



**Forschungskolloquium Gender Studies HS 2018**

**(Un)politicized Anger at Invisible Structures**  
Exploring the State in Southeast Turkey through  
Gender Awareness Workshops

**Projektpräsentation von Dr. des K. Zeynep Sariaslan, Zürich**

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'Gender awareness' workshops are designed to guide participants to reflect on their personal experiences critically and to shed light on the ways gender inequalities operate in their everyday life. Potentially stimulating collective action to alter imbalanced power relations, gender awareness is an important component of women's empowerment. In this paper, I examine how to understand women's responses to and engagements with the empowerment discourses and practices that surround them, besides other normative political projects, such as intimate politics, with the help of ethnographic material collected through long-term fieldwork in Southeast Turkey on a gender awareness project. I show that anger, as a potentially transformative emotion for a social change, emerges as the central theme of women's experience in general and haunts women but does not create a movement. Instead, women deal with anger as an unpoliticized emotion individually and in different ways, depending on their religious, class, and ethnic positionings and belongings.

K. Zeynep Sariaslan studied sociology and social anthropology at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara. She defended her PhD at the Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich, where she also worked as a researcher, assistant, and external lecturer. Between 2016/8 she taught at the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern. Sariaslan's postdoctoral research project focuses on transnational politics and digital journalistic practices in Germany. Her research interests include feminist anthropology, ethnography in/on Turkey, and media.