



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT

THE MOHAMMAD ATALLAH CHAIR FOR ETHICS
THE CENTER FOR ARAB & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES (CAMES)

Invite you to a lecture

BALANCE AS JUSTICE: DECONSTRUCTION OF PREMODERN ETHICS ON THE BASIS OF KINĀLİZĀDE 'ALĪ ÇELEBĪ'S AḤLĀḲ-I 'ALĀ'Ī

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2022 | 5:30 PM
ASFARI INSTITUTE, CONFERENCE ROOM

HYBRID EVENT

Abstract:

Kinālizāde 'Alī Çelebī (1510-1572), perhaps the most influential moral philosopher in the history of the Ottoman Empire, wrote his Aḥlāk-ı 'Alā'ī between 1563 and 1565 in Damascus, where he served as the chief judge. Aḥlāk-ı 'Alā'ī had been the most popular and widely discussed ethical work in the Ottoman Empire and it served as the basis of almost all textbooks of ethics until the modern times. It is a masterpiece that is highly representative of the Ottoman spiritual world. In the introduction to his book, Kinālizāde argues that the previous ethics literature had been Persian and should now be considered obsolete. He further argues that he intentionally wrote his book in Turkish because he saw a great need for Turkish ethics literature. Aḥlāk-ı 'Alā'ī eventually became the standard work of ethics in Ottoman madrasas. In this talk, Dr. Fatih Ermiş will discuss, among others, main contributions of Kinālizāde to ethics literature.

Bio:

Fatih Ermiş received his doctorate from the University of Erfurt with a thesis entitled "Ottoman Economic Thinking before the 19th Century." He holds an MA in economic history from Marmara University and a BA in economics from Boğaziçi University, both in Istanbul. After completing his PhD, he worked as a research assistant for the Chair of History of West Asia at the University of Erfurt and as a post-doctoral associate at the Centre for Islamic Theology, University of Tübingen. His main research interest is premodern Islamic intellectual history, with a particular focus on intellectual endeavours in Ottoman lands. His works are also concerned with economic, social, religious and literary writing as well as with Sufi thought. He is currently a research associate at the Orient-Institut Beirut.



This is the only drawing of kinālizāde to hand. He is depicted as a teacher in a collection of biographies of poets from Kinālizāde's own time. 'Ashik Çelebi, Mashā'ir al-Shu'arā', fol. 240a, Türkiye Yazma Eserler Kurumu Başkanlığı, Millet Kütüphanesi, Ali Emiri 772.