



# ERDAĞ GÖKNAR

Associate Professor in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

[ Faculty Fellow through June 2020 ]

## EDUCATION



Ph.D., University of Washington 2004

M.A., University of Washington 1998

B.A., University of Michigan at Ann Arbor 1988

## TOPICS



Cultural Translation and  
Representational Politics

Translation and Identity

Middle Eastern Literature

Intersection of Middle Eastern Politics  
and Culture

Regional Understandings of Turkey and Islam

## LINKS



[On Genealogy and Scholarship: Duke Global  
Stories with Erdağ Göknaar](#)

[Istanbul: A Multi-perspectival City](#)

[Istanbul: A Palimpsest City](#)

[Duke Faculty Spring Reads: Erdağ Göknaar](#)

[Translation as Transformation](#)

## BIOGRAPHY



Language is more than words.

And translation is more than decoding one language into another. Translation is a form of intercultural exchange and dialogue that helps broaden our perspectives by allowing us to experience a story as it was meant to be heard. What stories are we missing because someone has yet to translate them? What parts of the world do we know less about because we have few translations of a nation's or culture's works available to us? How could those stories change the way we see our world? Armed by these questions, Erdağ Göknaar explores the politics of representation and how, through the transformation of translation, personal and global perspectives can be transformed.

Erdağ Göknaar is a Turkish-American scholar, literary translator and poet. His research focuses on the intersection of politics and culture in the Middle East, primarily the late Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey. In his work, Göknaar aims to both convey the meaning of a text and to create an aesthetic experience in English inspired by the Turkish language. In his research he also explores questions of Turkish and Muslim representation in literature, historiography, and popular culture/media.

Göknaar is Associate Professor of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies at Duke University and Director of the [Duke University Middle East Studies Center](#). He is best known for his award-winning translation of Orhan Pamuk's Ottoman historical novel, *My Name is Red* (Knopf 2001; Everyman's Library 2010). His critical articles have appeared in journals such as *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, and the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*. Göknaar is a recipient of two Fulbright Fellowship awards. His own collection of poetry addressing themes of cultural dislocation, *Nomadologies*, was recently printed by Turtle Point Press and highlighted in [Duke Today's Faculty Books](#).

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