KOÇ-KAM Semineri: Balkanlarda Kadın, İslam ve Demokratikleşme

18 Nisan 2013
Koç Üniversitesi Mühendislik Binası, ENG Z21A


Women, Islam, and Democratization in the Balkans

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18th April 2013, Thursday,
ENG Z21A, 15:30

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In spite of the powerful secularization processes under communism and the ensuing transformation of religious institutions, authorities, practices, and levels of faith commitment, the religious factor remained an important cultural force and identity marker in the Balkans. Moreover, religious outlooks continued to shape and inform gender regimes. Postcommunist developments in the Balkans brought about a significant redefinition of the roles and status of Muslim women—both in the Muslim communities themselves and in the larger societies. Drawing on literature from the region and on my own fieldwork, I will discuss the place and role of Muslim women in different spheres of life such as the family, religious education and the public arena, focusing also on the veil as a central issue in debates on Islam and women.