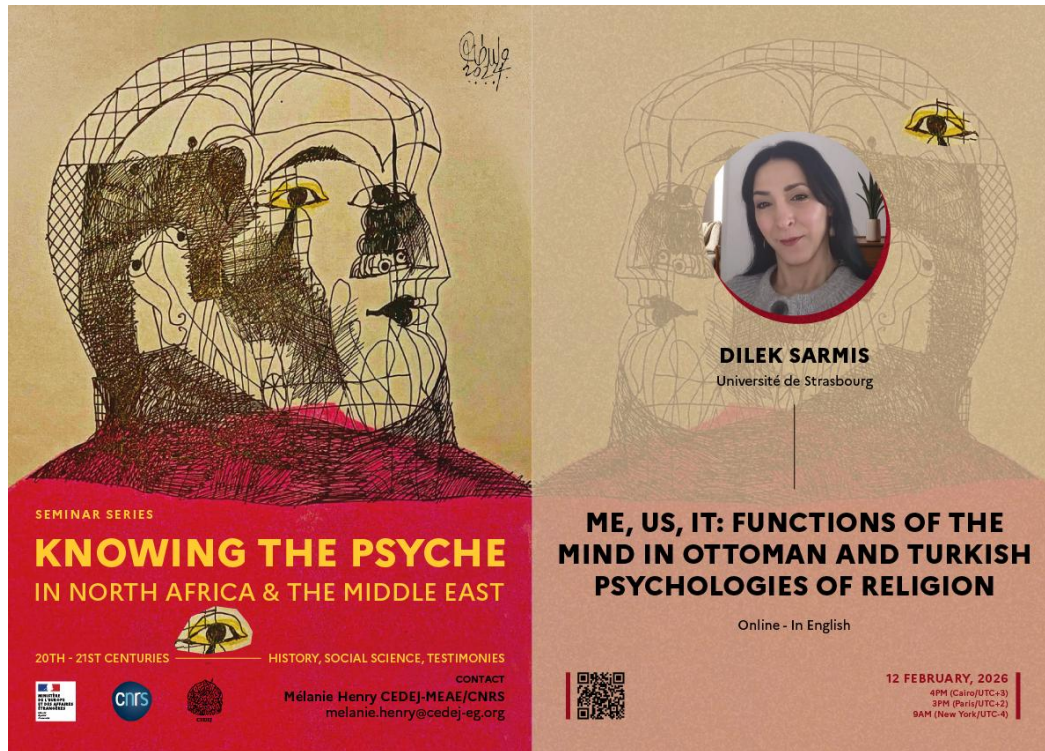


Research Seminar

Knowing the Psyche in the Middle East and North Africa

(20th and 21st century)



Me, Us, It: Functions of the Mind in Ottoman and Turkish Psychologies of Religion

Dilek Sarmis (Université de Strasbourg)

Date: February 12, 2026

Time: 4pm (Cairo time) - Online via Zoom

🔗 Register here: <https://cnrs.zoom.us/meeting/register/SSsDtpDSSug-YALfFBJHQ>

Dilek Sarmis is an Associate Professor (Maîtresse de conférences) in the Department of Turkish Studies at the University of Strasbourg. She specializes in intellectual history and the history of knowledge of the Ottoman Empire and Republican Turkey. Her doctoral dissertation was devoted to the reception of the philosopher Henri Bergson in Turkey ("Bergson's Thought in the Genesis of Modern Turkey: A Prism of Lexical, Institutional, and Political Transitions from the Late Ottoman Empire to Republican Turkey"). She is currently working on the history and translation of the social sciences in Turkey, as well as on the place of religious knowledge. In direct connection with the theme of the seminar, her publication "

Psychologies ottomanes et turques. Un laboratoire pour les partages savants ” can be read in the *Revue d’histoire des sciences humaines et sociales*, no. 34, June 2019, pp. 34–66.

History, Social Science, Testimonies

This seminar reflects on new scholarship about the psyche as object of knowledge and care in the Middle East and North Africa. It aims to highlight a polycentric approach to the history of psychiatry, psychology, and psychoanalysis. Thus, by focusing on the 20th and 21st centuries, it looks at these dynamics in post-independence states in their historical depth. It also fosters a conversation between studies of what is usually known as medicine, religion and popular knowledge.

Sessions with social science researchers and mental health professionals will explore such subject matters as knowledge production, actors’ trajectories, health policies, practices of care, and representations – all elements of a regional history of norms that relate to interiority and mental health.

Seminars take place on the last Wednesday of each month starting in April 2024, between 6 and 7:30pm (Cairo time).

Contact:

Mélanie Henry (CEDEJ-MEAE/CNRS)

melanie.henry@cedej-eg.org