Table of Contents

I. Introduction: What is (not) Turkish American Literature ......11
   The Significance of the United States in Turkish American Literature.....21
   Turkish American Literature and the “Transnational Turn”...............28
   A Gentle Empire................................................................................28
   ‘Unearthing’ and Embracing the Colonial Past.................................33
   Beyond Empire: A Postcolonial Reading of Turkish American Literature..................................................................36
   The Postcoloniality of Turkey..............................................................38
   Turkish American Literature and the Postcolonial Imagery...............40
   Postcolonialism and Resistance: A Critical Perspective on Turkish American Literature..........................................................45

II. Imaginary Spaces: Representations of Istanbul between Topography and Imagination ......................................................49
   The Unplaceability of Orhan Pamuk ..................................................51
   Orhan Pamuk: Overground and Underground Istanbul .....................59
   “Safe Spaces of the Like-Minded”: Elif Shafak’s Cafés.......................63
   Becoming Someone Else: Imitation and Truthfulness.........................65
   ‘Authenticity’ and Americanization .....................................................70
   Integration and Segregation: Shall the Twain Meet? .........................76
   The Ottoman Utopia...........................................................................91
   Utopia and Empire.............................................................................93
   Ottoman Utopia and Neo-Ottomanism..............................................97
   “Hrant Dink’s Dream”......................................................................100
   Life in the Islands and in the Villages...............................................103
   Two Approaches to Cultural Identity .................................................110
III. Rewriting History, Rewriting Religion ........................................... 115
   Between Imperialism and “Wholesome Curiosity”:
   Halide Edip’s Benevolent America.................................................... 116
   Imperialism and Humanitarianism .................................................... 120
   True Christians and very Unchristian Christians: American
   Humanitarianism in the Empire Territories................................. 122
   An Imaginary Us and an Imaginary Them........................................ 126
Ferries and Orphanages: Rewriting the Legacy of Edip’s Memoirs........... 130
   Hullabaloo on the Bosphorus Ferry: The Development of
   Othering Strategies from “Borrowed Colonialism” to Nationalism.... 131
   Ferries Rewritten: Elif Shafak’s “Life in the Islands”....................... 137
   Little Stories of Independence: Orphanages.................................... 139
   Towards Ottoman Sisterhood......................................................... 143
Women and Children First: Founding a ‘Subaltern’ Religion............... 146
   Halide Edip: Rethinking Prophets and Fathers of the Nation............. 147
   Sufi Madonna with Child.............................................................. 150
   Undermining Myths of Masculinity and the “Threat of Islam”:
   Ali’s Religion of Love ................................................................... 152
   A Religion of Love and a Religion of Fear: Mitigating the
   East/West Divide in the Aftermath of 9/11...................................... 155

IV. Sufism in America and Turkey: A Transnational Dialogue ......161
   The American Journey as Sufi Journey: Emerson and Shafak.......... 162
   Two directions in the American Discourse on Sufism:
   Whitman and Shafak........................................................................ 167
      The Transcendental Author: from National to
      Transnational Literature............................................................. 168
   Sufi Selves in comparison............................................................. 174
      The Forty Rules of Love: A Secular Awakening.......................... 178
   Of Material Love and Ornamental Sufism........................................ 181
   The Road to Baghdad Leads Somewhere: the (Ir)relevance of
   Sufism in Güneli Gün’s On The Road to Baghdad.............................. 182
Secularized Sufi elements in On the Road to Baghdad ..................... 187
Sufi Mysticism and North American Postmodernism:
Barth, Barthes, Gün................................................................. 192

V. Ottoman Nature: Natural Imagery, Gardens, Wells,
and Cultural Memory in Republican Turkey ......................... 199
American Nature and Turkish American Natural Symbolism...... 201
Fig Trees and Pomegranates: The Shaping of Post-Genocidal
Armenian Identity in Elif Shafak’s The Bastard of Istanbul ....... 203
  Fig Trees: Beyond Negative Identities.................................... 203
  Pomegranates: Under two Empires...................................... 207
Birds of Migration: Ornithological Symbolism in The Bastard of
Istanbul and The Saint of Incipient Insanities ....................... 214
  Amnesiac and Memory-Bound Societies: The Bastard of Istanbul... 214
The End of the Ottoman Garden: Alev Lytle Croutier’s
Seven Houses ................................................................. 222
  Space and Narrative in Seven Houses................................. 222
  The Patriarch’s Garden................................................... 224
  The Matriarch’s Garden.................................................. 227
Re-Orientalism, Hyper-Orientalism, and Acceptance:
Problematicizing Gardens in Seven Houses ......................... 234
  Wells and National Amnesia: Orhan Pamuk’s The Black Book.... 242

Troubled Gardens of Turkey and the World............................ 253

Works Cited ........................................................................... 265

Acknowledgements ................................................................ 283