

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
<i>The Forty Rules of Love: A Secular Awakening</i>	178
Of Material Love and Ornamental Sufism.....	181
The Road to Baghdad Leads Somewhere: the (Ir)relevance of Sufism in Güneli Gün’s <i>On The Road to Baghdad</i>	182

Secularized Sufi elements in <i>On the Road to Baghdad</i>	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 <i>The Bastard of Istanbul</i>	203
Fig Trees: Beyond Negative Identities.....	203
Pomegranates: Under two Empires.....	207
Birds of Migration: Ornithological Symbolism in <i>The Bastard of Istanbul</i> and <i>The Saint of Incipient Insanities</i>	214
Amnesiac and Memory-Bound Societies: <i>The Bastard of Istanbul</i>	214
The End of the Ottoman Garden: Alev Lytle Croutier's <i>Seven Houses</i>	222
Space and Narrative in <i>Seven Houses</i>	222
The Patriarch's Garden	224
The Matriarch's Garden	227
Re-Orientalism, Hyper-Orientalism, and Acceptance: Problematizing Gardens in <i>Seven Houses</i>	234
Wells and National Amnesia: Orhan Pamuk's <i>The Black Book</i>	242
Troubled Gardens of Turkey and the World	253
Works Cited	265
Acknowledgements	283

