



Alevism Through Emotions

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Emotions in Alevi Traditions

Workshop

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25-26 September 2025
Venue: Institute for Alevi Theology, Gorch-Fock-Wall 7, 20354 Hamburg, Room A1017

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome & Registration

09:30 – 10:00 Workshop Opening

Cem Kara (Hamburg)
Deniz Coşan Eke (Vienna)

10:00 – 11:30 Panel 1: Affecting Texts: The Emotional Imprint in Textual Sources

Chair: Alexander Balistreri (Hamburg)

Mark Soileau (Hamburg): *Feeling the Real. Expressing the Experience of Union in Alevi Poetry*

Hasret Tiraz (Leipzig): *Affective Dynamics and Poetic Perspectivization in Alevi Tradition*

Cem Kara (Hamburg): *Feeling the Right Way. Emotions as a Source of Normativity in Alevi Textual Sources*

11:45 – 13:15 Panel 2: Performing Emotion: Ritual Practice and Affective Experience

Chair: Janina Karolewski (Hamburg)

Sinibaldo De Rosa (Bologna): *From Motion to Emotion. A Kinetic Exploration of Alevi Ritual Practices*

Ahmet Kerim Gültekin (Leipzig): *Jiares in Motion. Sacred Objects, Making Individual Religiosity, and the Reconfiguration of Alevi Practices in Diaspora*

Ece Esmer Kirma (Hamburg) & Berna Zengin Aslan (Istanbul): *Gendered Knowledge and Embodied Faith. Locating Emotions in Alevi Rituals*

14:45 – 15:45 Panel 4: Affective Memory: The Emotional Transmission of the Past

Chair: Mark Soileau (Hamburg)

Bedriye Poyraz (Ankara): *Transfer of Emotion through Alevi Music (Deyiş). Memory, Mysticism, and Alevism*

Özlem Atik (Istanbul): *Humor as Emotional Practice: Transforming Silence, Loss, and Melancholy in Dersim*

16:00 – 17:30 Panel 3: Political Affects: Mobilising Emotions in Alevi Contexts

Chair: Besim Can Zırh (Ankara)

Ayfer Karakaya-Stump (Williamsburg): *Affective Affiliation. Alevis as an Emotional Community and the Resonance of Leftist Politics* (online)

Mehmet Ertan (Düzce): *How the Trauma of the Massacres Affected the Politicization Dynamics of Alevism. The Case of the Madımak Massacre*

Markus Dresser (Leipzig): *Political Inscriptions and Affect in Alevi Studies*

18:30 Joint Dinner

10:00 – 10:30 Arrival and Coffee

10:30 – 11:30 Panel 5: Embodied Emotions: Affective Body and Aesthetic Experience (Online)

Chair: Deniz Coşan Eke (Vienna)

Zeynep Oktay (Istanbul): *The Sensory Regime of the Saint's Body in the Hagiography of Hacı Bektaş*

Aylin Demir (Ankara): *Audience Responses to Ahmet Aslan's Concert Tour. Listening to Minnet Eylemem*

11:45 – 13:15 Panel 6: Affective Belonging: Emotions in Socio-Religious Relations

Chair: Barbara Henning (Hamburg)

Deniz Coşan Eke (Vienna): *Embodying the Sacred. Emotion and Materiality of Faith in Alevi Communities*

Besim Can Zırh (Ankara): *The Motivation of 'Rescuing Funerals' in the Context of Migration. The Role of Emotions in the Formation of a Transnational Alevi Social Space*

Çiçek İlengiz (Berlin): *Non-Human Witnessing for Otherwise Futures. The Therapeutic Power of Sacred Places*

14:45 – 16:15 Panel 7: Affective Negotiations: Gender, Emotion, and the Struggle for Belonging

Chair: Ece Esmer Kirma (Hamburg)

Zeynep Türkyılmaz (Berlin): *Insolent Preachers, Promiscuous Believers. Alevi-Kızılbaş Women in the Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Archives*

Umit Çetin & Celia Jenkins (London): *Between Belonging and Disconnection. Gendered and Generational Challenges in the UK Alevi Movement*

Hayal Hanoğlu (Krakow): *Everyday Negotiations. Gender, Agency, and Belonging in Kurdish Alevi Women's Lives*

16:30 – 17:30 Conference Closing & Final Discussion

Organisation

Deniz Coşan Eke & Cem Kara

For online participation, please register via email by **23.09**.

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Scan to register