



# WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

24.10.2024 (Donnerstag), 17:00 Uhr, Übungsraum (and online)  
IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

## Hilal Alkan (Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient)

### Emplacement, Intimate Care and Human-Plant Relations in Migration



Hilal Alkan is a researcher at Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin. Her research concerns migration and care in contemporary settings.

Her most recent project is about the relations migrants form with the plants they grow as part of their home-making practices. Her articles appeared in the *American Ethnologist*, *Citizenship Studies*, *Migration Letters* and in other collections. She co-edited *Urban Neighbourhood Formations* (Routledge, 2020) and *The Politics of the Female Body in Contemporary Turkey* (IB Tauris 2021). She has a monograph titled *Welfare as Gift: Local charity, politics of redistribution and religion in Turkey* (DeGruyter 2023).

#### kommende Termine

13.11.2024 **Stephan Dudeck**  
tba

20.11.2024 **Ayo Wahlberg**  
Surveillance Life - Predisposed in Welfare  
State Denmark

People-plant relationships are multi-faceted and range from purely utilitarian to highly affective. In my research I work with Turkish and Kurdish migrants on their relationships with the plants they grow in Germany. Within the migration trajectories and processes of my research participants, the affective relationships with plants have two affordances: Firstly, the intimate care given to plants facilitate the emplacement of both the plants and the humans. Secondly, plants lend people the metaphors to reflect on their migrant conditions. Through these two affordances and under the circumstances of climactic and societal difference, xenophobia and precarity, plants and people grow closer and survive together, while the human participants of these relationships draw reciprocal parallels between themselves and their plant companions. These parallels, anthropomorphisms and phytomorphisms, unfold as modalities of intimacy within the lives of my interlocutors.

Details:

<https://ksa.univie.ac.at/en/departments/events/wednesday-seminar/>

