

Programme

**2 July 2025**

**09.00-09.45 Registration**

**09.45-10.00 Welcome and opening remarks**, *Prof. Dibyesh Anand, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement and Employability; Co-Chair of University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee)*

**10.00- 11.30 Alevi persecutions: Dersim** Chair: *Şükrü Aslan*

The Role of Memory and "Collective Trauma" in the Formation and Development of the Group Identity of the Modern Alevis, *Daria Zhigulskaya & Arina Tsvetkova*  
The Historical Background of Dersim 1938, *Bedriye Poyraz*  
Rethinking Dersim as a Kızılbaş Question: 1925-1947, *Zeynep Türkyılmaz*  
Visualising the Dersim 37-38: state, photography, atrocities, *Kumru Berfin Emre*

**11.30-11.45 Coffee break**

**11.45-13.15 Alevi diasporas**, Chair: *Ümit Çetin*

The Effects of Transnational Internal Colonial Turkish State Policy on the Identity of the Alevi Community in the Diaspora, *Tufan Bozkurt*  
Transnational Faith and Local Impact: Alevi Organisations in European Refugee Relief, *İnci Öykü Yener-Roderburg*  
Identity and Belonging of Alevis in German Diaspora, *Deniz Aka*  
Alevi Material Afterlives in the German Alevi Diaspora, *Ahmet Kerim Gültekin*

**13.15-14.30 Lunch break**

**14.45-16.00 Alevis and queer politics**, Chair: *Celia Jenkins*

Gender Inequality is the Root of All Inequalities, *Çilem Küçükkeleş*  
LGBTQI+ Activism: putting theory in practice, *Jiyan Avesta*  
(Un)Becoming Can: unruly words, queer worldings, *Ali Yıldırım*

**15.45-16.00 Coffee break**

**16.15-18.00 Alevis, secularism and religion**, Chair: *Derrick Wright*

Entangling Alevism and Bektashism: The Conceptual and Cultural History of Alevi-Bektaşilik, *Cem Kara*  
Mutashayyi Alevis in Turkey, *Nail Elhan & Mustafa Onur Tetik*  
Rethinking Alevi Secularity: Sacred Body Politics in the 'New Turkey', *Alex Kreger*  
Alevism as an Anti-Populist Mobilisation: Towards Liberal Democracy, *Ömer Tekdemir*

**18.00-20.00 Conference reception**

Hosted by the University of Westminster's Centre for Social Justice Research (CSJR).

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**3 July 2025**

**10.00- 11.30 Panel: Exploring Cultural Heritage and Resilience in Alevi-Bektashi Communities: Archives, Manuscripts, and Historical Narratives, Chair: Cem Kara**

The Alevi-Bektashi Digital Archive Project: A Cultural Preservation Initiative, *Ayfer Karakaya-Stump*

Alevi Literary Culture: A Micro-Historical Study of the Şeyh Şazi Ocak's Library, *Özkan Karabulut*

Who Was Writing the Life of Hacı Bektaş? Bektashis, Alevis, and Ottomans in the Vilayetname

Manuscript Tradition, *Mark Solieau*

The Seals and Amulets of the Hacı Bektaş Shrine: Alevi-Bektashi Cultural World in the Late Ottoman Period, *Yeliz Teber*

**11.30-11.45 Coffee break**

**11.45-13.15 Alevis, gender and women, Chair: Bedriye Poyraz**

Obstacles for Alevi Women leadership in the Alevi Organization, *Mürvet Öztürk*

A Gender Lens on Alevism: Narratives of Identity and Equality in Migration Contexts, *Deniz Coşan Eke*

Negotiating gender in contested spaces: family, activism, and transformative agency among Dersimi women, *Hayal Hanoğlu*

Gender Equality in Alevi Theatre, *Rüya Kalıntaş*

**13.15-14.30 Lunch break**

**14.30-16.00 Alevism, theology and ritual, Chair: Ayfer Karakaya-Stump**

Bektashi communities and convents in Crete, *Murat Küçük*

Ontology of the Cem Ceremony, *Aynur Ünal*

Alevi Mythology as a Unique Nuance in the Abrahamic Tradition, *Cemal Salman*

Visits to Religious Spaces and the Construction of Meaning: A Study of the Hacı Bektaş Veli Museum, *Mustafa Doğan*

**16.00-16.15 Coffee break**

**16.15-17.30 Alevis, media and digital engagement, Chair: Kumru Berfin Emre**

Modern multimedia as a tool for identity formation of young Alevis in Europe, *Ali Arslan*

The Youth Engagements in Transmission and Intersection of Alevi Theology and Global Human Rights in the Digital Era, *Melih Uğraş Erol*

Governing Alevi Difference in Turkey: News Media, Legal Exception, and Recognition Politics, *Nazlı Özkan*

**18.00-22.00 Conference dinner**

Zara Restaurant, 11 South End Road, Hampstead Heath, London, NW3 2PT

Second Biennial International Conference of Alevism Studies  
2nd -4th July, 2025  
The Pavillion, University of Westminster, Cavendish Campus, 115 New Cavendish Street, W1W 6UW  
London

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**4 July 2025**

**10.00- 11.30 Alevism, politics, demography and economics, Chair: *Deniz Coşan Eke***

Alevi Members of Parliament in the Foundation of Modern Turkey, *Murat Arpacı & Şükrü Aslan*

Alevi and Bektashi Agency and its Suppression until 1965 in Turkey, *Gökçen B. Dinç*

Debates on the Alevi Population in Turkey, *Egemen Cevahir*

Alevi Bourgeoisie Class: is that an oxymoron?, *Çiğdem Boz*

**11.30-11.45 Coffee break**

**11.45-13.15 Alevis(m) in the cultural arena, Chair: *Cemal Salman***

Alevi Massacres in Turkish Cinema, *İhsan Koluçak*

Humor and Trauma: An Analysis of Dersim Narratives and Pınar Fidan's Joke, *Özlem Atik*

Yeşim Coşkun's 4Kapı 40Makam, *Sinibaldo De Rosa*

The Violence of Words: A Pejorative View of Alevi-Bektashi Beliefs, *Anıl Durdu*

**13.15-14.30 Lunch break**

**14.30-15.30 Workshop: The Alevi Encyclopaedia project and the future of Alevism Studies**

*All participants*

**15.45-16.00 Closing Remarks**

**Acknowledgements**

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you for attending and presenting your valuable research in this expanding field of Alevism Studies. We would not have been able to host it without generous support from across the university, specifically the [Centre for Social Justice Research](#), HEIF impact funding, Prof Peter Bonfield, Prof Dibyesh Anand, Prof Andrew Linn, the School of Social Sciences and [HOMElands](#).