



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

No man's land: gender and sexuality in erotic narratives of the Late Ottoman Empire

Özoglu, M.

Citation

Özoglu, M. (2018, December 5). *No man's land: gender and sexuality in erotic narratives of the Late Ottoman Empire*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/67375>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/67375>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/67375> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Özoglu, M.

Title: No man's land: gender and sexuality in erotic narratives of the Late Ottoman Empire

Issue Date: 2018-12-05

Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those without whom this dissertation would not have been possible.

I feel very privileged to have had both Ernst van Alphen and Petra de Bruijn as my supervisors. I am immensely indebted to Ernst van Alphen, who challenged me and taught me how to be a scholar over the years we worked together. His supervision not only helped me improve my doctoral work, but also shaped my critical thinking in life. I am and will always be proud of being his student. Petra de Bruijn has been much more than my co-supervisor. She has always encouraged me and created opportunities for me to develop as a scholar. I am grateful for her faith and trust in me. I will genuinely miss her hutspot and spending each 3rd of October with her.

M. Kayahan Özgül is the one who first pointed me towards twentieth-century Ottoman Turkish erotic narratives. Even though I was not fortunate enough to be his student, he kindly gave up some of his time to a young and confused graduate student to discuss her academic interests. I am very thankful to him for introducing me to the corpus I worked on. Hatice Aynur encouraged me to pursue an academic career abroad. From the first year I started studying literature up until now, she has guided and supported me warm-heartedly. I am positive that she will continue to do so. I cannot thank her enough. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to share my arguments and opinions with Zafer Toprak and İrvin Cemil Schick, two well-known and pioneering scholars who have written various works on twentieth-century erotic narratives. I would like to express my special gratitude to Zafer Toprak for

encouraging me to write my dissertation on erotic narratives. I am also grateful to İrvin Cemil Schick who read my dissertation proposal and shared the printed version of *Kaymak Tabağı*. I would also like to thank Emin Nedret İşli who trusted me with the handwritten copy of the same work.

Then there are my friends and colleagues to whom I would be remiss if I did not thank. I am truly indebted to Fatih Altuğ for his generous support, which has been there since the beginning of my graduate studies. Fatih later became a lifetime friend, who enlightened my academic anxieties with his great humour. I am thankful to Abdullah Uğur and Şima İmşir who were always there to provide immediate scholarly help. Abdullah has always made time to answer my questions over the last thirteen years. My scholarly conversations with Şima stimulated me and helped me to remember that I am not alone in the dissertation writing arena. I also thank Ömer Koçyiğit, who provided me with answers when I was in doubt during the certain final parts of this work. I am grateful to Alaettin Çarıkçı for finding me in the department and easing my mind with his friendship. Sezin Beldağ has been a great friend since the high school years. Her regular visits to the Netherlands brought me joy.

Friends in Leiden made this experience count. Many thanks to Ece Ercan and Theodota Gketsiou for being fun and supporting flatmates. I am most grateful to cosy nights accompanied by good food and wine and spent with Francesco Nattino, Marta Artola, Cláudio Rebelo de Sá and Stefano Voltan. I would like to thank Ayşe Nazlı Söylet who made me laugh at every turn and in every conceivable way. Also, thanks to Astrid Bodini and Remzi Çağatay Çakırlar for the very much needed summer vacation in Nice and providing all the peach jelly tots when I got stuck into writing. I thank Stella Morgana for the coffee breaks in the library. Sine Bağatur and Eftychia Mylona were the bonuses in my Dutch courses. I feel very lucky to have met them.

I absolutely must express my gratitude to Ezgi Altıntaş. From shooting a video in which she teaches me how to make yoghurt soup to her routine morning messages, Ezgi made my days when writing was overwhelming and difficult. I feel very blessed to have her in my life.

A very big thanks goes to Sander Molenaar who I met in the last stages of my graduate years. Since the day we met, Sander helped me in any way he could. Also, he is the one who translated the summary of my dissertation into Dutch. He now starts his own dissertation in Warwick as I currently complete mine in Leiden. I do not know how to thank him. I can only look forward to the days when we share the same desk again.

My greatest debt and deepest gratitude are to my parents Oya and Sadri Özoğlu. Their endless and unconditional love and support made all the difficulties I encountered throughout my graduate years surmountable. This dissertation is dedicated to them. Mum and Dad, thank you.

Curriculum Vitae

Müge Özoğlu was born on 4 June 1987 in Istanbul, Turkey. She completed her BA degree in the department of Turkish Language and Literature at Yıldız Technical University in 2009, graduating as the third best student. She wrote a BA thesis on Emine Semiye's articles in *Hanımlara Mahsus Gazete* (The Newspaper for Women). During her BA years, she taught Turkish as a second language at Yıldız Technical University and worked as an assistant editor at Everest Yayınları, one of the biggest publishing houses in Turkey. In 2010, she obtained the foundation diploma for postgraduate students at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London and specialised in cultural studies and literary theory. In 2011, again at SOAS, she acquired her MA degree in the department of Comparative Literature (Asia/Africa). In addition to studying theoretical approaches to literature, she majored in Arabic and Turkish literatures. She wrote an MA thesis entitled "A Comparative Study on Jameson's Three World Theory and 'National Allegory': *The Yacoubian Building* and *The Flea Palace*" under the supervision of Dr. Ayman El-Desouky. In her MA studies, she tackled issues concerning national allegory, representations of collective memory, and gender and sexuality in literature. Her interest in these issues later led her to work on the construction of the collective memory of the Ottoman Empire via erotic fiction in her doctoral work. She completed her PhD dissertation entitled "No Man's Land: Gender and Sexuality in Erotic Narratives of the Late Ottoman Empire" at Leiden University under the supervision of Prof. Ernst van Alphen and Dr. Petra de Bruijn.