



**Ringvorlesung: Performative Körper: Medien – Geschlecht – Identität**

**Who Killed Ahmet Yıldız?**

**Sex, Citizenship and Justice in a Transnational World**

Lecture with Prof. Dr. Evren Savcı (San Francisco State University)

**Mittwoch, 09.11.2016, 18:15-19:45**

**Universität Zürich, RAA G-15, Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zürich**

My talk examines the travelling of concepts of “outness” and the “families we chose” to contemporary Turkey through the murder of a twenty-six-year old gay man, Ahmet Yıldız, in the Summer of 2008. I argue that the positioning of Ahmet’s life as an unfulfilled desire for an “out and proud” existence, and his murder as an “honor killing” worked to reify nationally the Eastern Kurdish regions of the country as feudal and traditional, and traveled internationally to tell the story of what happens to gay people in backwards Muslim countries, relegating family violence to geographies imagined as “Muslim” and upholding both Western family romance and the myth of the West as the location of stranger danger. I also use this story to question the news value of the eventful death of a young gay Kurdish man, and the valorization of “gay” (Kurdish) lives in the context of the slow death that has been and continues to be inflicted upon many (often non-Sunni) Kurdish citizens all over the country by the neoliberal Sunni state.