“Non-Muslim communal property ownership from the late Ottoman empire to republican Turkey”

Non-Muslim communal property ownership, i.e. the right of Christians and Jews to legally own, use and dispose of immovable property that belongs to their religious, educational and philanthropic institutions, is one of the heatedly debated issues in current Turkish politics. In both scholarship and the public sphere, however, there are grave misconceptions that taint discussions of this matter. Focusing on the application of Ottoman and Turkish law with respect to corporate immovables, this paper examines the historical origins and development of the issue from the late Ottoman period through Republican Turkey to shed light on why and how this has been a contested field.

Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 5:30pm
Rhode Island Hall, Room 108, 60 George Street

Reception to follow

Ayşe Ozil is a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies, Princeton University. Her monograph entitled Orthodox Christians in the Late Ottoman Empire: A Study of Communal Relations in Anatolia (Routledge, 2013) explores the meanings and practices of ethno-religious community among the Orthodox Christians of the Ottoman Empire in north-western Anatolia during the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her current research focuses on the history of late Ottoman Istanbul.