ABSTRACT:
Taking my cue from the recent interest in 'ruins' as indexing both physical and social states of ruination, this talk will examine the historical and contemporary links between, on the one hand, physically abandoned buildings in Istanbul that were once Armenian minority schools, and on the other hand, the different states of social abandonment undocumented Armenian migrant children find themselves in despite their limited and largely informal access to minority schools. My focus on ruins as not mere remnants of the past but as presently embodied states also seeks to explore how the denial of genocide induces melancholy and impedes mourning in the national education system to which Armenian children in Turkey both without and with formal citizenship are exposed.