

## **Shared Sacred Sites and the Politics of Religious Pluralism**

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Shared sacred sites where people from different religious and ethnic backgrounds are able to live with difference, accommodate to each other's religious needs and negotiate in public their otherness are positive examples of pluralism and tolerance on the ground. My larger project focuses on the emergence of such sites in the early Ottoman empire gathering the narratives and practices of emergence to understand how different religious groups come to share one distinct space.

In this presentation, I will use my ethnographic research in contemporary Turkey and Greece, especially Istanbul and Thessaloniki, to show how these practices continue, and how the past is incorporated into the narratives of sharing as part of a toolbox of remembering, rethinking the presence and absence of populations, and memories of cosmopolitan diversity. I will focus on how the narratives of diversity and identity have been changing under national political circumstances. I will further trace the local, public practices inside and surrounding shared sacred sites to understand how communities that have shared sites for a long time reproduce their practices in light of forces of national and religious homogeneity or cross-communal conflict.