

# KABIR TAMBAR

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## POSITIONS

2019- Associate Professor, Stanford University, Department of Anthropology  
2012-2019 Assistant Professor, Stanford University, Department of Anthropology  
2011-2012 Member, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J.  
2009-2011 Assistant Professor, University of Vermont, Department of Religion

## EDUCATION

2009 Ph.D. University of Chicago, Anthropology  
2003 M.A. University of Chicago, Anthropology  
2000 B.A. State University of New York at Buffalo, Summa Cum Laude

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

2014 *The Reckoning of Pluralism: Political Belonging and the Demands of History in Turkey.* Stanford University Press.

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2019 Professions of Friendship: Revisiting the Concept of the Political in the Middle East. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 39 (2): 249-263.
- 2017 The Uncanny Medium: Semiotic Opacity in the Wake of Genocide. *Current Anthropology* 58 (6): 762-784.
- 2016 Brotherhood in Dispossession: State Violence and the Ethics of Expectation in Turkey. *Cultural Anthropology* 31 (1): 30-55.
- 2013 Historical Critique and Political Voice after the Ottoman Empire. *History of the Present* 3 (2): 119-139.
- 2012 Islamic Reflexivity and the Uncritical Subject. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 18 (3): 652-672.
- 2011 Iterations of Lament: Anachronism and Affect in a Shi'i Islamic Revival in Turkey. *American Ethnologist* 38 (3): 484-500.
- 2010 The Aesthetics of Public Visibility: Alevi *Semah* and the Paradoxes of Pluralism in Turkey. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 52 (3): 652-679.
- 2009 Secular Populism and the Semiotics of the Crowd in Turkey. *Public Culture* 21 (3): 517-537.

## NON-PEER REVIEWED ESSAYS

- 2015 Transactions in Time: Enforced Disappearances and the Armenian Genocide. *Stanford University Press Blog*. <<http://stanfordpress.typepad.com/blog/2015/04/transactions-in-time.html>>
- 2014 Beyond the Minority Question: Founding Violence and Popular Sovereignty in Turkey. *Working Papers on Key Issues in Religion and World Affairs* (Sponsored by Boston University, Pardee School of Global Studies). <<http://www.bu.edu/cura/files/2013/10/tambar-paper-updated.pdf>>

## BOOK REVIEWS

- 2018 The Future of Enlightenment: Comparison, Tradition, Temporality. *The Immanent Frame*, SSRC Book Forum on Alireza Doostdar's *The Iranian Metaphysicals*.
- 2017 *When is the Islamic State? Historical Time and the Agenda of Islamic Studies*. *The Immanent Frame*, SSRC Book Forum on Noah Salomon's *For Love of the Prophet*. <<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2017/03/22/when-is-the-islamic-state/>>
- 2016 Theologies of the West: A Commentary on Saba Mahmood's *Religious Difference in a Secular Age*. *Journal of Politics, Religion, and Ideology* 17 (1): 72-74.
- 2015 Review of *The Make-Believe Space: Affective Geography in a Postwar Polity* (Duke University Press, 2012), by Yael Navaro-Yashin, in *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 38 (1): 181-183.

## INTERVIEWS

- 2019 Double Bind: A Conversation with Jeanette Jouili, Mucahit Bilici, Esra Özyürek, and Kabir Tambar about Islam and the Culture/Religion Binary. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. <<https://cssh.lsa.umich.edu/2019/01/19/double-bind/>>
- 2016 Addressing the Present: An Interview with Kabir Tambar. Interview in *Cultural Anthropology*. <<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/815-addressing-the-present-an-interview-with-kabir-tambar>>
- 2015 New Texts Out Now: *The Reckoning of Pluralism*. Book Interview in *Jadaliyya E-Zine*. <[http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/21918/new-texts-out-now\\_kabir-tambar-the-reckoning-of-pl](http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/21918/new-texts-out-now_kabir-tambar-the-reckoning-of-pl)>

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

- 2018 Innovation Grant, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, Stanford University With Miyako Inoue (Anthropology) and Jonathan Rosa (School of Education) For curricular development: "Language and Politics: Ethnographic Approaches"
- 2017 Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Stanford University, Faculty Fellow "The Politics of Nonviolence in the Middle East"

- 2014 Hellman Faculty Scholar Fund, Stanford University  
“Martial Democracy: Political Legacies of Military Rule in Turkey”
- 2014 Faculty Teaching Incentive Award  
For new course design for undergraduate curriculum  
Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
- 2013 Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Stanford University, Seed Grant  
“The Polemics of Humanity: Civil Disobedience and Political Disidentification  
in Turkey”
- 2013 Institute of Turkish Studies, Book Subvention Grant
- 2011 Member, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J.
- 2009 Sakıp Sabancı International Research Award, First Prize  
Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey  
Juried research prize for essay, “Paradoxes of Pluralism: Ritual Aesthetics and  
the Alevi Awakening in Turkey”
- 2008 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
- 2008 Institute of Turkish Studies Dissertation Writing Fellowship [declined]
- 2007 Frederick Starr Lectureship  
Awarded by Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago
- 2006 Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertational Research Abroad Fellowship
- 2005 Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Dissertation Fellowship
- 2005 Doolittle-Harrison Conference Travel Fellowship, Division of Social Sciences, University  
of Chicago
- 2004 Leiffer Pre-Field Research Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, University of  
Chicago
- 2004 Institute of Turkish Studies, Summer Research Fellowship
- 2003 Institute of Turkish Studies, Summer Language Fellowship
- 2003 Foreign Language Area Studies, Title VI, Summer Fellowship, Turkey
- 2003 National Science Foundation Pre-dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention
- 2002 National Science Foundation Pre-dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention
- 2002-05 University of Chicago Pre-dissertation Fellowship
- 2001 Andrew Mellon Graduate Fellowship in Humanistic Studies

2000 Steinberg Philosophy Award  
Department of Philosophy, State University of New York at Buffalo

#### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 On the Politics of Friendship in the Middle East  
University of California, Berkeley, Anthropology Colloquium Series
- 2018 Im-mediacy and the Non-political  
Center for the Study of Developing Societies (Delhi, India)  
SSRC InterAsian Conversations: Workshop on Media and Politics
- 2018 Professions of Friendship: Revisiting the Concept of the Political in the Middle East  
M.S. Merian – R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies in the  
Humanities and Social Sciences (Delhi, India)  
Conference on Populism and the Shifting Coordinates of the Political
- 2018 Friendship and the Concept of the Political in the Middle East  
University of California, Santa Cruz, Anthropology Colloquium Series
- 2018 Friendship and the Concept of the Political in the Middle East  
McGill University, Anthropology Colloquium Series
- 2017 Invited Book Forum, Author Meets Critics: *The Reckoning of Pluralism*  
Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meetings, New Orleans
- 2017 Islamic Studies and the Ontological Turn  
University of California, Berkeley  
Conference on Religion and the Senses
- 2016 Declarations of Friendship: Nonviolence and the Concept of the Political in the Middle  
East  
University of California, Davis, Anthropology Colloquium Series
- 2016 Declarations of Friendship: Nonviolence and the Concept of the Political in the Middle  
East  
Columbia University  
Lecture Series, Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life  
Co-sponsored by Department of Anthropology
- 2016 Truth-telling and the Critique of Violence  
Northwestern University  
Lecture Series, Global Politics and Religion Research Group
- 2016 Brotherhood in Dispossession: State Violence and the Minority Question in Turkey  
Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany  
Frankfurt Lectures, Cluster of Excellence, “Normative Orders”
- 2016 Criticism after Catastrophe: Ethical Distance and Public Secrecy

University of Amsterdam  
Conference on Ethics, Ontologies, Politics

- 2015 Negative Historicity and the Ethics of the Minority Question in Turkey  
Stanford University  
Conference on Civility: Trust, Recognition, Co-Existence
- 2015 Histories of Violence and the Ethics of Expectation in Turkey  
Brown University  
Annual Aga Khan Symposium, Politics of Time, Material Culture, and Islamic Religiosity
- 2015 State Violence and the Ethics of the Minority Question  
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey  
Koç-Stanford Lecture Series
- 2015 State Violence and the Ethics of the Minority Question  
London School of Economics, Contemporary Turkish Studies
- 2015 State Violence and the Ethics of the Minority Question  
University of Amsterdam, Department of Anthropology
- 2014 Brotherhood of the Abject: Temporalities of Popular Sovereignty in Turkey  
Harvard University, Center for Middle East Studies  
Workshop: Military Regimes, Diversity, and Sectarianism in Muslim Societies
- 2014 Beyond the Minority Question: Founding Violence and Popular Sovereignty in Turkey  
Boston University, Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs, Colloquium
- 2014 Brotherhood of the Abject: Founding Violence and the Critique of Politics in Turkey  
University of Copenhagen  
Conference: Religious Citizens: Varieties of European Secularity and Religious Subjectivity
- 2014 Iconographic Mediations of Alevi Visibility  
Utrecht University  
Conference: Practical wisdom, mediated performance, and everyday diversity
- 2014 Founding Violence and the Subject of Criticism  
London School of Economics  
Conference: Experiencing and Governing Religious Diversity in Europe and Turkey
- 2014 Popular Politics and the Claim of Historical Injustice in Turkey  
Invited presentation for plenary session  
Canadian Anthropological Society Meetings, York University
- 2013 Historical Critique and the Thresholds of Political Voice after the Ottoman Empire  
University of California, San Diego, Anthropology Colloquium Series
- 2013 Historical Critique and the Thresholds of Political Voice after the Ottoman Empire

University of California, Los Angeles, Anthropology Colloquium Series

- 2013 Historical Critique and Political Voice after the Ottoman Empire  
Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2013 Iconographic Modes of Public Address in Turkey  
University of Copenhagen, Workshop on Icons, Popular Culture, and the Making  
of Publics in the Middle East
- 2013 Pluralism and Political Voice in Turkey  
San Francisco State University, Middle East and Islamic Studies
- 2012 Historical Critique and the Thresholds of Political Voice after the Ottoman Empire  
University of California, Berkeley, Anthropology Colloquium Series
- 2012 Historical Critique and the Limits of Political Modernity in Turkey  
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ
- 2011 Toward an Effective History of Turkish Pluralism  
New York University, Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies
- 2009 Paradoxes of Pluralism: Ritual Aesthetics and the Alevi Awakening  
Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2008 The Morality of Mourning: Ritual Weeping in Secular Turkey  
University of Vermont, Department of Religion
- 2008 Secular Citizenship and Theology in Turkey  
New York University, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

**PRESENTATIONS**

- 2018 Between Friend and Minority: Paradoxes of Minority Protection in Turkey after World  
War One  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, San Jose, CA
- 2017 The Critique of Violence and a Politics to Come: Reflections on the Mothers of the  
Disappeared in Istanbul  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington, DC
- 2017 The Obligation to Mourn: Debating the Ignobility of Death in the Late Ottoman Empire  
American Ethnological Association Meetings, Stanford
- 2015 Transactions in Time: Enforced Disappearances and the Trajectory of Politics in Turkey  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, Denver
- 2014 Popular Politics and the Claim of Historical Injustice in Turkey  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington, DC
- 2013 Founding Violence and the Subject of Criticism in Turkey

American Anthropological Association Meetings, Chicago

- 2013 Popular Protest and the Politics of the Present in Turkey  
Mediterranean Studies Forum, Stanford University
- 2013 Religious Freedom in Turkey  
Roundtable on Comparing Religious Liberty, Stanford Law School
- 2012 Toward a Critique of Political Vocality in Turkey  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, San Francisco
- 2011 Pedagogies of Time and the Self in Turkey  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, Montreal
- 2011 Subjects of Historical Time: The Compulsions of Pluralism in Turkey  
Stanford University, Department of Anthropology
- 2010 The Limits of Lament: Reflections on the Morality of Secularism in Turkey  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, New Orleans
- 2010 Staging Alevi Pasts in Secular Time  
Stanford Workshop on Islam and Secularism  
Stanford University, Mediterranean Studies Forum
- 2009 Genres of Sectarianism  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, Philadelphia
- 2009 The Poetics of Exhortation: Iconic Dimensions of Moral Communication  
Workshop on Semiotics: Culture in Context  
University of Chicago
- 2008 Weeping in Public  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, San Francisco
- 2008 The Idea of “Context” in the Anthropology of Islam  
Islam, Modernity, and Eurasia Conference, University of Chicago
- 2008 Secularist Crowds and Populist Politics in Turkey  
Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago
- 2008 Secularist Crowds and the Rhetoric of Populism in Turkey  
Michigan Conference on Linguistic Anthropology  
University of Chicago
- 2007 The Call to Prayer and Sectarian Difference in Turkey  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington, D.C.
- 2007 Politics, Theology, Alevism  
Unsettling Blindspots in Turkish Studies, City University of New York
- 2007 The Aesthetics of Intimacy in the Call to Prayer

Workshop on Political Communication and Society  
University of Chicago

- 2005 From Heresy to Emancipation: On the ‘Necessity’ of Secularism in Turkey  
Keyword Panel: Secularism  
American Ethnological Society Meetings, San Diego
- 2005 Iterations of Democracy: The Problem of Secularism in Turkey’s Bid for EU  
Membership  
Annual Anthropology of Europe Conference  
University of Chicago
- 2004 Symptoms of the Secular: On the Limits of a Genre of Political Criticism in Turkey  
Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago
- 2004 Towards a Semiotics of Religious Tolerance: Circulations of Liberalism in Contemporary  
Islamic Thought  
Duke-UNC Conference on Islamic Studies
- 2003 Defining Turkish Islam at the European Court of Human Rights  
Annual Anthropology of Europe Conference  
University of Chicago

**ORGANIZED CONFERENCE PANELS**

- 2017 A Politics to Come: Prefigurative Politics and the Anthropological Imagination  
Panel Organizer  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington, DC
- 2015 Discordant Afterlives of History  
Panel Co-Organizer (with Sarah Muir)  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, Denver
- 2012 Time, Religion, and Political Belonging in the Muslim World  
Panel Co-Organizer (with Angie Heo)  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, San Francisco
- 2009 The Social Life of Texts in Turkey  
Panel Co-Organizer (with Kelda Jamison)  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, Philadelphia
- 2008 Ethnographic Perspectives on Publics in Turkey  
Panel Co-Organizer (with Jeremy Walton)  
American Anthropological Association Meetings, San Francisco

**ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2015 Faculty leader, Stanford Bing Overseas Program in Istanbul



- 2013 Stanford University Delegate to the American Research Institute of Turkey
- 2011 Jury Member, Society for the Anthropology of Europe Essay Prize