Alevi Pasts Contested: Call for papers to workshop on Alevi Historiography

We would like to extend an invitation to submit papers to a workshop on Alevi historiography at Leipzig University on 5-7 October 2023.

The workshop is a first step towards the publication of an edited volume on Alevi historiography and all participants are expected to present drafts of chapters for the publication at the workshop. The invitation is extended to all scholars on Alevis and Alevism who are interested in critically engaging with historiographies surrounding Alevi communities and the field of Alevi studies.

The specific focus on historiography for this workshop directs our attention to accounts and narratives on (the) Alevi past(s) and relevant discussions on the role and function of these accounts. Such accounts of the past are shared and communicated within Alevi communities, between Alevi communities and in dialogue or opposition to various others – such as Sunni Muslims, Turkish state agencies, or scholars of Alevism. There may be questions of labelling, representation, visibility, authenticity, legitimation as well as material interests, such as the distribution of resources and access to social and political power involved in the creation and communication of such accounts of the past.

Thus, we are looking for contributions that present new empirical material or novel research-based perspectives on Alevi historiography and focus either on

- historiography as the Alevi emic processes of understanding, negotiating and demarcating Alevi history, or
- historiography as the academic study of the history of, and discourses on, Alevism and Alevi communities

If you are interested in presenting at the workshop, please send a 300-500 word abstract and a 150-word bio by November 8, 2022 to Hege.Markussen@ctr.lu.se. Selections will be finalised by December 16, 2022 and the final deadline for submitting draft of the articles for the workshop is August 15, 2023. Limited funding for travel and accommodation is available for those without institutional support.

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