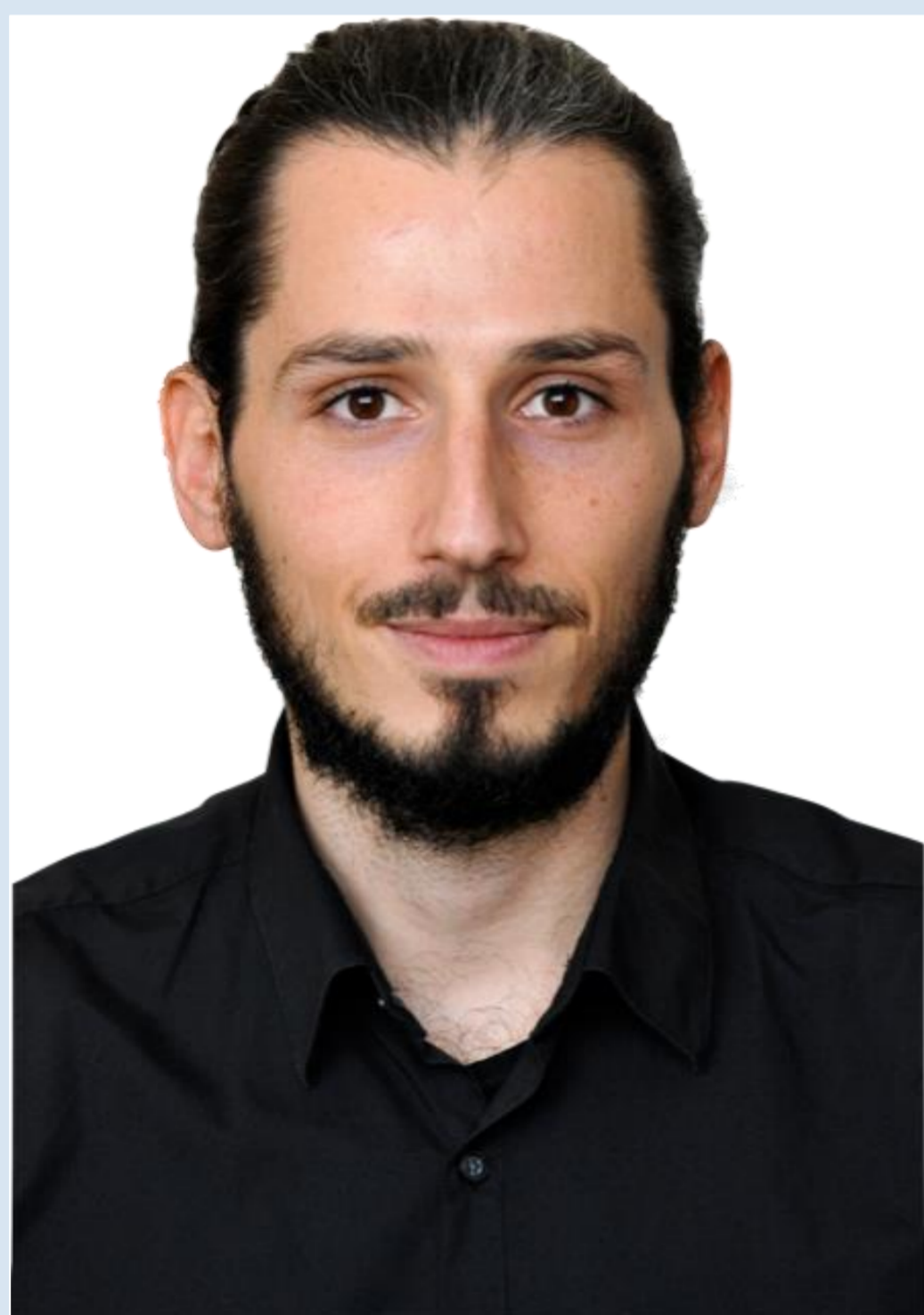


Winter Semester 2021/2022

SDAC Guest Lecture Series

Becoming and Being an Islamic Authority Figure:
Reflections on Everyday Navigation in a
Transnational Bureaucratic FieldDominik Müller
EZIRE, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg / University of Zurich
AnthropologyWednesday
17.11.21
6-8pm c.t.

Dominik Müller is a researcher at the Erlangen Centre for Islam and Law in Europe at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg as well as at the Department of Social Anthropology and Empirical Cultural Studies at the University of Zurich. Furthermore, he was a researcher at the Department of Social Work at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, a visiting scholar at the European Institute at Bilgi University (TR) and a lecturer at the Centre for Islam and Society at the University of Fribourg. His research interests lie at the intersection of the anthropology of religion, economic anthropology, and digital anthropology. He has conducted long-term ethnographic research in Central Asia, Russia, Turkey and Switzerland on topics related to Islamic authority, religious education, extremism and the bureaucratization of Islam.

In recent years, 'Islamic authority' and the individuals (e.g. imams, muftis, Islamic scholars) and organizations (e.g. Diyanet, Al-Azhar) that supposedly represent this religious authority have become a much-discussed topic in public, political, and academic debates. Despite the increasing interest in this phenomenon, the current academic debate rarely reflects on what Islamic authority actually is and how it is (re-) produced. Rather, there is a tendency to view religious authority as an external normative force situated in established Islamic organizations, religious offices or religious normative sources, to which 'ordinary Muslims' either submit or resist.

In his lecture, Dominik Müller will analyze various ways of becoming and being an authority figure by reflecting the trajectories of a male and a female authority figure and their navigation practices in a transnational bureaucratic field. Both authority figures have a Turkish background, completed their education in Turkey and are now working in Swiss mosques. The lecture therefore also scrutinizes different approaches to the bureaucratization of Islam – once in a Muslim majority context (Turkey) and once in a country where Muslims represent a religious minority (Switzerland) – and discusses the effects of religious institutionalization on the everyday life of religious specialists and 'ordinary Muslims' navigating within these fields. In his lecture, Müller presents an alternative perspective to understand Islamic authority by combining biography and ethnography with an institutional analysis.

This event will be held via zoom.
Please contact Prof. Dr. Dominik
Müller to register
(dominik.m.mueller@fau.de).



ELITE MASTER'S PROGRAM
Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures