



The public is cordially invited to a lecture by

**PD Dr. Felix Keskin (Göttingen)**

## **On the Kurdish Transformation of the Ottoman-Arabic “Rational Sciences” in the Middle of 17th Century**

Thursday, 9 October, 10.15-11.45 a.m.  
Kollegienhaus, room 105

This lecture addresses developments in Ottoman intellectual history that were first described by Kātib Çelebī as a “reinvigoration of the rational and philosophical sciences”. This lecture addresses the question in which ways this intellectual development was caused by scholars from Kurdish regions in the early decades of the seventeenth century. Besides showing the intellectual influence (e.g., in the field of rhetorics) of Kurdish scholars such as Mullā Maḥmūd, Mullā Çelebī Āmidī and Gūrānī in Istanbul and Damascus one may point to the Kurdish city Diyarbekir as an intellectual center of that time with its attraction for many Turkish scholars and their education in rational sciences. At the end of the lecture some desiderata will be mentioned, especially within the context of the very creative approach of Khaled El-Rouayheb, discoverer of these very important stages in Kurdish intellectual contributions to Ottoman-Arabic thought.

PD Dr. Felix M. Keskin studied Philosophy and Islamic Studies (Arabic and further languages) in Freiburg (M.A., 2005-8). In 2012 he was awarded a Dr. phil. from the University of Heidelberg for his thesis "Blickwechsel-Wechselblick des Anderen und der Bilder am Leitfaden der kulturellen Alterität". In the years 2013-7 he was Assistant Professor for Kurdish Language and Culture at the University of Mardin. Felix Keskin has been instructor for Iranian Studies at AAI Hamburg (2017-20) and faculty member at the Institute of Philosophy in Hildesheim, also responsible for Histories of Philosophy in Ottoman, Turkish and Persian (DFG-Koselleck-Project “Philosophy in a Global Perspective”). In the years 2023-5 he was faculty member and instructor for Old Iranian languages at the University of Göttingen. Habilitation at the University of Cologne. Dr. Keskin has authored many translations (Husserl, Heidegger, Gadamer, Assmann, Waldenfels, Sloterdijk) and reception outlines of contemporary European philosophy in Turkey. At the present Felix Keskin is preparing a book on the Negative Theology of the One from Greek to Arabic.

