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Elite and popular religiosity among Dutch-Turkish muslims in the Netherlands

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Curriculum Vitae

Ömer Faruk Gürlesin was born in August 1982 in Grevenbroich, Germany. He was educated in Turkey until he was 9 years old. He first came into contact with the Turkish community in the Netherlands when the Turkish Presidium of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) sent his father and his family to the Netherlands in 1992, to work there as an imam. During his father's period of office in the Netherlands, he attended several cultural and religious courses and public meetings with the Turkish community in Deventer. He went to the Hagenpoort, one of Deventer's primary schools. After spending nearly three years in the Netherlands, he returned to Turkey in 1996, when his father's period of office ended. After his arrival in Turkey, he enrolled in the Manisa Imam-Hatip School. After completing his education at the Imam-Hatip school in 2002, he enrolled at the Marmara University in Istanbul. In 2006 he graduated from this university with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Theology. Three years later, he obtained his MA degree in Sociology and Psychology of Religion at Leiden University in 2009. In 2010 he started his PhD studies at the Leiden Institute for Religious Studies (currently the Leiden University Centre for the Study of Religion) and worked on the socio-cultural aspects of Turkish Islam in the Netherlands. Gürlesin is currently living in The Hague, and completing his PhD degree.