



SRI WINTER LECTURE SERIES 2019
WOMEN'S VOICES

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Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu – Tünel)

Professor

Ayşe Gül Altınay

Sabancı University

Feminism as Transformative Politics

“Even in the darkest of times we have the right to expect some illumination, and that such illumination may come less from theories and concepts than from the uncertain, flickering, and often weak light that some men and women, in their lives and works, will kindle under almost all circumstances and shed over the time span that was given them on earth.” (Hannah Arendt)

Where do we see the “illumination” today? Why is it important, theoretically and politically, to “see” the illumination? “The time span given us on earth” is shaped by deeply destructive forces, the consequences of which range from climate change to wars, from poverty and precarious living to racist and (hetero)sexist violence. Yet, it is also a time span in which we are witnessing major transformations, especially in relation to conventions on gender and sexuality. Based on examples of “illumination” from the women’s and feminist movements in Turkey from the late Ottoman times till today, this talk will reflect on the transformative impact and potential of feminist politics. Focusing on the interface between personal and political transformation, the talk will ask such questions as: What are implications of the feminist motto “the personal is political” for personal and political transformation? In what ways has it been put into practice and what are some new possibilities for rethinking the concept of “transformation”?

Ayşe Gül Altınay is the Director of SU Gender (Sabancı University Gender and Women’s Studies Center of Excellence) and Associate Professor of Anthropology teaching in the Gender Studies and Cultural Studies Programs at Sabancı University. Her research and writing have focused on militarism, memory, violence, gender and sexuality.

Admission only after registration to event@sri.org.tr !