.” Graduate Fellows Colloquia, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. June 5.
- 2018 “On the Margins of an Ottoman City: Politics of Exclusion in the Jewish Community of Izmir, 1847-1913.” American Academy for Jewish Research Graduate Student Seminar, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. May 6-8.
- 2018 “Tracing the Jewish Marginals: Intracommunal Exclusion and Intercommunal Solidarity in Nineteenth-Century Izmir.” Graduate Student Conference on Religion and Difference, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. March 16-17.
- 2015 “Resistance Through Remembrance: Tracing Walter Benjamin’s ‘Messianic Time’ in Sixteenth-Century Jewish Historiography in the Ottoman Empire.” Annual Florida State University Department of Religion, Graduate Student Symposium, Tallahassee, Florida. February 20-22.

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS & SUMMER SCHOOLS

- 2024 American Academy for Jewish Research / Early Career Workshop. Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, July 7-9.
- 2018 American Academy for Jewish Research / Graduate Student Seminar. Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. May 6-8.
- 2016 Intensive Hebrew Summer Program, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont. June 1-July 15.
- 2016 “Shaking Foundations”: Advanced Summer School in Judaic Studies, Katz Center of the University of Pennsylvania and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. June 19-23.
- 2016 Seminar on Archival and Historical Research. Center for Jewish History, New York. May 23-26.

TEACHING

Teaching areas

Sephardic History and Culture; Ottoman Empire; Modern Middle East; Methodologies in Middle Eastern Studies, Ladino

Courses taught

Modern Sephardic Cultures; Elementary Ladino; Guided Readings in Ladino; History of the Modern Middle East; Disease in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East; Translation Studies: Gulliver's Travels Among Muslims and Jews; Gateway to the Middle East

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024	Edinburgh, Scotland: National Library of Scotland
2018	Jerusalem, Israel: The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Ben Zvi Institute, National Library of Israel
2018	Istanbul, Turkey: Ottoman Archives of the Prime Minister's Office, Ataturk Library, SALT Center, ISAM Center for Islamic Studies, Beyazit State Library
2017	Izmir, Turkey: National Library of Izmir, City Archives of Izmir
2016	New York, USA: Center for Jewish History
2016	Seattle, USA: University of Washington Libraries Special Collections, The Sephardic Studies Collection

DIGITAL HUMANITIES TRAINING

Training

2016	"Digital Practices in History," University of Washington
2016	"Introduction to Digital Humanities," University of Washington
2015	"Public Scholarship," University of Washington

LANGUAGES

Modern

Turkish	native
English	near-native fluency
Ladino, Judeo-Turkish	advanced
Arabic, French, Hebrew, Spanish	intermediate
Greek	elementary

Classical

Ottoman Turkish, Rashi, and Soletreo

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Jewish Studies
Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association