



Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 20 February 2024, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Speaker: Professor Brett Wilson

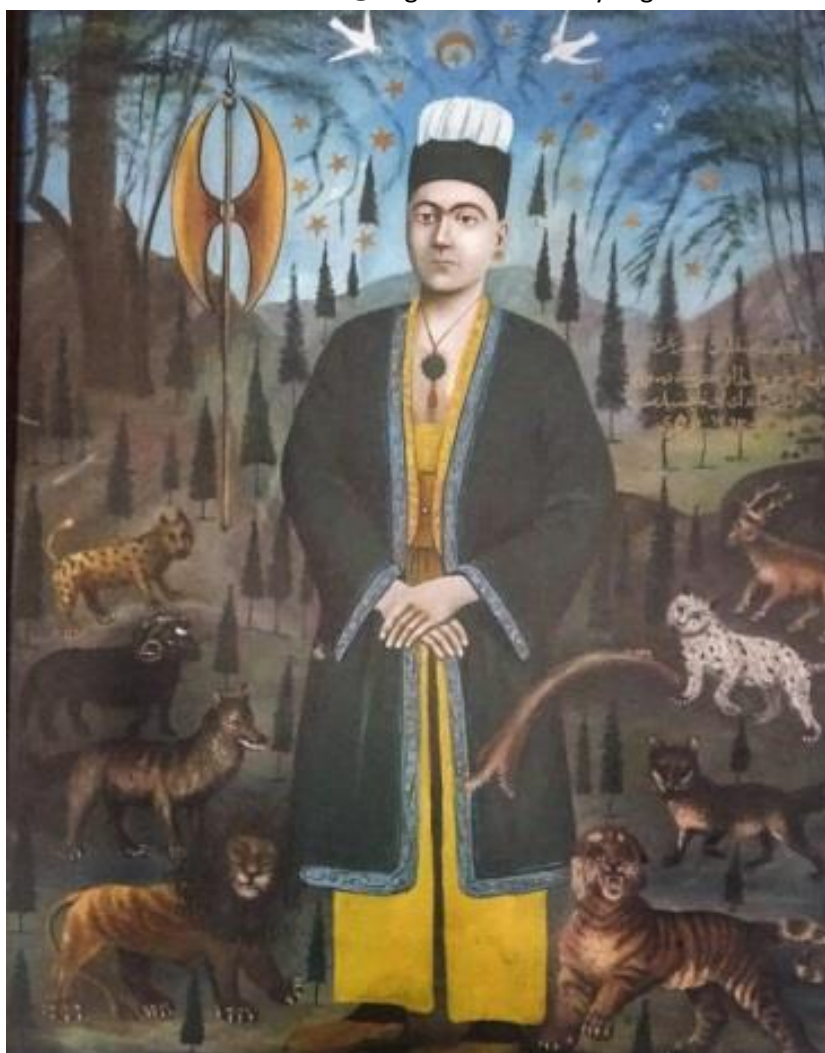
Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register

Title: 'Nur Baba: A Sufi Novel of Late Ottoman Istanbul'

Inspired by Yakup Kadri Karaosmanoğlu's personal experiences with Islamic mystical orders, *Nur Baba* is a story of illicit romance and spiritual inquiry, depicting a lodge of Sufi dervishes led by a charismatic, yet morally suspect, spiritual master named Nur Baba. The setting shuttles between the grand mansions of Istanbul's elite families and a Sufi lodge where rich and poor intermingle. Exploring questions of gender, morality, and religious bias throughout, it captures the zeitgeist of early twentieth-century modernist thinkers who criticised Sufism for impeding social progress and debated the public roles of women in a rapidly modernising society.

Booking essential: <https://brett-wilson-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk>

Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk



Large oil painting depicting Kaygusuz Abdal surrounded by animals. Dated 1263 AH (1844 CE). Reception room in the World Headquarters (Kryegjyshata) of the Bektashis, Tirana, Albania. Photo © Sara Kuehn, 2019.



M. Brett Wilson is Associate Professor of History at Central European University in Vienna and the Director of the Center of Eastern Mediterranean Studies. He is the author of *Translating the Qur'an in an Age of Nationalism: Print Culture and Modern Islam in Turkey* (Oxford University Press, 2014) and the editor and translator of *Nur Baba: A Sufi Novel of Late Ottoman Istanbul* (Routledge, 2023).

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<https://www.angloturkishsociety.org.uk/>