

Anna NEUBAUER

Postdoctoral research fellow, social anthropologist

Anna Neubauer is a post-doctoral fellow at the MAPS Center for the Understanding of Social Processes at the University of Neuchâtel.

She is interested in anthropological and gendered approaches to Islamic religious practices, both in Muslim-majority contexts as well as in the context of diaspora.

Currently, she is working on a project on forced marriages in Switzerland and will be teaching a graduate course on qualitative methods in social sciences during 2011-2012.

For her PhD in anthropology, Anna Neubauer worked on female authority in contemporary Turkish Sufism. Based on fieldwork with the followers of a female rifai spiritual leader in Istanbul, she investigated how women can legitimize their holding positions of religious authority. She examined the ways in which a female spiritual leader reinterprets conceptualizations of women and men's roles and status in Islam, so as to make her teachings meaningful and empowering for highly educated men and women in today's Istanbul.

Anna Neubauer has taught a seminar on the Alevis, a religious minority in Turkey on which she had written her Master's Thesis, at the Institute for Religious Studies of the Goethe University in Frankfurt during the summer semester 2009. She has also been an assistant at the Anthropology Institute of the University of Neuchâtel (2002-2003) and at the Graduate Institute for Development Studies in Geneva (2003-2007).

Whilst completing her PhD, Anna Neubauer has worked at the Swiss Forum for Migration Studies on various research projects tackling the issues of migration, integration and transnationalism (2002-2006). She was a visiting scholar at the Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin (2008) and at the Institute for Religious Studies of the Goethe University in Frankfurt (2007).

Areas of specialisation

Anthropology of religion, gender, female religious authority, charisma, migrations, transnationalism, Islam (Sufism, Alevism), Turkey, qualitative methods.

Main publications

(forthcoming). *La maîtresse et ses disciples. Soufisme et autorité féminine à Istanbul*, Paris: Editions du Cerf.

(forthcoming). "L'autorité religieuse féminine dans le soufisme contemporain à Istanbul." In Clayer, Nathalie et al. (eds.), *L'autorité religieuse et ses limites en terres d'islam. Approches historiques et anthropologiques*. Leiden :Brill.

(forthcoming). "Methodological Implications of the Researcher's Gender and Religion: Reflections on Fieldwork with Sufi Women in Istanbul", in Khosronejad, Pedram (ed.), *Women Rituals and Ceremonies*. London: IB Tauris.

- (forthcoming). *Les "mariages forcés" en Suisse : causes, formes et ampleur*, Bern : Office fédéral des migrations. (with Janine Dahinden)
- (2009). *Celle qui n'existe pas : soufisme et autorité féminine à Istanbul*. Neuchâtel: Université de Neuchâtel. Doctorate Thesis published in open access.
- (2008). "Changer la forme pour mieux garder le sens : évolution des pratiques du soufisme dans la Turquie contemporaine", in Djalili, Mohammed-Riza, Alessandro Monsutti and Anna Neubauer (eds.), *Le monde turco-iranien en question*. Paris: Karthala, p. 143-159.
- (2006). "Le rôle des dede, dignitaires religieux, dans l'alévisme kurde contemporain en Turquie." *Etudes kurdes*, 8: 97-120.
- (2005). "Auswanderung und Rückkehr. Fotogeschichten armenischer Migranten und Migrantinnen." *Tsantsa*, 10: 186-189. (with Janine Dahinden and Martina Kamm)
- (2004). *Emigration and return. Photostories of Armenian Migrants*. Genève: CIMERA. (with Carine Bachmann, Janine Dahinden, Martina Kamm and Aurélie Perrin).
- (2004). "Lorsque le provisoire se prolonge. L'admission provisoire en Suisse." *Tsantsa*, 9: 61-71. (with Martina Kamm and Denise Efonayi-Maeder)