

Kerem Görkem ARSLAN

Ph.D. Candidate

67000 Strasbourg France

E-mail: kg.arslan@unistra.fr, keremarslan.strasbourg@gmail.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/keremgorkemarslan/>

Ph.D. candidate in Political Science affiliated with the Law, Religion, Business, and Society Research Unit ([DRES UMR 7354](#)) and the [Doctoral School of Legal Sciences \(ED101\)](#) at the University of Strasbourg, accredited by [ITI MAKERs](#). Associate researcher at the French Institute of Anatolian Studies ([IFEA USR 3131](#)).

Research Areas: New Religious Movements, Official Recognition of Emerging Religions, Reconstruction of Ancient Cults and Ritual Practices, Anthropology and Philosophy of Myths, Anthropology of Religion, Neopagan Identification and Marginalization.

EDUCATION

2022 (Ongoing) – Ph.D. in Political Science at the Laboratory DRES UMR 7354 and the Doctoral School of Legal Sciences (ED 101) – University of Strasbourg

- Thesis: [Development of Heterodox Religiosities from Contemporary Turkey in Comparison with the Establishment and Recognition of Neo-Pagan Religious Movements in Europe](#), supervised by Prof. Samim Akgönül

2021/2022 – Master's Degree in Ethnology, specializing in Social and Cultural Anthropology – University of Strasbourg (*Magna cum laude, Mention bien*)

- Research Thesis: The Worship of Hecate in Contemporary Turkey: Overview and Practices of a Reconstructed Cult, supervised by Lisa Renard, PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology

2021/2022 – Master's Degree in Philosophy (Erasmus+) – University Paris 8 - Vincennes - Saint-Denis, France

2021/2022 – Graduate Diploma in History, Sociology, Archaeology, and Anthropology of Religions ([HiSAAR](#)) – University of Strasbourg, France (*Magna cum laude, Mention bien*)

2021 – Certificate in Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language at Istanbul University

2017 (Suspended) – Master's Degree in Philosophy (BAC+6) – Galatasaray University in Istanbul, Turkey (Overall GPA 3.79 out of 4)

2017/2018 – Master’s Degree in Corporate Communication, specializing in International Communication and Management – University Grenoble Alpes, France (*Magna cum laude, Mention bien*)

- Professional Report: Methods of Implementing an Entrepreneurial Strategy in Public Communication and Franco-Turkish Project Management in the Academic Field, supervised by Jean-Philippe De Oliveira, Associate Professor in Information and Communication Sciences

2015/2016 – Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy (Erasmus+) – University Lyon 3 - Jean Moulin, France

2013/2017 – Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy - University Paris 1 – Panthéon Sorbonne, France (*Summa cum laude, Mention très bien*)

2011/2017 – Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy - Galatasaray University in Istanbul, Turkey (*Summa cum laude, Overall GPA 3.83 out of 4*)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Activities

Septembre 2024 (Ongoing) – Lecturer – Faculty of Languages, University of Strasbourg

The courses conducted as follows:

- 2024/25 – Written and Oral Expression (LG55AM15) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Introduction to Literary Translation (LG55AM16) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – History of Anatolian Cities (LG55AM30) – 36 hours
- 2024/25 – Written and Oral Expression (LG55BM15) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Introduction to Literary Translation (LG55BM16) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Turkish Literary Language (LG55CM15) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Turkish Literary Language (LG55DM15) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Written and Oral Expression (LG55EM12) – 12 hours
- 2024/25 – Theme and Version (LG55EM13) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Written and Oral Expression (LG55FM12) – 12 hours
- 2024/25 – Theme and Version (LG55FM13) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Turkish Language through Translated Texts (LG55AM12) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Turkish Language: Enhanced Oral and Written Practice (LG55AM31) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Turkish Language through Translated Texts (LG55BM12) – 24 hours

- 2024/25 – Turkish Language: Enhanced Oral and Written Practice (LG55BM31) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Turkish Language through Translated Texts (LG55CM12) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Advanced Turkish Language (LG55CM21) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Turkish Language through Translated Texts (LG55DM12) – 24 hours
- 2024/25 – Advanced Turkish Language (LG55DM21) – 24 hours

September 2022/August 2024 – Temporary Lecturer – Faculty of Languages, University of Strasbourg

The courses conducted as follows:

- 2023/24 – History of Anatolian Cities (LG55AM30) – 36 hours
- 2023/24 – Written and Oral Expression (LG55BM15) – 24 hours
- 2023/24 – Reinforcement Oui-Si (LG55AM22) - Disciplinary Reinforcement and French for Academic Purposes) – 24 hours
- 2023/24 – Reinforcement Oui-Si (LG55BM22) – 12 hours
- 2022/23 – History of Anatolian Cities (LG55AM30) – 36 hours
- 2022/23 – Reinforcement Oui-Si (LG55AM22) – 24 hours
- 2022/23 – Reinforcement Oui-Si (LG55BM22) – 24 hours

October 2022/June 2024 – French as a Foreign Language (FLE) Teacher – [OEPRE](#) Program of the Ministry of National Education – François Truffaut Middle School in Strasbourg

- Specific French language courses for non-French-speaking parents
- Teaching French Republic values and their implementation in society
- Familiarization of parents with the education system in France

May 2022/December 2023 – French as a Foreign Language Teacher – Confluence Formation in Strasbourg

- Conducting general and professional French courses as well as online group courses for unemployed trainees

January 2021/July 2022 – French as a Foreign Language Teacher – French Institute of Turkey in Istanbul

- General French courses, specialized French courses, private lessons, online courses, and preparation courses for DELF-DALF and TCF exams

Research Activities

July 2025 – Visiting Researcher (with monthly scholarship of the MFO) at the Maison Française d'Oxford (USR 3129 – CNRS-MAE-University of d'Oxford)

January-February 2025 - Visiting Researcher (with an Erasmus+ Training Grant) at the Marginalised and Endangered Worldviews Study Centre (MEWSC) and the Study of Religions Department and MA Anthropology at University College Cork

October 2024 (Ongoing) – Associate Researcher at the French Institute of Anatolian Studies ([IFEA](#)) – Georges Dumézil (USR 3131 – CNRS-MAE) in Istanbul

July 2024 – Visiting Researcher (with short-term grant of the IFEA and Mobil'ITI Grant) at the French Institute of Anatolian Studies ([IFEA](#)) – Georges Dumézil (USR 3131 – CNRS-MAE) in Istanbul

- Seminar presentations to introduce the doctoral researcher's work to IFEA researchers; writing a report on the research conducted during the stay

April 2024 - Visiting Researcher (with an Erasmus+ Training Grant) at the Centre for Multidisciplinary Research on Religion and Society (CRS) at Uppsala University

- Participation in various multidisciplinary seminars on religion and observation for a better understanding of practices, policies, and educational systems, presentation of a paper in a higher seminar to CRS researchers, academic meetings with professors and researchers from Uppsala and Stockholm universities.

September 2023 (Ongoing) – Ethnology Project Researcher (with research engineer contract) – [Department of Turkish Studies](#) at the University of Strasbourg and [Alsatian Museum](#)

- Conducting an ethnographic study on the Alsatian population of Turkish origin for the Alsatian Museum; conducting semi-structured interviews; writing observation and interview reports; contributing as an expert to the process of acquiring new pieces at the Alsatian Museum

June 2023 (Ongoing) – Correspondent for Turkey for the international scientific network [EUREL](#) (EUrope - RELigion), Sociological and Legal Data on Religion in Europe and Beyond, project led by Anne-Laure Zwilling

2023 (Ongoing) – Member of the research team of the Franco-German [DislaTurk](#) Project (Islamic Studies and Turkology as Disciplines: Dynamics of two Research Fields in Upper Rhine Universities), funded by the GECT Eucor-European Campus, led by Dilek Sarmis and Aylin de Tapia

February-April 2022 – Editor – ITI HiSAAR / ARCHIMÈDE Laboratory at the University of Strasbourg

- Support in organizing the exhibition "[Quand le politique exprime le religieux. Objets d'ici et d'ailleurs](#)" (When Politics Expresses Religion: Objects from Here and There"), research on the works of the exhibition, and writing the catalog

2016 – Member of the Translation Seminar Team of Aristotle’s Poetics

Translation seminar from Ancient Greek to Turkish on Aristotle’s Poetics, led by the co-translator of the text, Assistant Professor Ömer Aygün at the Department of Philosophy of Galatasaray University

- The book published as Aristotle, On Poetics, translated and annotated by Ömer Aygün and Ari Çokona, Istanbul, İş Bankası Editions (1st ed. September 2016; 11th ed. 2022)

Other Professional Activities

November 2023 (Ongoing) – Authorized Examiner-Corrector for DELF-DALF at the French Cultural Center in Freiburg

August 2023 (Ongoing) – Oral Expression Test Examiner for the Test d’Évaluation de Français (TEF)

March-August 2019 – Francophone Area Manager and Francophonie Assistant – University Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne and Galatasaray University

January 2018/March 2019 – University Cooperation Officer – Campus France Turkey at the Consulate General of France in Istanbul

December 2018/November 2023 – Authorized Examiner-Corrector for DELF-DALF at the French Institute of Turkey in Istanbul

August 2016 (Ongoing) – Independent Sworn Translator (French, English, Turkish) by the 1st and 21st notaries of Bakırköy in Istanbul

Translation of written and audiovisual materials such as art films, documentaries, scientific articles e.g.:

- Translation of Thierry Zarcone’s article, titled “Legends and Patron Saints of Masonry and Architectural Trades in the Islamic Orient”, Cahiers Villard de Honnecourt, Paris, no. 117, 2020, pp. 196-213.
- Translation of subtitles for the documentary “Medeniyetler Beşiği Anadolu” (Anatolia, Cradle of Civilizations) for the Communication Directorate of the Republic of Turkey.

February-October 2016 – Temporary Mission Head at the Courses and Exams Department – French Institute of Turkey in Istanbul

LANGUAGES

Turkish (Native)

French (Advanced / Holder of DALF C2)

English (Advanced / C1 / YÖKDİL 88.75 out of 100)

Spanish (Beginner / A1)

German (Beginner / A1)

Ancient Greek (Intermediate)

Classical Latin (Intermediate)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2025 – Monthly Scholarship from MFO for Young Researchers

2024 – MOBIL'ITI Grant from ITI MAKErS for Scientific Hosting in a Foreign Research Center

2024 – Short-term Stay Grant from IFEA for Young Researchers

2021/2022 – Erasmus+ International Student Mobility Scholarship (SMS)

2017/2018 – French Government Excellence Scholarship – French Embassy in Turkey

2017 – Highest Ranked Student of the Department of Philosophy at Galatasaray University

2014/2017 – Scholarship from the TEV Foundation (Turkish Education Foundation)

2015/2016 – Erasmus+ International Student Mobility Scholarship (SMS)

UNIVERSITY LIFE

2024 (Ongoing) – Representative of Ph.D. Candidates on the UMR 7354 DRES Unit Council

2013-2017 – Student Representative for the Philosophy Bachelor's Program at Galatasaray University

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORKS

February 2024 (Ongoing) – Member of the International Society for Academic Research on Shamanism (ISARS)

January 2024 (Ongoing) – Member of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE)

July 2023 (Ongoing) – Member of the Society of Turkic, Ottoman, and Turkish Studies (Gesellschaft für Turkologie, Osmanistik und Türkeiforschung, GTOT)

ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

2025 – Panel Convenor of “Emerging Spiritualities: The Trajectory of New Spiritual Practices in Turkish Society” at the *Conference of the Commission on Anthropology of the Middle East*, organized by the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), September 10–12, 2025, IFEA, Istanbul.

2025 – Panel Convenor of “New Religious Modes and Alternative Spiritualities in Contemporary Turkish Society: Emergence, Practices, and Social Issues” at the *6th Congress on Middle Eastern and Muslim Worlds Studies (6e congrès des études sur le Moyen-Orient et les mondes musulmans)*, June 24–27, 2025, University of Strasbourg.

2025 – Organization of the interdisciplinary workshop “The Echo of Ancestors: The Reemergence and Claims of 'Ancient' Religions in Europe”, funded by the Interdisciplinary Thematic Institute MAKerS, with the support of UMR 7354 DRES, April 3-4, 2025, University of Strasbourg.

2024 – Organization of the workshop “Shadows and Echoes: Reassessing US Influence in Turkey’s 1980 Coup and Its Legacy” by the Department of Turkish Studies and UMR 7354 DRES, March 27, 2024, University of Strasbourg.

2023 – Organization and moderation of the conference “Why a Republic in Turkey” by the Department of Turkish Studies and UMR 7354 DRES, December 19, 2023, University of Strasbourg.

2023 – Member of the organizing committee of the DIslaTurk colloquium “Intersecting Epistemologies, Captive Epistemologies: Turkish and Islamic Studies”, June 16-17, 2023, University of Strasbourg.

2022 – Member of the organizing committee of the exhibition “When Politics Expresses Religion, Objects from Here and There”, presented in the Hall of the MISHA at the University of Strasbourg and organized as part of the Summer University of ITI HiSAAR “Non-religion and Secularism, Social Evolutions and Political Questionings” March 23 to April 1, 2022.

2016/2017 – Assistant in the Department of Economics – Galatasaray University in Istanbul.

2014 – Member of the organizing committee of the international symposium “Activities around Violence and Civility in Today’s World”, May 7-10, 2014, Galatasaray University & French Institute of Istanbul.

PUBLICATIONS

Contribution to Collective Works

2024 – “Türkiye Rumları: Yüzyıllık Yok Oluş Süreci” (The Greeks of Turkey: A 100-Year Process of Extinction) (with Samim Akgönül), Macar Elçin (ed.), *Çemberin Dışındakiler: Azınlıklar*, İstanbul, Tarih Vakfı Yayınları.

2024 – “Align the 'Ancient One' with Our Lives: Analyzing the Resurgence of an Ancient Cult to Shed Light on Contemporary Religiosity in Turkey,” Zwillig Anne Laure, Akgönül Samim (eds), *Druidism, Tengrism, Taaraim: Current reactivations of ancient spiritualities and religions, from identity to politics*, London, Transnational Press London, p.87-109.

2023 – “Laikliğin Üç Hâli: Fransa ve Türkiye Bağlımlarından Hareketle Devlet, Hukuk ve Toplum Açısından Din” (Three Modes of Secularism: Religion from the Perspectives of the State, Law, and Society in the Contexts of France and Turkey) (with Samim Akgönül), Saç Selman (ed.) *Cumhuriyetçilik ve Cumhuriyetler: Teoriyi Derinleştirmek, Pratiği Sorgulamak*, Ankara, Nika Yayınevi, p. 471-494.

Article in a Peer-Reviewed Journal

2024 – “Identification et pratiques néopaïennes : un phénomène syncrétique quasi invisible en Turquie” (Identification and Neo-Pagan Practices: A Quasi-Invisible Syncretic Phenomenon in Turkey) in *Revue des jeunes chercheurs de l'ITI HiSAAR*, Strasbourg, Éditions ITI HiSAAR, <https://www.calameo.com/books/0072136665cb91eb05ea0>.

Exhibition Text

2022 – Writing of the catalog for the exhibition *Quand le politique exprime le religieux. Objets d'ici et d'ailleurs* (When Politics Expresses Religion. Objects from Here and There), with Flavie Linard and Julia Vesque, under the direction of Salomé Deboos, as part of the ITI HiSAAR of the University of Strasbourg.

Encyclopedic Entries

2024 – “Funeral services in Turkey”, EUREL, <https://www.eurel.info/spip.php?article3732>.

2024 – “Religion and the LGBTIQ+ Community”, EUREL, <https://www.eurel.info/spip.php?article3701>.

2024 – “Religion and dress code at work in Turkey”, EUREL, <https://www.eurel.info/spip.php?article4133>.

2023 – “La désignation de conseillers spirituels dans les écoles” (The appointment of spiritual advisors in schools), EUREL, <https://www.eurel.info/spip.php?article4243>.

2023 – “Public funding of Islam”, EUREL, <https://www.eurel.info/spip.php?article1749>.

2023 – “Changes in the Civil Code”, EUREL, <https://www.eurel.info/spip.php?article1757>.

2023 – “General overview”, EUREL, <https://www.eurel.info/spip.php?article68>.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

June 26–28, 2025 – Vilnius, “Crafting Secularized Religious and Spiritual Identities in the Turkish Context”, paper presented at the *10th Biennial Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism*, June 26–28, 2025, Vilnius University.

June 25, 2025 – Strasbourg, “Why Paganism in the Contemporary Era? The Construction of Neopagan Identities Under the Influence of Islamo-Conservatism”, paper presented in the panel “Emergence of New Spiritual Practices and Syncretic Religiosities in Contemporary Turkish Society” at the *6th Congress on Middle Eastern and Muslim Worlds Studies*, June 24–27, 2025, University of Strasbourg.

February 25, 2025 – Strasbourg, “The Ontology of Religious Objects in Neo-Pagan Movements: From Productive Effort to Rapid Consumption as a Mode of Transmission”, paper presented at the *Material Religion Between Heritage and New Perspectives Conference*, University of Strasbourg.

February 5, 2025 – Cork, “How to Uprise Against Religious Politics in the Contemporary World: The Case of Turkey’s Emerging Heterodox Religiosities”, paper presented at the *Research Seminar on the Study of Religions*, University College Cork.

January 28, 2025 – Istanbul, “Croyances en marges : les expressions néopaiennes dans la Turquie contemporaine (Beliefs on the Margins: Neo-Pagan Expressions in Contemporary Turkey)”, presentation as part of the séminaire *Sociologie politique de la Turquie contemporaine*, January 28, 2025, IFEA-CETOBaC.

January 21, 2025 – Paris and Aubervilliers, “Dynamiques migratoires et héritages culturels : l’empreinte turque en Alsace” (Migration Dynamics and Cultural Heritage: The Turkish Imprint in Alsace), presentation as part of the colloquium *Migrations de Turquie en France : État des lieux interdisciplinaire de la recherche et perspectives comparatistes*, January 20-21, 2025, INALCO.

November 18, 2024 – Stockholm, “Beyond Islam: Emerging Heterodox Movements in Turkey’s Religious Landscape”, presentation as part of the course “Lived Religion: Representation and Practise”, Stockholm University.

October 31, 2024 – Strasbourg, “Des temples glorieux au cœur du foyer: la centralité des autels dans les cultes néopaiëns” (From Glorious Temples to the Heart of the Home: The Centrality of Altars in Neopagan Worship), presentation at the interdisciplinary study day *Image(s) et Religion(s) : Expressions figurées du fait religieux*, October 30-31, 2024, ITI HiSAAR, University of Strasbourg.

October 15, 2024 – Grenoble, “Diaspora turque en Alsace : Analyse des parcours migratoires et dynamiques identitaires des Turcs d’Alsace” (Turkish Diaspora in Alsace: Analysis of Migration Paths and Identity Dynamics of Turks in Alsace), paper presented at the study day *Les communautés appartenant aux diasporas originaires de Turquie en France : processus d’identification et de résistance parmi les originaires de Turquie en France*, Sciences Po Grenoble – Université Grenoble Alpes.

Septembre 17, 2024 – Ascona, “Neo-Witchcraft in Turkey: Tracing Emerging Trends through a Neopagan Lens”, presentation for the ESSWE Thesis Workshop, Hotel Ascona.

June 5, 2024 – Rome, “From Steppes to Anatolia: The Ever-changing Tapestry of Turkic Shamanism and the Reactivation of Tengrism”, presentation for the conference *Tracing Shamanism: Presence, Absence, Transformations, Possibilities of the International Congress of the International Society for Academic Research on Shamanism*, June 5-8, 2024, University of Rome La Sapienza.

April 23, 2024 - Uppsala, “Witches, Pagans, Tengrists, and Beyond: Seekers of Ancient Ways in Contemporary Turkey”, presentation as part of the *Higher Seminar in History of Religions and Global Christianity*, Uppsala University.

November 9, 2023 – Strasbourg, “Détrônement du récit dominant : une nouvelle perspective sur les politiques religieuses en Turquie” (Dethroning the Dominant Narrative: A New Perspective on Religious Politics in Turkey), presentation for the conference *Nouvelles recherches sur l’islam turc. Soufisme et politiques religieuses* as part of the Islam - regards croisés conference cycle, the Institute of Islamology of Strasbourg in partnership with the Department of Turkish Studies and the DISLATurk project, University of Strasbourg.

October 18, 2023 – Strasbourg, “Journey Through Tengrism: Understanding Its Roots and Transformations”, presentation as part of the course “Along the Silk Road: Europe’s Encounters with Turkey and Central Asia”, Syracuse University.

September 22, 2023 – Vienna, “The ‘new ancient’: Neo-pagan religiosities in contemporary Turkey: the example of Hekate worship”, presentation for the panel “The search of origins in the contemporary Turkish society: Turanism, Islamism, and

Anatolianism” (organized by Samim Akgönül) of the International Congress *Turkologentag 2023*, September 21-23, 2023.

June 23, 2023 – Essen, “Why the ancient becomes ‘modern’? Contemporary ‘story’ of Tengrism in Turkey” (with Samim Akgönül), presentation for the panel “Social Developments and Political Participation” of the workshop *New Perspectives on Social and Economic History of Modern Turkey*, June 22-24, 2023, University of Duisburg-Essen.

May 4, 2023 – Strasbourg, “Identification et pratiques néopaiennes : un phénomène syncrétique quasi invisible en Turquie” (Neo-Pagan Identification and Practices: a Quasi-Invisible Syncretic Phenomenon in Turkey), presentation at the interdisciplinary study day *Au-delà des grandes religions - Comment penser les systèmes, les pratiques et les mouvements religieux minoritaires*, May 4-5, 2023, ITI HiSAAR, University of Strasbourg.