

عجم شوخنه روحجامه الباس ايله اول شاهد زيبا تركي قماش ايله خرام واهنزه
 باشدي **بيت** داوردولتي كه لازم تست محندانم كه كويت چون باد كرفلك
 مي تواندش افزود تا حادمتناع افزون باد كه هيمن است حدافرايش تا ابد
 باعيارا كنون باد **مقدمه در بيان احوال مؤلف و كيفيت تاليف** سام ميرزا
 تذكرة الشعرا سنده بوو. حمله بيان ايتمشد كه خواندمير مؤرخ متع
 هراتندر انشا و فصاحت و شعر و بلاغت
 جانب مادر دن

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By bringing together research approaches from Oriental/Middle Eastern studies, translation studies and material philology, the group will not only close significant gaps in the current state of research but also replace the current, too narrowly defined concepts of translation with a new understanding of translation that better reflects cultural history. This applies, in particular, to the function of translation in the context of ideological self-positioning and confessional demarcation. The further development of literary norms by translators, clients and recipients will also be examined across different types of text. Thus, our four major projects and two associated projects investigate translations within different genres: the major projects focusing on (1) mirrors for princes and historiography, (2) biography and hagiography, (3) encyclopaedia, cosmography and geography, and (4) hadith will be complemented by two associated projects focusing on (5) mystical advice literature and (6) Qur'anic exegesis.

translAPT

TRANSLATION: ARABIC • PERSIAN • TURKISH

About the Project

Translation processes played a central role in the formation of the Ottoman Empire in the early modern period. Against the background of confessional-political polarisation in the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, a multitude of works were increasingly received, translated and commented upon. Therefore, using a multidisciplinary approach, this junior research group is investigating the transregional transfer of knowledge between 1400 and 1750 holistically for the first time. In doing so, the focus lies on translation as a concept, process and product in a large portion of the Islamic world. The aim is to reveal the central role of Ottoman Turkish translations of texts in Arabic and Persian as part of the dissolution processes of cultural and literary ambiguity between Sunni and Shia Islam, without a clear understanding of which the intellectual-historical developments in the region cannot be fully comprehended and appreciated.



Mirror for Princes and Historiography

Principal Investigator: Philip Bockholt



Philip Bockholt is investigating translations of mirrors for princes and historiographies from Arabic and Persian into Ottoman Turkish. Both genres were important in shaping the Ottoman Empire. Among the mirrors for princes, his analysis focuses, in particular, on the Anatolian Turkish versions of the anonymous fable *Kalīla wa-Dimna*, such as 'Alī Çelebi's 16th-century *Hümāyūnnāme*, and translations of the *Qābūs-nāma* (an 11th-century text from Northeast Iran). As for chronicles, he is working on Ibn Kathīr's *al-Bidāya wa-l-Nihāya*, Mīrkhvānd's *Rawzat al-Şafā*, and al-'Aynī's *'Iqd al-Jumān*. His study spans the 14th to the 18th century and includes the Anatolian princely courts and the Ottoman court.

Philip Bockholt received his PhD in Islamic Studies from Freie Universität Berlin in 2018 and was appointed Junior Professor for the History of the Turco-Persian World at the Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies in 2022.

Encyclopaedia

Postdoctoral Researcher: Sacha Alsancaklı



Sacha Alsancaklı is working on Ottoman translations of Persian art and craft manuals. Related to an encyclopaedic interest in the natural world and its phenomena, these manuals are brief, practically oriented texts that explore a diverse range of activities such as

papermaking, sword making, gemmology, blacksmithing and many more. Sometimes devoted to a single craft, they also exist as compendiums and were circulated in various environments: from artisans' guilds to local courts and religious brotherhoods. The main primary source for this project is the *Majmū'at al-Şanāyi'* (Compendium of Arts and Crafts), an Indo-Persian manual of craftsmanship translated into Ottoman Turkish in Bidlīs in the mid-17th century.

Sacha Alsancaklı received his PhD in Oriental languages, civilisations, and societies from Sorbonne Nouvelle University in Paris in 2018.

Biography

Doctoral Researcher: Hicham Bouhadi



Hicham Bouhadi examines translations of biographical dictionaries from Arabic into Ottoman Turkish during the early modern Ottoman Empire. Specifically, he is investigating the Ottoman translation of Ibn Khallikān's *Wafayāt al-A'yān* (Obituaries of Celebrities) by Meḥmed Rodosīzāde, a prominent literary figure of the late 17th century. Commissioned by Grand Vizier Kara Muştafā Paşa, this translation was completed in 1092/1681. The project tracks the lineage of the translations of the *Wafayāt al-A'yān* starting with the earlier Persian and Turkish versions from 895/1490. It analyses Rodosīzāde's translation approach, its impact on subsequent Ottoman biographical traditions, and its socio-cultural readership and circulation.

Hicham Bouhadi received his BA (2018) and MA (2020) in Islamic Studies from the University of al-Qarawiyyin in Morocco.

Hadith

Doctoral Researcher: Muhammed Sofu



Muhammed Sofu is working on hadith and examining the translations from the subgenre of the forty hadith collection. One of the most famous forty hadith collections is the work by 'Abd al-Raḥmān Jāmī (d. 898/1492) titled *Chihil ḥadīṣ* which was composed in Herat in 886/1481. As Jāmī was a renowned figure, well-known even among the Ottomans, his Persian hadith collection was translated into Ottoman Turkish nine times over the next 250 years. Notably, all of the translations are *naẓīres* (emulations) and there is no prose rendition of this work.

Muhammed Sofu completed his BA (2021) and MA (2023) in Islamic Studies at İstanbul 29 Mayıs Üniversitesi.

Tafsir

Associated Project of the Cluster of Excellence Religion and Politics

Doctoral Researcher: Ahmet Aytepe



As one of the associate researchers at TRANSLAPT, Ahmet Aytepe is focusing on the pre-modern translations of tafsir works into Ottoman Turkish. His primary goal is to explore how translations of tafsir works interacted with their socio-cultural and historical contexts, influencing and reflecting the dynamics of Ottoman intellectual life, and revealing the complex interplay of language, identity, and knowledge transfer within the Ottoman Empire. While his study considers, to some extent, all the tafsir translations identified thus far, it focuses

primarily on the translations of the tafsir of Abū al-Layth al-Samarqandī (d. 373/983), a jurist, exegete and sufi who had a significant impact on the Ottoman world.

Ahmet Aytepe completed his MA (2018) and PhD (2023) at İstanbul 29 Mayıs Üniversitesi.

Mystical Advice Literature

Associated Project of the DFG Priority Programme Transottomanica

Doctoral Researcher: Tobias Sick



Tobias Sick's research concerns processes of Persian-Arabic-Turkish translation and adaptation that took place in different parts of the Ottoman Empire from the 16th to the mid-19th century relating, specifically, to mystical advice literature. The main source for this doctoral project is the so-called *Pandnāma-yi 'Aṭṭār* ('Aṭṭār's Book of Wise Counsel), a poetic pseudo-'Aṭṭārian work of Persian advice literature, that was translated and commented upon many times in the Ottoman context and beyond. Tracing this complex translation history and its manuscript corpus will facilitate significant insight, in particular, regarding the complex and diverse relationships between the original text and its translations in addition to the codicological-visual forms of organisation in translation manuscripts in the early modern period.

Tobias Sick completed his BA (2015) and MA (2020) in languages, history, and cultures of the Middle East at the University of Tübingen.