

## **Description of the planned dissertation project – Fatma Haron**

### **Transnational Workings of Nationalism. Narratives of New Turkey and the self-understanding of Turkish women in rural Tyrol.**

The research focuses on socially remitted identity concepts between Turkey and Tyrol and the impact of political narratives on the identification process of women with transnational ties to Turkey.

In particular the process of identification is a never ending and non-fixed procedure, what gets complicated through self-essentialisation and from outside. Especially in the matter of transnational migration where the individuals identify with more than one place the political relations and inclinations between these multiple places do have an impact on the self-image.

**The research question:** How do women with family ties to Turkey negotiate their many identities through the transnational exchange between Turkey and Tyrol and the political narratives about their place of origin? These questions are asked in different communities and rural areas of Tyrol (Fulpmes, Telfs, Zirl, Silz and Wattens), which does open up a new perspective within migration studies that mostly focus on urban migration.

The idea of analysing the self-understanding and identification negotiations of women is essential, when considering that women and migration in the Tyrolean area has not been researched yet in detail. While detecting the identity images as socially remitted from Turkey through the family visits, phone calls, social media and TV series the role of essentialisation plays a part. Being essentialised by the own community but also from outside does form the self-image through the interpellations and by forging stereotypes. However, some women try to craft their own many identities, which this research tries to analyse.

The **methodology** applies semi-ethnographic field observations and narrative interviews. Through the ethnographic approach, the daily life and routines of the women and their positions can be grasped and inferred from a different perspective. The narrative interview provides the women the possibility to tell their own stories and positionality, in order to analyse their individual perspective, from a micro-level, and not to analyse migration merely from the angle of institutions and organisations. Weekly field visits and a short stay in one of the villages were undertaken; fourteen interviews have been conducted in the mentioned communities and approx. three to five more are planned.

The project started in March 2017 and is ought to be finished by the end of February 2020. It is conducted at the Department of History and Philosophy, Institute for Historical Sciences and European Ethnology under the supervision of Prof. Silke Meyer.