Anglo-Turkish Society in-person lecture, 30 November 2022, 6.00 pm (UK time)
Speaker: Doga Ozturk
Venue: Royal Anthropological Institute, 50 Fitzroy St, Fitzrovia, London W1T 5BT
Title: 'Setting the Record Straight: Fatma Aliye's Struggle against Orientalist Portrayals of Women in Islamic Societies'

Fatma Aliye was one of the most important female intellectuals of the late 19th century Ottoman Empire. In addition to advocating for the advancement of women's status in Ottoman society, Fatma Aliye also challenged the contemporary Orientalist representations of Muslim women that were prevalent in Europe at the time. This talk will focus on two main works which Fatma Aliye produced in this vein, *Nisvan-i Islam* (Women of Islam) and the lesser known *Namdaran-ı Zenan-ı Islamiyan* (Famous Muslim Women), to investigate how Fatma Aliye attempted to correct some of the most common Orientalist tropes that Europeans had of Muslim societies in general and Muslim women in particular, such as polygamy and life in the harem. In doing so, the talk will also look at the strategies that Fatma Aliye used in her efforts to engage with the Orientalist representations and explore whether her methods were successful in displacing these myths or whether they actually ended up reproducing key Orientalist tenets on the difference between "the East" and "the West".

Booking essential: https://doga-ozturk-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk
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I am a historian of the late Ottoman Egypt and I received my PhD from the Ohio State University in 2020. My research focuses on the idea of self-identification and imperial belonging in Egypt in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. My article on Kadriye Huseyin, a largely forgotten Ottoman-Egyptian female intellectual, has recently been published in *Middle Eastern Studies.*

Currently, I am based in London and I write for think tanks about Turkey and the Middle East while I also work on the manuscript of my first book. In addition to my PhD, I hold an M.A in Middle East and Mediterranean Studies from King's College London (2013) and a B.A in Foreign Affairs and Economics from the University of Virginia (2008).

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