Languages Between State and Empire

Modernity, Monolingual Fantasies, and Linguistic Realities

November 28–29, 2023
Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society
The University of Chicago
Tuesday, November 28

9:00 a.m.  Breakfast and Reception

10:00 a.m.  Holly Shissler (NELC, University of Chicago)  
Opening Remarks

**Session I Panel**  
*Chair: Holly Shissler*

- **Indran Fernando** (NELC, University of Chicago)  
  “Adyghe-Arabic Bilingualism in Zahra ‘Umar’s Novels of the Circassian Diaspora”

- **Orit Baskin** (NELC, University of Chicago)  
  “Awakening Arabic?: State Formation and Multilingual Practices”

- **Yuval Evri** (Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University)  
  “On Bordering and Neighboring: Tracing the Invention of Mizrahi Jews as Mediators”

12:30 p.m.  Lunch Break

2:00 p.m.  Session II Panel  
*Chair: Orit Bashkin*

- **Ingeborg Fossestøl** (Archaeology, Conservation, and History, University of Oslo)  
  “Propelling Linguistic Change: Tradition and Innovation in Late Ottoman Theater”

- **Edin Hajdarpašić** (History, Loyola University of Chicago)  
  “Between Purity and Hybridity: Nationalism, Reform, and Arabic Script Use in South Slavic Languages”

- **Çağdaş Acar** (NELC, University of Chicago)  
  “Mastering Turkish in Armenian Letters”
Wednesday, November 29

9:30 a.m.  Breakfast

10:30 a.m.  Session III Panel  
Chair: Itamar Francez

Esra Almas (Turkish Literature, Bilkent University)  
“Minor Perspectives on a Modern Language: Leo Spitzer (Is) ‘Learning Turkish’”

Razieh Araghi (Comparative Literature, University of Michigan)  
“In Her Words: Women’s Translations and Self-Authorship in Early 20th Century Iran and the Late Ottoman Empire”

Hulya Adak (Cultural Studies and Gender Studies, Sabanci University)  
“Towards Inclusive Literary Histories: ‘Ottoman’ and ‘Post-Ottoman’ Modernisms”

12:30 p.m.  Orit Bashkin  
Concluding Remarks