

Jeannette Squires Okur

Dept. of Middle Eastern Studies
306 Inner Campus Drive F9400
The University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712
Voice: (512) 471-1280
Email: jeannette.okur@austin.utexas.edu

EDUCATION

- April 2007 Ph.D., German Language and Literature, Ankara University, Turkey
(Specialty in Modern Turkish/Comparative Literature)
- May 2001 M.A., German Language and Literature, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- May 1997 M.S., Curriculum & Instruction in English and German Education,
University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- May 1992 B.A., American Literature/Creative Writing (Magna Cum Laude), Middlebury College

CERTIFICATES

- July 2020 Introduction to Online Language Teaching (6 week course); Center for Language Teaching
Advancement, Michigan State University
- August 2011 Oral Proficiency Interview Assessment Workshop, University of Texas at Austin; rated
“Superior” on ACTFL Turkish OPI interview
- June 2002 Certificate for completion of highest level Turkish Course (Sertifika: "A" Kuru Türkiye
Türkçesi Kursu), Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey
- July 1995 Austrian Teaching Certificate in “Deutsch als Fremdsprache” (German as a Foreign
Language) at Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz, Austria

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

- Sept. 2018-present Assistant Professor of Instruction in Middle Eastern Studies & Turkish Program
Coordinator, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- 2010-May 2018 Lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies & Turkish Program Coordinator,
Department of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- Spring 2010 Adjunct Lecturer in Turkish Cultural History, Rice University’s Glasgow School of
Continuing Studies
- 2009-2010 Lecturer in Turkish and Turkish History, University of Houston
- 2008-2009 Coordinator of the Language Arts Program, Texas Gulf Institute, Houston
- 2006-2008 Tenure-Track Lecturer, Department of Turkish Language and Literature,
TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara

2005-2006	Adjunct Lecturer in English-as-a-Second-Language, Department of Foreign Languages at TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara
2001-2003	Adjunct Lecturer in English-as-a-Second-Language, Fatih University, Ankara Meslek Yüksekokulu, Ankara
1997-2000	German Language/American Literature Teacher, Belmont High School, Belmont, MA

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

2013	Educational Consultant/Test Item Writer, American Councils for International Education, Washington, D.C.
2009-2012	Educational Consultant/External Evaluator for Texas Harmony Public Schools' three year FLAP (Foreign Language Assistance Program) Grant
1993-present	Free-Lance Translator/Interpreter (German-Turkish-English)

HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS

August 2020	UT Global Texas, Global Virtual Exchange Award
March 2020	UT Texas Language Center Foreign Language Educator Professional Development Award
January 2019	UT Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program Grant
October 2018	UT Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning Project Grant
January 2015	University of Texas at Austin Curriculum Innovation Grant
February 2015	UT Texas Language Center's 2015 Foreign Language Teaching Excellence Award
March 2015	UT Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies Course Development Grant
May 2013	UT Texas Language Center Foreign Language Educator Professional Development Award
September 2000	Edith M. Deuss Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison
September 1999	Belmont Foundation for Education Excellence in Teaching Award, Belmont, MA
1992-1994	Fulbright Scholar, Department of German Language and Literature, Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz, Austria
1992-1994	Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Pädagogische Akademie, Graz, Austria

CREATIVE PEDAGOGICAL WORK AT UT

2020-2021	Developing/piloting online instructional materials for an undergraduate Global Virtual Exchange class course on “Cultural Translation”, partnering with Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University in Turkey.
2016-2021	Authored <i>Her Şey Bir Merhaba ile Başlar</i> , an openly licensed, media-rich Intermediate Turkish-language textbook published in February 2021 by the Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning (COERLL). Currently revising materials for the accompanying public Canvas course.
2020	Developed/piloted instructional materials for an advanced-level Turkish graduate seminar titled “Writing Cultural Identity in Modern Turkey”.
2019	Developed/piloted instructional materials for an advanced-level Turkish cinema course, including reading/writing activities that involved students’ use of eComma, a social reading tool, and listening/translation activities that required their use of collaborative Google Docs and Aegisub Advanced Subtitling Editor software.
2012-2014	Co-authored a large set of online, auto-correct Turkish-language materials (aimed at Novice and Intermediate level students of Turkish) with Duygu Uslu-Ok. These materials have been used successfully the UT Intensive Turkish I-II course sequence since 2012.
2010-present	Developed/taught upper-division, interdisciplinary MES undergraduate courses, titled “Love in the East and West”, “Negotiating Urbanization in the Middle East: Case Studies in Turkey”, “Women Filmmakers in the Middle East”, “Turks in Europe” and “Youth and Violence in the ME and Eurasia”
2010-present	Developed/taught Intensive (Beginning), Intermediate and Advanced Turkish courses, as well as more specialized conference courses on Turkish media, political writings, modern Turkish literature, and musicological texts.

LANGUAGE PROGRAM COORDINATION AT UT

2010-present	Led Turkish Studies program development, including advertising, student advising, diagnostic and evaluative language testing, evaluation of study abroad transfer credit, communication with program sponsors/donors, and hosting of prospective students
2010-present	Coordinated all Turkish Studies activities, including the UT Turkish Film Series, the UT Turkish Choir, the UT Turkish-Ottoman Lecture Series, various Turkish Studies symposiums and conferences, and the weekly Turkish tea & conversation hour
2011-present	Supervised and mentored 4 Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants from Turkey
2011-2012	Served as Faculty Coordinator of UT Austin’s interdisciplinary “Language and Culture in Turkey” study abroad program, Summer 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planned and implemented all academic and financial components of this 9-week FLAS-eligible program• Participated in all student recruitment, selection and orientation activities; advised, mentored, taught and traveled with all student participants in Turkey

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Teaching ‘culture’ in the foreign language classroom
- Teaching critical reading, viewing and listening skills in the foreign language classroom
- Increasing complexity in students’ verbal discourse patterns in the foreign language classroom
- Culture-focused, interdisciplinary approaches to teaching literature and film

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Contemporary transnational/exile literature
- Contemporary Turkish-Kurdish and Iraqi-Kurdish prose literature
- Turkish women writers and filmmakers
- Turkish film production, distribution and reception
- Political, cultural and social history of modern Turkey
- Effective online language teaching/learning

PUBLICATIONS

- [*Her Şey Bir Merhaba İle Başlar*](#) (Open Education Resource Textbook and Online Materials for Intermediate-Advanced Learners of Modern Turkish). UT-Austin Center for Open Education Resources and Language Learning (COERLL), Feb. 2021
- “Grape-Gatherers and Goat Herders: The Portrayal of Anatolian Village Women’s Interaction with the Natural Environment in Contemporary Turkish Film”. In: *Animals, Plants, Landscapes: An Ecology of Turkish Literature*, eds. Hande Gürses and Irmak Ertuna Howison. Routledge, Feb. 2019
- *Tales from Rumi. Mathnawi Selections for Young Readers*. Ed. Ali Fuat Bilkan. New Jersey: The Light Publ., 2008. (English translation)
- “Feminist Edebiyat Eleştirisi Açısından Selma Rıza’nın *Uhuvvet* Romanı Üzerine Bir İnceleme.” (“A Feminist Literary Analysis of Selma Rıza’s novel *Uhuvvet*”). *Folklor/Edebiyat Kültür Dergisi*. 9/36 (2003/4): 155-172

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks & Invitations to Colloquia/Workshops

March 2020	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 90 min. Webinar for Foreign Language Instructors, “Harnessing Open Educational Resources to Promote Intercultural Communicative Competence”
November 2020	UT-Austin Texas Language Center, “Leveraging Technology and Student Creativity for L2 Communication in Asynchronous Mode” (webinar)
March 2018	University of Texas at Austin, Kurdish Literature Across Borders Panel: “Contemporary Kurdish Novelists’ Success in Germany”
October 2017	University of Texas at Austin, Digital Scholars in Practice UT Libraries Lecture Series, “Open Educational Resources for Middle Eastern Languages”

- October 2014 UT-Austin Texas Language Center, “Upping Your Game: Using Games and Gaming in Foreign Language Instruction” Workshop: “Effective L2 Game Design for Language Learners at Play”
- April 2009 Rice University (Houston), Boniuk Institute Series on Sufism: “Influential Women in Islamic History: Rābi’a al-’Adawiyya”
- April 2008 University of Texas at Austin, Essentials of Rumi’s Thoughts Symposium: “Green rocks and baffled bedouins: Reflections on translating *Tales of Rumi* and suggestions for successful implementation of the text in American secondary schools’ curricula”
- April 2007 Bilkent University, Space & Displacement in Fiction, Film and Philosophy Symposium (Ankara, Turkey): “Transnational Literature: the Portrayal of Intercultural Encounters in Füzünan’s, Alev Tekinay’s and Elif Şafak’s Literary Works”

Conference Presentations (Peer-Reviewed)

- March 2020 UT-Austin Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning (COERLL) and University of Kansas Open Language Resource Center (OLRC)’s Foreign Language OER Conference (online): “Using *Her Şey Bir Merhaba ile Başlar* to Teach Turkish Language and Culture”
- October 2020 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Convention (Washington D.C./online): “Art and Justice in Bakhtiyar Ali’s *Shari Mosiqare Spiyekan*”
- November 2019 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Convention (New Orleans, LA): “Multiliteracies and Film: Development and Assessment of Critical Viewing Skills in the Advanced Turkish Classroom”
- November 2018 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Convention (San Antonio, TX): “Backward Design and the Flipped Classroom in the Language Learning Framework for Turkish for the 21st Century”
- November 2017 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Convention (Washington, D.C.): “The Ties that Bind State Perpetrators of Violence and Political Victims in Müge İplikçi’s *Kafdağı* and Mehmed Uzun’s *Aşk Gibi Aydınlık Ölüm Gibi Karanlık*”
- November 2017 American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages 2nd Annual Conference (Georgetown University): “*Her Şey Bir Merhaba ile Başlar*: Effective Spiraling of Vocabulary and Grammatical Structures in an Intermediate-Mid to Advanced-Mid Turkish Language Textbook”
- November 2016 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Convention (Boston, MA): “Turkic Muslims’ Literary Response to the Uninvited Russian ‘Guest’”
- November 2015 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Convention (Denver, CO): “Voices from Turkey: Developing Novice Learners’ Communicative and Cultural Proficiency”
- March 2015 American Comparative Literature Association’s Annual Meeting (Seattle, WA): “Contemporary Turkish Literature’s Readership: Limited, but Politically Vocal”
- January 2014 Modern Language Association Convention (Chicago, IL): “Walking a Fine Line between

Sensitization and Sensationalism: The Narrative Logic and Potential Social Impact of Elif Şafak's *Honour* and Feo Aladağ's *When We Leave*"

- October 2013 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Convention (New Orleans, LA): "Re-Telling the Classic: Postmodern Narrative Elements in Nazan Bekiroğlu's *Yûsuf ile Züleyha – Kalbin Üzerinde Titreyen Hüzün [Yusuf and Zulaikha – The Sadness Hovering over the Heart]*"
- November 2012 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Convention (Denver, CO): "Goat Herders and Grape Gatherers: The Portrayal of Anatolian Mountain Village Women's Interaction with the Natural Environment in Contemporary Turkish Film"

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Departmental and College Service

- 2020-present Language Policy Advisory Committee (LPAC) Member, College of Liberal Arts
- 2011, 2012, 2019, 2020 FLAS Scholarship Advisory Committee Member, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- 2017-2018 Organizer of CMES Beyond Borders lecture event, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- 2016-2017 Co-organizer of the Rethinking Late Ottoman Civilization Symposium, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- 2016-present Executive Committee Member, Department of Middle Eastern Studies
- 2015-present Assessment Committee Chair/Member, Department of Middle Eastern Studies
- 2015-present Graduate Studies Committee Member, Department of Middle Eastern Studies and Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- 2014-present Mentor/faculty host to 7 visiting scholars from Turkey, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- 2014 Member of Arabic lecturer search committee, Department of Middle Eastern Studies
- 2013-present Turkish-Ottoman Lecture Series Organizer, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- 2012-present Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Member, Department of Middle Eastern Studies
- 2011-present FLAS Scholarship Turkish Language Proficiency Evaluator, Center for European Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies
- 2011-2012 Middle Eastern Studies' Literary & Cultural Events Series Organizer, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

National and International Service

- 2021 Selection Committee Member for the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) Summer Fellowship for Advanced Turkish Language Study at Boğaziçi University

2020	Chair of the Sydney Fisher Best Graduate Paper Prize Committee, Ottoman & Turkish Studies Association
2020-present	Reader/reviewer for <i>Foreign Language Annals</i>
Spring 2020	Member of American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages 5 th Annual Conference Program Committee
Jan. 2020-present	Treasurer of the American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages
Jan. 2019-present	Co-editor of American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages newsletter
2019	Member of the Sydney Fisher Best Graduate Paper Prize Committee, Ottoman & Turkish Studies Association
2018	Co-Organizer/Local Host of the 3rd American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages' 3 rd Pedagogy Conference
2012, 2018	Middle Eastern Studies Association's Annual Meeting Program Committee
2017- present	American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages Board Member
2016-2020	American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages' Framework Guidelines Committee Member, Co-Author
2016	Member of the Halide Edip Adivar Award Selection Committee, Ottoman & Turkish Studies Association
2015- present	Reader/reviewer for I.B. Tauris and Cogent Arts & Humanities Series
2015	Organizer/Chair of American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages Roundtable on "Technology in the Service of Pedagogy" at the Middle Eastern Studies Association Meeting

SUPERVISION AND MENTORING AT UT-AUSTIN

Dissertations and Theses

2020	(Co-Supervisor) M. Chovanec, PhD-MELC, DMES, "Languages of Rupture: Language Ideology and the Modern Novel in Egypt and Turkey"
2020	(Reader) M. Lancaster, MA-MES, CMES, "Tracing the Manifestation of Samuel Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations" Theory in the Telenovela <i>El Clon</i> "
2020	(Reader) M. Mostofi, MA-MES, CMES, "Agency and Enchantment: Magical Realism in Persian and Turkish Literature"
2020	(Reader) G. Frazor, MA-MES, CMES, "The Development of Turkish-American Relations: 1945-1952"
2019	(Committee Member) S. Hariry, PhD-MELC, DMES, "Arabic Novels, Kurdish Authors: Performative Narrative between the Center and Periphery"

- 2016 (Co-Supervisor) M. Chovanec, MA-MELC, DMES, “Bereketli Topraklar Üzerinde: Dialogic Speech as Subaltern Insurgency”
- 2016 (Reader) J. C. Kaba, MA-MES, CMES, “The Political Dimension of Nuclear Energy: Analysis of Discourse on the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant, 2010-2015”
- 2015 (Supervisor) C. Graves, BA Honors-MES, DMES, “Rival Nationalisms: Comparing the Deconstruction of Kurdish and Palestinian National Identity in the Early Turkish and Israeli States”
- 2015 (Supervisor) M. Burns, BA Plan II/MES/IRG, “Empowerment or Exclusion: Recent Reforms in the Turkish and American Education System”
- 2012 (Reader) L. Steidl, MA-MES, CMES, “Value in the Turkish Model of Civil-Military Relations”

Fulbright Scholarship Awardees:

- (2012-13) L.R. Rodriguez
 (2014-15) A. Kreger
 (2015-16) Z. Wingham
 (2020-21) A. Kreger

NSEP Boren Fellowship Awardees:

- (2014-15) K. Guiler
 (2017-18) N. Teale

Critical Languages Scholarship Awardees:

- (2015) K. Wilshusen
 (2015) M. Bacci
 (2016) M. Burns

American Research Institute Award for advanced language study:

- (2014) L.R. Rodriguez
 (2015) E. Koymen
 (2016) M. Chovanec
 (2016) M. Aminpour
 (2018) J. Sullivan
 (2020) A. Thornton

Institute of Turkish Studies Summer Language Study Scholarship Awardee:

- (2014) E. Koymen

Redhouse Award for Best Progress for a First-Year Turkish Student on the East Coast:

- (2014) F. Kerns
 (2015) M. Carrion
 (2016) K. Wilshusen
 (2018) G. Frazor
 (2019) H. Saleh

The Halide Edib Adivar Award from the Turkish Studies Association:

- (2017) E. Nelson

Turkish Coalition of America Study Abroad Scholarships for American Students of Minority and Heritage Communities:

(2012) L.R.Rodriguez
(2012) D. Carr
(2012) E. Luna
(2013) Z. Wingham

Benjamin Gilman International Scholarship

(2012) B. Williams
(2013) Z. Wingham

Summer and Academic Year Foreign Language Acquisition Scholarship (FLAS) Awardees:

(2012) L.R. Rodriguez
(2012) D. Carr
(2013-2014, 2014) K. Guiler
(2014, 2016) A. Kreger
(2014, 2014-2015, 2017) E. Koymen
(2014, 2018-2019) S. Bartels
(2015-2016) K. Wilshusen
(2016) N. Teale
(2016-2017, 2018) M. Bacci
(2018, 2018-2019) G. Frazor
(2018-2019, 2019) M. Mostofi
(2019-2020, 2020) S. Ahmad
(2019, 2019-2020) A. Thornton

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages
American Comparative Literature Association
Middle East Studies Association
Modern Language Association
Ottoman & Turkish Studies Association