



Professor Banu Gokariksel

Department of Geography

Banu Gokariksel is an Associate Professor of Geography and the Co-editor of the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*. Her work engages feminist geography and geopolitics with a focus on gender bodies and public space. For the past decade, she has used multiple methods to analyze the politics of everyday life such as: religion, secularism, and pluralism in Turkey. She is also interested in religious and racial diversity as well as social justice in the United States. She teaches classes on feminist geography, cultural geography, the Middle East and transnational geographies of Muslims and Islam.

“...one of the many things that sets her apart is the fact that she creates a welcoming yet intellectually challenging environment for every individual, as it is evident that she genuinely cares about the success of every student that walks into her class.”

Dr. Gokariksel's students praise her enthusiasm, warmth, and inclusive excellence in the classroom. One student states the following after taking multiple courses with Banu, as her students call her, "I have arguably come full circle as I am on my last semester at University of North Carolina and have the pleasure of attending Dr.

Gokariksel's class regarding gender in the Middle East. Even though we cover potentially controversial topics, she nevertheless manages to always foster positive and constructive discussions. Although Carolina is filled with many intelligent and experienced instructors like Dr. Gokariksel, one of the many things that sets her apart is the fact that she creates a welcoming yet intellectually challenging environment for every individual, as it is evident that she genuinely cares about the success of every student that walks into her class." Another student commented on her intentional teaching approach noting her "collective classroom as her questions pushed us not to prove our superiority to one another but rather to think through issues together. I now understand and appreciate the intentionality of it – Banu had a purpose for those ten minute introductions and it set the tone for our intellectual space." Her classroom is full of enthusiasm, collaboration, and a spirit of shared focus. She utilizes and blends multiple teaching techniques into each of her classes and she transitions seamlessly. Her students, in turn, remain engaged learners and focused on their projects.

Dr. Gokariksel is well respected for her teaching and is the recipient of numerous awards including: The Institute of Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship, Janice Monk Visiting Distinguished Professor in Feminist Geography from the University of Arizona and the Association of American Geographers, the UNC Faculty Mentoring Award from the Carolina Women's Leadership Council, and the Robertson Scholars Award.

In sum, the Provost's Teaching Awards Committee agrees with one of Banu's current students who describes her teaching as, "all that and a bag of chips". She is truly worthy of the Chapman Teaching award for undergraduate excellence.