The Awakened Muslim: Turkish Modernization as an Alternative Model in Republican China
Dr. Zeyneb Hale Eroglu Sager, Bogazici University

During the Republican period, Chinese Muslim intellectuals were among the most active participants in transnational intellectual networks. As they sought to transform Muslim subjects of the Qing Empire into conscious citizens of the new Republic, they were also dedicated to preserving their distinct identity as Muslims. In order to devise the best interpretation of Islam, one that would fit the modern conditions of China, these intellectuals selected, adapted, and appropriated ideas and materials from different sources of Islam, including reformist schools in Turkey, Egypt, and India. This presentation looks at Chinese Muslims’ readings of Turkish modernization, which demonstrates how they positioned themselves as Muslims vis-à-vis the nation and the state.

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