



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת  
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities  
The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies

# Contextualizing the Self: Creating and Recreating the First Person

An Interdisciplinary Workshop 2017 – 2018

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Tuesday, June 5, 2018

14:15 – 15:45

Gilman Building, room 449

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Chairman: Prof. Aviad Kleinberg

Lecture by:

**Cihangir Gündoğdu**

Bilgi University, Istanbul

## *"And So, What If He Is Insane? Are There No Asylums?: The State and the Insane in the Late Ottoman Empire"*

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The second half of the nineteenth century in the Ottoman Empire witnessed a state-orchestrated initiative to bring the insane under medico-political control. Through this process, insanity was stripped off its popular attributes and formularized as a new type of malady—one that could only be treated in a new and specially designed institution called *bîmârhâne* (mental asylum). Analogous to the new conception of insanity and subsequent official formulations, the mentally ill were identified as a distinct category in official correspondence, laws and regulations, and their existence in public places was no longer tolerated. In later periods, they would be relegated to purpose-built institutions that were expected to reform their conditions. In the present talk, I will explore these state undertakings to define, control and reform the conditions of the mentally ill in the nineteenth-century Ottoman Empire.

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\*\*\* The lectures will be held in English

<https://www.contextualizing-the-self-workshop.com/>