



**Prof. Dr. Hülya Adak** Sabancı Üniversitesi Istanbul

## Andrei N. Mandelstam and the History of Human Rights between the World Wars

**Dienstag, 12. April 2016**  
**19 Uhr**  
**Lepsiushaus Potsdam**  
**Große Weinmeisterstraße 45**  
**14469 Potsdam**

**Vortrag | Moderation Rolf Hosfeld**

Today mostly forgotten, Andre Nikolayevitch Mandelstam was a pioneer of the human rights movement in the interwar period. In this presentation, Hülya Adak will analyze Mandelstam's »Le Sort de L'Empire Ottoman«, a magnanimous book published in 1917, exploring the violence against the Ottoman Armenians, the flaws of the Unionist regime, and finally, the proposals for constructing a system of law to govern human action and to restrict political violence. In his »La Société des Nations et Les Puissances devant Le Problem Armenien« (1926), Mandelstam critically explores the Lausanne Peace Treaty (1924) and its shortcomings in relation to human rights, minority rights, and particularly with regard to the Armenians left in Turkey and those in the diaspora. Lastly, Hülya Adak will address Mandelstam's work and activism in the 1920s (mostly in Paris and Geneva) that culminated in the Declaration of the Rights of Man in 1929. Adak will finally explore the following questions: How this declaration was gradually dismissed in the 1930s and how Mandelstam's work was forgotten in the immediate aftermath of World War II as Raphael Lemkin and others started working on the term »genocide«.



**Hülya Adak** is Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Sabancı University Istanbul and Humboldt Fellow at Freie Universität Berlin. She is the author of »Halide Edib and Political Violence: The Armenian Genocide, Dictatorships and Nonviolence« (Istanbul Bilgi University Press, 2016), co-editor (with Erika Glassen) of »Hundert Jahre Türkei: Zeitzeugen erzählen« (Unionsverlag, 2010 und 2014), and »Gender, Ethnicity and the Nation-State«, a special dossier of new Perspectives on Turkey, co-edited with Ayşe Gül Altınay. Her articles on the Armenian Genocide, Turkish literature and nationalism, cultures and histories of denial, gender and sexuality, European and Turkish drama appeared in a variety of journals.