



**Colloquium Series  
Sociology of Transnationalization  
“The Transnational Lens”**

# **GAR (Association for Migration Research): A Case of Civil Society Engagement with the Field of Migration in Turkey**

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This paper aims to discuss “Association for Migration Research” (GAR ) as a case for civil society engagement with the field of migration in Turkey. GAR was founded on September 21, 2017, with the aim of conducting research on migration, taking part in the multidisciplinary migration research, supporting researchers in the field of migration, contributing to the dissemination of knowledge produced in this field on Turkey, and enabling professional solidarity, communication, collaboration, and interaction among the migration scholars working on Turkey from a broader regional/global perspective. The association also strives to provide keys to scientific, institutional, and ethical problems that the migration researchers face and raising public awareness regarding the problems un/documented migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees confront. However, as the question of migration to Turkey has turned into a multi-layered issue that affects as well as being influenced by domestic, regional and international politics in the wake of the EU-Turkey Deal in 2015; taking an independent stance on this question gradually became difficult. Especially in the face of rising anti-migration sentiments/politics in the last year, GAR’s activities set a case to discuss limitations and possibilities of civil society engagement with the question of migration.

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2022  
16:15 – 17:45**

**Hybrid event (zoom / in situ)  
Room: X-C3-107  
to register: [isabell.diekmann@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:isabell.diekmann@uni-bielefeld.de)**

\*Dr. Besim Can ZIRH is an assistant professor of social anthropology at the Middle East Technical University, Sociology Department. He received his PhD from UCL Social Anthropology Department in 2012 and previously graduated from Political Sciences (MSc) in 2005 and Sociology (BA) in 2002 – METU. His PhD was on

transnational social space established by Alevi immigrants through funerary activities in-between Europe and Turkey. Dr. Zırh is currently based in Bielefeld for his sabbatical research leave on external voting in the case of Turkey. He is also a founding member of Association for Migration Research (GAR) established in 2017.