

GEOG 448: TRANSNATIONAL MUSLIMS
Banu Gökarıksel
TR 2:00-3:15 pm Carolina Hall 204



We often hear about transnational connections of Muslims across the world in the context of terrorism and violence such as western European Muslims joining ISIS/ISIL. We rarely hear about the connections between the Arab Spring and Turkey's Gezi Park protests and the Occupy Wall Street movement in the US. Indeed, Muslim societies and subjects have shaped and have been shaped by transnational forces in many other ways. This course aims to provide an understanding of transnational processes and Muslims by asking: How do transnational processes and imaginaries –from migratory flows to commodities, art, and new media-- shape contemporary Muslim identities and cultures? In what ways Muslim identity and politics are influenced by political, religious, cultural or economic connections across communities, societies and regions?

This course will trace the geographical production of Muslim subjects through transnational flows, networks and imaginaries. Rather than approaching "Islam" or Muslims as fixed in time and space, we will develop a perspective on Muslim societies and subjects as dynamic. Our study will take a wide variety of geographical and historical contexts, including the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia, Europe and North America. Our discussions will focus on a series of comparative case studies, such as the Maghrebi population and banlieus in France; mosque debates in Britain, Germany, and the US; new Muslim women's lifestyle magazines in the US, Canada, the UK, and Indonesia; Indonesian migrant workers and South Asian entrepreneurs in the Middle East; hiphop and punk music of Palestinians, Turkish-Germans, and US Muslims; and the political connections between uprisings in the Middle East and in Europe and the Americas. These case studies will provide in-depth knowledge for effective analysis and understanding of similarities, differences and connections within and between these different contexts.

Students will be evaluated based on their performance in class, including class assignments and group work, as well as on exams.