

## DEREN ERTAŞ

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138 | [derenertas@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:derenertas@fas.harvard.edu) | [derenertas.com](http://derenertas.com)

### EMPLOYMENT

---

**Brown University** 2026–  
Research Associate in International and Public Affairs at the Watson School and the Department of History

### EDUCATION

---

**Harvard University** 2026  
PhD in History & Middle Eastern Studies

Dissertation: “The Imperial Mines: The Political Economy and Ecology of Metals Extraction in the Ottoman Empire, 1720-1820”

Committee: Cemal Kafadar (advisor); Rosie Bsheer; Victor Seow; Aaron Jakes; Yavuz Aykan

**The New School for Social Research** 2019  
MA in Historical Studies

**Wesleyan University** 2016  
BA (with High Honors) in the College of Social Studies

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

---

Global History of Mining/Extraction; Early Modern Empires; Ottoman Empire; Labor History; Modern Middle East; History of Economic Thought; History of Capitalism; Environmental History; Energy & Climate History; Histories & Theories of State Formation; Historiography & Historical Method

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

“Statistics,” *Political Concepts: A Critical Lexicon*. (Under Review)

#### Invited Publications

“[Reclaiming Space: The Legacy of Gezi and the Struggle for Post-Disaster Planning in Turkey](#),” *Jadaliyya* (July 6, 2023).

#### Book Reviews

Review of Zozan Pehlivan, *The Political Ecology of Violence: Peasants and Pastoralists in the Last Ottoman Century*, *Arab Studies Journal* 33, no. 1-2 (2025).

“[Governing the non-human](#),” *Radical Philosophy* 214, April 2023, pp. 111-114.

#### Translations

“Selections from *We Are Alive At Last*,” *Barricade: A Journal of Anti-Fascism and Translation* 5, January 2024, pp. 83-96.

#### Blog Posts

“[Extractive Capitalism and the Production of Non-Human Agents in Maden, Elazığ](#),” *ANAMED Blog* (2025).

“[‘Alle, zusammen, Gegen den Faschismus!’ – ‘All of us, together, against fascism!’: Protests Commemorating Hanau Massacres in Berlin](#),” *Ramparts* (March 30, 2021).

**SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS***National & International*

- Multi-Country Research Fellowship, *Council of American Overseas Research Centers* 2025
- Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) Fellowship, *Koç University*. 2024-25
- Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship, *U.S. Department of Education* 2023
- American Research Institute in Turkey Research Fellowship 2023
- Fulbright U.S. Student Open Research/Study in Turkey, *U.S. Department of State* 2022
- National College Match Finalist, *QuestBridge* 2012

*Institutional*

- Dissertation Writing Grant, *Weatherhead Center for International Affairs* 2024
- Mid-Dissertation Grant *Weatherhead Center for International Affairs* 2024
- Graduate Society Merit/Term-Time Research Fellowship, *Harvard University* 2022
- Jens Aubrey Westerngard Scholarship, *Harvard University* 2022
- Mellon Foundation Byzantine Studies Initiative Grant, *Harvard University* 2022
- Graduate Student Associate, *Weatherhead Center for International Affairs* 2021-22
- Pre-Dissertation Grant, *Harvard University* 2021
- Center for the Humanities Student Fellow, *Wesleyan University* 2016
- Davenport Study Grant, *Wesleyan University* 2015

**SELECTED AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

- The Laura Bassi Scholarship 2025
- American Society for Environmental Studies Conference Travel Grant 2024
- Outstanding MA Student in Historical Studies, *New School for Social Research* 2019
- Merit Scholarship, *New School for Social Research* 2019
- Joan W. Miller Prize for the Outstanding Thesis in the College of Social Studies, *Wesleyan University* 2016

**INVITED TALKS**

“From the Mine to the Market: A History of Silver in the Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Empire,”  
ANAMED Library Talk Series (Istanbul, November 2025)

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Miners and Technical Expertise in the Eighteenth Century Ottoman Empire,” SCIENTIAE 2025  
(Istanbul, September 2025)

“The Legal Foundations of Mining in the Ottoman Empire: From Saxon Origins to Vernacular Law, 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Centuries,” 16<sup>th</sup> ICOSEH (Bucharest, July 2025)

“Leveraging Scarcity: The Politics of Organic Energy in the Upper Euphrates Valley,” Ottoman Political Economy Network Annual Meeting (Istanbul, July 2025)

“The Provisioning of Charcoal to the Keban and Ergani Mines in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century,” Early Modern Ottoman Studies (EMOS) Conference II: Institutions, Networks, and Economic Change in the Early Modern Ottoman World (Istanbul, June 2024)

“The Euphrates as a Fluvial Highway: Uniting the Keban-Ergani Mining Nexus in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting (Denver, April 2024)

“The Charcoal Tax: Mining, Deforestation, and the Monetization of Wood Energy Networks in the Ottoman East, 1720-1775,” CGE-HGS Annual Conference 2023: Environment, Energy, and Economy in the Black Sea Region (Costanza, September 2023)

“Debris That Press Upon the Present: Mining Regimes, Pollution, and the Diffusions of Agency in Capitalism’s Past and Future,” Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting (Denver, November 2022)

“Emperyal Jeolojiler: Yukarı Fırat Havzasında Madencilik Politik Ekolojisi,” III. Ulusal Lisansüstü Mekansal Çalışmalar Sempozyumu, Mimar Sinan Üniversitesi (Istanbul, October 2022)

“Statistics,” Political Concepts Graduate Student Conference, New School for Social Research 2022 (New York, March 2022)

## **ROUNDTABLES**

---

“Pollution, Toxicity, and Environmental Justice in the Middle East,” BRISMES Conference: Ecology, Crisis, and Power in the Middle East (Exeter, July 2023)

## **ORGANIZED TALKS & CONFERENCE PANELS**

---

“Necro-geographies: Extractive beforemaths and ecological afterlives of war,” 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Society for the History of Science / 2026 Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society (Edinburgh, Scotland, July 2026)

- Co-organized roundtable with Patrick Anthony, other panelists include Pınar Dinç, Zsuzsanna Ihar, and Shreya Khaund.

“Placing the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Global Environmental History,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting (Denver, CO, April 2024)

- Co-organized with Nathaniel Moses, other panelists included Faisal Husain and Dale Stahl.

“Unearthing Capitalism: Social-Environmental Histories of Resource Extraction and Resistance,” Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting (Montreal, Canada, November 2023)

- Co-organized with Rebecca Gruskin, other panelists included Brahim El Guabli and Mark Drury.

“Extractive Capitalism in the Middle East: Past & Present” for the CMES Environmental Studies of the Middle East Speaker Series, *Harvard University* (Cambridge, MA, November 2023)

- Panelists included Elif İrem Az, Zeynep Oğuz, and Mattin Biglari

“New Horizons in Kurdish History Speaker Series,” for the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (Cambridge, MA, 2022)

- Co-organized and moderated speaker series with Cemal Kafadar and Jesse O’Howell.
- Invited speakers include Yavuz Aykan, Hamit Bozarslan, Veli Yadırgı, Cengiz Güneş, Zozan Pehlivan, Faisal Husain, and Cevat Dargın.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

### **Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)**

#### *MA Teaching Fellow*

“The Making of the Modern Middle East” (for Rosie Bsheer) Spring 2022  
- Awarded Certificate of Distinction in Teaching from the Bok Center for Teaching and Learning

#### *Undergraduate Teaching Fellow*

“The Ottoman Empire and the World, 1550-1920” (for Cemal Kafadar) Fall 2021

- Awarded Certificate of Distinction in Teaching from the Bok Center for Teaching and Learning “Introduction to Islamic History: From the Rise of Islam to the Mongol Conquests” Fall 2021 (for Cemal Kafadar & Tarek Abu-Hussain)
- Awarded Certificate of Distinction in Teaching from the Bok Center for Teaching and Learning

**Saint Ann’s School (Brooklyn, NY)***History Teacher*

|                                                                                                                  |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade History: Urban Revolutions from the Paris Commune to the Arab Uprisings | 2017-2018 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Modern World History                                                                       | 2016-2018 |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Early Modern World History                                                                 | 2016-2018 |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade American History                                                                          | 2016-2017 |

**Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT)***Senior Preceptor*

|                                                                     |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sophomore Colloquium: Modern Social Theory (for Sonali Chakravarti) | 2015-2016 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES/LANGUAGE TRAINING**

|                                                                                    |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| - Reading and Analysing Ottoman Manuscript Sources Winter School, Rethymno, Crete  | 2025 |
| - MINESCAPES Summer School, Herzog August Library, Wolfenbüttel, Germany           | 2024 |
| - Padus-Araxes Western Armenian Intensive Summer School, Venice, Italy             | 2024 |
| - QASID Institute for Classical and Modern Standard Arabic Summer Intensive Course | 2020 |

**PROFESSIONAL & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

|                                                                                                                  |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Co-Convener, MINESCAPES Working Group, <i>The Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine</i> | 2025-pres. |
| History Graduate Student Association Member, <i>Harvard University</i>                                           | 2021-2023  |
| - Graduate Committee Representative                                                                              | 2021-2022  |
| Co-Founder of the Global Environments Working Group, <i>Harvard University</i>                                   | 2021-2022  |
| Editorial Collective Member, <i>Barricade: A Journal of Antifascism &amp; Translation</i>                        | 2018-2022  |

**LANGUAGES**

|                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Modern Turkish (Native)           | - Kurmanji Kurdish (Intermediate) |
| - English (Native)                  | - Western Armenian (Intermediate) |
| - Ottoman Turkish (Advanced)        | - Spanish (Intermediate)          |
| - French (Advanced)                 | - German (Intermediate)           |
| - Modern Standard Arabic (Advanced) |                                   |

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

|                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| - American Historical Association                                 |
| - Middle East Studies Association                                 |
| - Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association                         |
| - American Society for Environmental History                      |
| - Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine |
| - Ottoman Political Economy Network                               |

**REFERENCES**

|                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| - <b>Cemal Kafadar</b> (advisor), Professor of History, Harvard University, <a href="mailto:kafadar@fas.harvard.edu">kafadar@fas.harvard.edu</a>                                |
| - <b>Rosie Bsheer</b> (advisor), Frederick S. Danziger Associate Professor of History, Harvard University, <a href="mailto:rbsheer@fas.harvard.edu">rbsheer@fas.harvard.edu</a> |

- **Aaron Jakes**, Assistant Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History & the College, The University of Chicago, [ajakes@uchicago.edu](mailto:ajakes@uchicago.edu)
- **Beshara Doumani**, Mahmoud Darwish Professor of Palestinian Studies, Brown University, [Beshara\\_Doumani@brown.edu](mailto:Beshara_Doumani@brown.edu)
- **Yavuz Aykan**, Maître de conférences, Panthéon Sorbonne Université Paris 1, [yavuz.aykan@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:yavuz.aykan@univ-paris1.fr)
- **Victor Seow**, Associate Professor of the History of Science, Harvard University, [seow@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:seow@fas.harvard.edu)