

**DAMLA ISIK, PhD**  
**Associate Professor of Anthropology**  
**Department of Sociology, Mail Code: E-16**  
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## **EDUCATION**

- 2007 University of Arizona. Ph.D. in Anthropology  
Minor: Rhetoric  
Graduate Certificate: Women's Studies
- 2000 University of Arizona. Entry into Ph.D. program in Comparative Cultural and  
Literary Studies  
Reapplied and admitted to Department of Anthropology in 2002
- 1998 M.A., English Language and Literature, *Ege University, Izmir, Turkey*
- 1994 B.A., English Language and Literature, *Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey*

## **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- 2021-present Regis University, Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology,  
Sociology, and Criminal Justice
- 2018-2021 Regis University, Chair, Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Criminal  
Justice
- 2015-2021 Regis University. Associate Professor of Anthropology, Department of  
Anthropology, Sociology, and Criminal Justice.
- 2011-2015 Regis University. Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Sociology.
- 2007-2011 Western Connecticut State University. Assistant Professor of Anthropology,  
Department of Social Sciences. Affiliated Faculty: Women's Studies

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

- 2011-present Regis University. Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Criminal Justice

### Course Titles:

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (distributive core)  
Environment and Culture (integrative core)

Animal Rights and Justice	(integrative core)
Anime Fantasy of Hayao Miyazaki	(integrative core)
Globalization and Gender	(upper division +PJ and WGS cross listed)
Women and Gender in the Middle East	(upper division +PJ and WGS cross listed)
Anarchy and Anarchism	(upper division+PJ cross listed)
Food, Gender, Culture	(upper division+WGS cross listed)
Question of the Animal	(upper division+PJ cross listed)
Drugs, Health, and Culture	(upper division+ PJ cross listed)
Writing Culture	(required upper division)

2007-2011 Western Connecticut State University. Department of Social Sciences

Course Titles:

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  
 Globalization, Gender, and Feminist Anthropology  
 Transnational Feminisms  
 Gender, Sex, and Culture  
 Anthropology of the Middle East  
 Economic Anthropology  
 Human Rights and Non-Governmental Organizations

2000- 2007 University of Arizona. Department of Anthropology (affiliated with the Department of Rhetoric and Composition and the Teaching of English, and the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies).

Course Titles:

Many Ways of Being Human  
 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  
 Caribbean Transformations from “Cannibals” to “Reggae”  
 Advanced Rhetoric  
 Honors Composition  
 Business English  
 Freshmen Composition

1999- 2000 English Instructor, *Cochise College, Sierra Vista, AZ*

Course Titles:

Composition  
 World Literature

**REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**

**As Editor:**

Isik, Damla, Hourii Berberian, and Ali Igmen, (Eds.). (2012). State and Society Relations. [Special Issue]. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, (32) 1.

**As Author:**

- Isik, Damla. (2021). Teaching to Become Intersectional Allies: Engaged Activism, Ecofeminism, and Anarchism in Building Resistance in the Classroom. *In* Amber E. George, (Ed.), *Gender and Sexuality in Critical Animal Studies*. Lanham: Lexington Books.
- Isik, Damla. (2019). The Politics of Giving: Charity, State, Civil Society, and Governance in Contemporary Turkey. *Journal of Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society*, 3 (2), pp. 1-25.
- Isik, Damla. (2018). ‘Just Like Prophet Mohammad Preached’: Labor, Piety, and Charity in Contemporary Turkey. *In* Ebru Kongar, Jennifer C. Olmsted, and Elora Shehabuddin. (Eds.), *Gender and Economics in Muslim Communities: Critical Feminist and Postcolonial Analyses* (pp. 212-235). New York: Routledge Press.
- Isik, Damla. (2015). Dilemmas of Women’s Movements in Turkey: Labor, Charity, and Neoliberal Patriarchy. *In* Huma Ahmed-Ghosh. (Ed.), *Asian Muslim Women: Globalization and Local Realities* (pp. 39-59). New York: State University of New York Press.
- Isik, Damla. (2014). Vakif as Intent and Practice: Charity and Poor Relief in Turkey. [Special Issue on Politics of Benevolence]. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 46, 307-327.
- Isik, Damla. (2013). ‘Just Like Prophet Mohammad Preached’: Labor, Piety, and Charity in Contemporary Turkey. *Feminist Economics*, 20 (4), pp. 1-23.
- Isik, Damla. (2012). The Specter and Reality of Corruption in State and Civil Society: Privatizing and Auditing Poor Relief in Turkey. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and Middle East*, 32 (1), pp. 57-70.
- Isik, Damla. (2011). Neighborly Ties and Sohbet: Global Capitalism and the Work of Weaving in Konya, Turkey. *In* Walter E. Little, and Patricia A. McAnany, (Eds.), *Textile Economies: Power and Value from the Local to the Transnational* (pp. 163-181). Maryland: Alta Mira Press.
- Isik, Damla. (2010). Personal and Global Economies: Male Carpet Manufacturers as Entrepreneurs in the Weaving Neighborhoods of Konya, Turkey. *American Ethnologist*, 37 (1), pp. 52-67.
- Isik, Damla (2010). Nimble Hands Weaving Culture: Representation and Sale of Turkish Carpets over the Internet. *In* Sue Abel, Anita Nowak, and Marjan De Bruin, (Eds.), *Women/Advertising/Representation: Extending Beyond Familiar Paradigms* (pp. 129-145). N.J.: Hampton Press.

Isik, Damla. (2008). On Sabir and Agency: The Politics of Pious Practice in Konya's Weaving Industry. *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 10 (4), pp. 518-541.

### **SELECT NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**

Isik, Damla. (2018). Personal Research/Teaching Interview as Fulbright Scholar. Izv. Prof. Dr. Sc. Damla Isik, Sveuciliste Regis, Colorado, Na Studijskom Boravku Na Odjelu Za Sociologiju Sveucilista u Zadru. *Lanterna*. Vol. 3, Issue 5, pp. 56-57.

Isik, Damla. (2002). Betwixt and Between: Gendering Liminality – Tahar Ben Jelloun and The Sand Child. In Will Wright and Steven Kaplan, (Eds.), *The Image of the Outsider* (pp. 38-50). Colorado: University of Southern Colorado Press.

Isik Damla. (2000). Embracing a 'New Age': The Return of the Paleolithic Goddess at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century. In Will Wright and Steven Kaplan, (Eds.), *The Image of the Twentieth Century* (pp. 15-26). Colorado: University of Southern Colorado Press.

Isik Damla. Trans. (1996). Bıçak Sırtı: Androidler Elektrikli Koyun Düşler mi? Istanbul: Kavram Yayınları (Turkish Translation of Philip K. Dick's Blade Runner, or, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?)

### **INVITED PANELS, WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS**

Presentation. *Peri-urban Imaginary as Resistance and Alternative: Slow City, Slow Food, and Women's Entrepreneurship in Seferihisar, Turkey*. Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association, 14-17 November, 2019. New Orleans.

Presentation. *Politics of Care Work and the Family: Contours of Neoliberalism and Women's Rights in Turkey*. Sociology Department invited talk. 14 May 2019. University of Zadar, Croatia.

Presentation. *The Politics and Poetics of Giving in Contemporary Turkey*. Symposium on Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society. Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Indiana University, October 2018. Indiana, USA

Presentation. *Dilemmas of Women's Movements and Rights in Turkey: Neoliberal Patriarchy, Family, and the Nation*. Sociology Department invited talk. 6 June 2018. University of Zadar, Croatia.

Presentation. *Populist Nationalism, Familialism, Authoritarianism and Women's Rights in Turkey*. Cultural Studies Department invited talk. 24 May 2018. University of Rijeka, Croatia.

Presentation. *Rising Populism and Women's Rights in Turkey*. Lecture series titled "Middle East and the Challenges of Contemporary World," 23 May 2018. University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia.

Presentation. *The Intent to Give and Receive: Charitable Islam, Compassion, and the Concept of Hak in Contemporary Turkey*. LUCSoR Annual Conference: Compassion, Social Engagement and Discontent: Believing and the Politics of Belonging in Europe Today. Leiden University, November 2016. Leiden, The Netherlands.

Workshop Presentation. *Charity and the New Neo-Moral Order: Volunteerism, Aid Relief, and Pious Economies in Contemporary Turkey*. Religious Engineering: Alternative Practices in the Context of Global Development. University of Bayreuth, September 2016. Bayreuth, Germany.

Discussant. Panel Title: The Reconfiguration of the Relationship between Civil Society, State, and the Market in Contemporary Turkey. Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association, November, 2015. Denver, CO.

Presenter. *Vakif as Intent and Practice: Charity and Poor Relief in Contemporary Turkey*. Post-Islamism in Turkey 1: Theoretical Approach. World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), August 2014. Ankara, Turkey.

Presenter. *Women's Rights Issues and Islam in Turkey*. Women's Empowerment: Post 2015 Policies at the Intersection of Feminist Theology and Feminist Economics. United Nations Population Fund, April 2014. New York.

Workshop Presentation. *'Just Like Prophet Muhammad Preached': Labor, Piety, and Charity in Contemporary Turkey*. Gender and Economics in Muslim Communities (GEMC) Workshop, June 2012. Barcelona, Spain.

Presenter. *Charitable Futures and Charitable Pasts: Entrepreneurship, Charity and Poverty in Contemporary Turkey*. Panel Title: New Directions in the Anthropology of Turkey. Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association, November, 2011. Washington DC, (presenter).

Presenter. *Beyond Mavi Marmara: Volunteerism, Aid Relief, and Pious Economies in Turkey*. Panel Title: Traces and Trademarks: Categories of Anxiety and Belonging in Turkey. Annual Meeting of American Anthropological Association, November 2011. Montreal, (also chair).

Presenter. *Post-Islamism/Post-Kemalism: Muslim Practice, Politics, and Gender in Turkey*. 2011 Yale Summer Institute on Religion and Politics in the Middle East. Yale University, New Haven CT.

Presenter. *Refashioning Communities of Belonging: Remembering Ottoman Charity and Generosity in Contemporary Poor Relief in Turkey*. Panel Title: Globalization

and Associational Activity in the Middle East and Asia. Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association, November 2010. San Diego, (also co-organizer, chair).

Presenter. *Governing Transparency and Corruption at a Non-Governmental Organization: The Case of Deniz Feneri Aid and Solidarity Association in Turkey*. Panel Title: Anthropology of Disaster Capitalism. Annual Meeting of American Anthropological Association, December 2009. Philadelphia, (also co-organizer)

Presenter. *Nostalgia for the Ottoman Vakif: State-Civil Society Relations in Turkey*. Workshop Title: State-Society Relations in North Africa, the Middle East, and Muslim Asia. Second Annual California State University MEIS Conference/Workshop, October 2009. San Francisco, California.

Presenter. *The Headscarf Conundrum of Democracy and Laicism: Modernity, Representation and Gender in Turkish Politics*. Panel Name: Gender and Politics from a Feminist Anthropological Perspective. Annual Meeting of American Anthropological Association, November 2008. San Francisco, California, (also co-organizer)

## **PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

*Self and Community in the Neoliberal Age: Paths of Economic Globalization*. Social Sciences Conference: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Contemporary Social Change, June 2015. Split, Croatia.

*Sadaqa Stones versus Computers: Privatization of Aid Relief, the Concept of Haqq (Hak) and Charitable Islam in Contemporary Turkey*. The Turks and Islam International Conference, September 2010. Indiana University, Indiana.

*Refashioning a 'Just' Turkish Republic: Remembering Ottoman Charity and Generosity in Contemporary Poor Relief*. World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, July 2010. Barcelona, Spain.

*Weaving Carpets, Attending Sohbet; Neighborly Ties and Global Capitalism in Konya, Turkey*. Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Meeting. Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, April 2009. University of California, Los Angeles, California.

*The Fantasies and Ghosts of Globalization: Successful Entrepreneurs and Communal Ties in the Global Economy*. Netherlands Association of Gender and Feminist Anthropology Conference, July 2008. Amsterdam, Netherlands.

*Secrets of Globalized Labor Relations and Habituation of Pious, Industrious Behavior: The Ethics of Doing Work in Konya's Carpet Weaving Industry*. Society for Cultural Anthropology Biennial Meeting, May 2008. Los Angeles, California.

*Labor Rights and Women's Rights: Gender Inequality, Economic Realities, and Labor Politics in Turkey.* Economic Justice Summit sponsored by National Organization for Women (NOW Foundation), April 2008. Atlanta, Georgia.

*On Sabir and Agency: The Politics of Pious Practice in Konya's Weaving Industry.* UMass Boston Fall Institute on Engaging Islam: Feminisms, Religiosities, and Self-Determinations, September 2007. Boston, MA.

*Politics of Feminism in Turkey: At the Interstices of Islam and Secularism.* Green Valley Women's Conference, October 2006. Tucson, AZ.

*Gendering Globalization: The Changing Conditions of Women Weavers and the Weaving Industry in Turkey.* Middle East Studies Association Conference, November, 2005. Washington, Washington DC.

*Weaving Culture, Doing Work: Fashion, Authenticity, and Women Weavers in Modern Turkey.* American Anthropological Association Conference, November 2005. Washington, Washington DC.

*Bird's Eye View: Miniaturization of the Monumental as Heritage Work – the Case of Miniaturk.* Middle East Studies Regional Conference, March 2004. Santa Barbara, California.

*Creation of Heritage in Catalhoyuk, Turkey.* Middle East Studies Regional Conference, March 2003. Santa Barbara, California.

### **POSTER PRESENTATIONS:**

*Secret Places: Industrialization, Informal Labor, and Gender in Central Anatolia.* Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Anthropology, March 2012. San Antonio, Texas.

### **SELECT LEADERSHIP AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

#### **For Fulbright:**

- 2019 (July 23-26) - Participated at Pre-Departure Orientation for new Fulbright awardees as a country expert for Croatia. This was a Fulbright funded event.
- 2018 (July 18-20) - Invitation to participate at Pre-Departure Orientation for new Fulbright awardees as a country expert for Croatia. This was a Fulbright funded event.

**At Regis University (2011-present):**

- 2018-2021 Department Chair, Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Criminal Justice  
 2014-2017 Senate Representative for Department of Sociology  
 2012-2017 Thematic Major Approval Committee  
 2012-2017 Faculty Development Committee

**At Western Connecticut State University (2007-2011):**

- 2010-2011 Advisor for Women's Studies Honor Society  
 2010-2011 Committee Member, University Planning and Budget Committee  
 2010-2011 Committee Member, Western International Center  
 2008-2011 Department Representative in University Senate  
 2008-2011 Committee Member, Honors Committee  
 2007-2009 Committee Member, Center for Culture and Values  
 2007-2011 Committee Member, Women's Studies and Women's History Month Committee  
 2008-2011 Committee Member, Program Review Committee.  
 2007 International Education Week. Lecture Organizer.  
 2007 President's Initiative Fund Panel Discussion Participant. Panel Theme: "Globalization"

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2020 Visiting Professorship Program at University of Macerata (postponed to 2021 due to COVID)
- 2020 Palestinian American Research Center 2020 Faculty Seminar Development Award (postponed to 2021 due to COVID)
- 2017-2018 Fulbright Scholar Award, Croatia
- 2017 Regis University Faculty Development Summer Research Grant.
- 2013 Regis University Faculty Development Summer Research Grant.
- 2011 Western Connecticut State University Research Award for best research within faculty. This is an annual award given to one faculty per year.
- 2010 Connecticut State Universities. CSU/AAUP Research Grant. Funds are used toward new research.
- 2009 Connecticut State Universities. CSU/AAUP Research Grant. Funds are used toward developing new research.
- 2008 Connecticut State Universities. CSU/AAUP Research Grant. Funds were used towards further research for book manuscript and for developing new research.
- 2007-2008 University of California, Santa Barbara. Women's Studies Program. Dissertation Scholars Teaching Fellowships.  
 I was accepted as one of the two fellows for the academic year and had to decline this opportunity due to the fact that I accepted the offer by *Western Connecticut State University*.
- 2006 University of Arizona. Edward P. Dozier Award  
Paper Title: *Governing Globalization/Negotiating Relationships: Processes of Labor and Kinship in Turkey's Carpet Industry*



- 2004 University of Arizona. Emil W. Haury Fund Research Grant  
2004 University of Arizona. Social and Behavioral Sciences Dissertation Grant Fund  
2004 University of Arizona. Honorable Mention, Edward P. Dozier Award  
Paper Title: *Bird's Eye View: Miniaturization of the Monumental as Heritage Work – the Case of Miniaturk*  
2003 University of Arizona. Janet Upjohn Stearns Foundation Award  
2003 University of Arizona. Riecker Fellowship  
2001 Nominated for Ruth Gardner Award in Excellence in Teaching by teaching advisor.  
1998 Goldini Italian Cultural Center, Izmir, Turkey. Language Scholarship to attend summer school in Florence, Italy.

### **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

- 2008-2017 Co-editor of the American Feminist Association's column in *Anthropology News*, a monthly publication of the American Anthropological Association.  
2002-2007 Campus Coordinator for Popular Culture Association. University of Arizona  
1997-1999 Research Assistant. Department of English. Ege University.  
1998 Organizing Committee. First Annual Cultural Studies Seminar. Ege University.

### **LANGUAGES**

Fluent – English, Turkish  
Reading knowledge – Italian, Spanish

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Anthropological Association  
Society for Cultural Anthropology  
Society for Economic Anthropology  
Society for the Anthropology of Work  
Association for Feminist Anthropology  
Middle East Studies Association