

Stanford



Kabir Tambar

Associate Professor of Anthropology

Bio

BIO

Kabir Tambar is a sociocultural anthropologist, working at the intersections of politics, language, and religion. He is broadly interested in the politics of history, performances of public criticism, and varieties of Islamic practice in Turkey.

Tambar's first book is a study of the politics of pluralism in contemporary Turkey, focusing on the ways that Alevi religious history is staged for public display. More generally, the book investigates how secular states govern religious differences through practices of cultural and aesthetic regulation. Tambar is currently working on a new project that examines the historical imagination in contexts of political closure, both at the end of the Ottoman empire and during periods of emergency rule in the era of the nation-state.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, Anthropology

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Hellman Faculty Fellowship, Hellman Fellows Fund (2014)
- Member, School of Social Sciences, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ (2011)
- Sakip Sabanci International Research Award, First Prize, Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey (2009)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of Chicago, Anthropology (2009)
- M.A., University of Chicago, Anthropology (2003)
- B.A., State University of New York at Buffalo

LINKS

- Kabir Tambar - Anthropology: <https://anthropology.stanford.edu/people/kabir-tambar>

Teaching

COURSES

2022-23

- History of Anthropological Theory, Culture and Society: ANTHRO 301 (Aut)
- Islam and the Idea of Europe: ANTHRO 20N (Spr)
- Prefield Research Seminar: ANTHRO 93 (Spr)

- Tradition: ANTHRO 332B (Win)

2021-22

- Anthropological Research Methods: ANTHRO 306 (Win)
- Reading Group: ANTHRO 442 (Aut)
- Religion and Politics in the Muslim World: ANTHRO 132 (Spr)
- Tradition: ANTHRO 332B (Win)

2020-21

- Anthropological Research Methods: ANTHRO 306 (Win)
- Populism: ANTHRO 331 (Win)
- Reading Group: ANTHRO 442 (Aut)
- Semiotics for Ethnography: ANTHRO 166A, ANTHRO 266A (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Byron Gray, Emilia Group, Saad Lakhani, Jameelah Morris, Shikha Nehra, Adela Zhang

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Noor Amr, Miray Cakiroglu

Doctoral (Program)

Noor Amr, Miray Cakiroglu, Shikha Nehra

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Professions of Friendship Revisiting the Concept of the Political in the Middle East** *COMPARATIVE STUDIES OF SOUTH ASIA AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST*
Tambar, K.
2019; 39 (2): 249–63
- **The Uncanny Medium: Semiotic Opacity in the Wake of Genocide** *Current Anthropology*
Tambar, K.
2017; 58 (6): 762-784
- **BROTHERHOOD IN DISPOSSESSION: State Violence and the Ethics of Expectation in Turkey** *CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY*
Tambar, K.
2016; 31 (1): 30-55
- **The Reckoning of Pluralism: Political Belonging and the Demands of History in Turkey**
Tambar, K.
Stanford University Press.2014
- **Historical Critique and Political Voice after the Ottoman Empire** *HISTORY OF THE PRESENT*
Tambar, K.
2013; 3 (2): 119-139
- **Islamic reflexivity and the uncritical subject** *JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE*
Tambar, K.
2012; 18 (3): 652-672
- **Iterations of lament: Anachronism and affect in a Shi'i Islamic revival in Turkey** *AMERICAN ETHNOLOGIST*

Tambar, K.
2011; 38 (3): 484-500

- **The Aesthetics of Public Visibility: Alevi Semah and the Paradoxes of Pluralism in Turkey** *COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND HISTORY*

Tambar, K.
2010; 52 (3): 652-679

- **Secular Populism and the Semiotics of the Crowd in Turkey** *PUBLIC CULTURE*

Tambar, K.
2009; 21 (3): 517-538