



Urban Studies Seminar 2018–2019

Annual Theme:

The Urban Spatialities of Religion in the Middle East, Africa and South-East Asia

Monday, 25 February 2019, 5 pm

(Un)closed Lodges: Sufism and Space in “Post-secular” Turkey

Lecture by **Lucía Cirianni Salazar** (Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies)

In 1925, a law was passed in the newly formed Republic of Turkey (law number 677) to close all the Sufi lodges and ban the *tarikas'* (Sufi orders) activities and titles. This measure was crucial in the definition of Turkish laicism.

Throughout the 20th century, Sufi communities in Turkey went through different periods of persecution and/or formation of political alliances with the State. Different modes of understanding the role of Sufism in modernity emerged along with a debate on what “real” Sufism is. This debate has been closely connected to definitions and historical narratives on the space of the *tekke* or *dergah* (Sufi lodge).

This talk addresses three cases: the Cerrahi *tekke* in the Fatih district of Istanbul, the Cenani Foundation in Kenan Rifai's former *tekke*, and the Gülşeni Dergah in Üsküdar. The first case is that of a *tekke* that has continued to be used as such despite the prohibition; the second case is a foundation created by the descendants of Kenan Rifa'i, a *sheikh* who allegedly embraced Turkish secularist reforms; and the third case is that of a new *dergah* founded in an apartment building in the 1980's. In her lecture Lucía Cirianni Salazar will discuss the significance of these three communities' different relationships with the space of the *tekke*.

Lucía Cirianni Salazar is a PhD Fellow at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, where she is currently writing a dissertation on the transformation of the Turkish Sufi lodges after their official closure in 1925 and the historical narratives of Sufi communities about this crucial event in the construction of secular Turkey. She holds a bachelor's degree in Ethnology from the National School of Anthropology and History in Mexico and a master's degree in Asian and African Studies from El Colegio de México (the College of Mexico).

Venue

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In cooperation with:

