

Fabio Vicini
PhD candidate
SUM – Italian Institute for Human Sciences
fabiovicini@gmail.com

Reviving Islam through Brotherhood: Religious Education, Sociability and Moral Agency in Present-day Turkey

My research deals with Islamic education and socialization practices within two Nur communities in present-day Turkey, with a particular focus on the Gülen movement, which teaches people how to act morally within a secular society and how to engage in a socio-cultural reform project through religious service (*hizmet*). I am interested in exploring how long-standing discursive traditions that lean both on ‘orthodox’ and Sufi Islam have adapted to changing socio-historical conditions as a consequence of ‘modernization’ processes, and how these changes have affected the way Islam is transmitted and received within these communities. I look at pedagogical intervention and collective reading practices within these communities as instances where powerful religious discourses are deployed, giving shape to particular types of Muslim subjects with a certain moral commitment, and also as moments where a collective social bond is shaped and strengthened through the imaginative device provided by religious brotherhood (*kardeşlik*). Thus, my research also explores the way in which renewed patterns of Muslim sociability are fostered within the informal spaces of the community, which allow for complex ways of interacting both with the state and with secularist ideologies.