

Bio Dilsha Deniz



She is a Kurdish Alevi scholar with a profound focus on marginalized ethnic, cultural, and religious identities. She holds an MA in Women's Studies from Istanbul University and a Ph.D. in socio-cultural anthropology from Yeditepe University. Her doctoral dissertation, *Dersim Belief Symbolism*, delved into themes of religious symbolism, mythology, ethnicity, and the sacred geography of Kurdish Alevi. Her widely recognized ethnography, published in 2012, remains a foundational contribution to Kurdish and Alevi Studies. Her recent research, published by Lexington Books, examines the Near Eastern religious history and mythology, particularly the feminine divine in Kurdish culture, through a decolonial and gendered lens. This work introduces a novel methodology—mytho-ethnography—which uses myth as an ethnographic field to document and analyze the Mother Goddess faith in Kurdish and regional cultures, challenging colonial narratives about Middle Eastern history.

She has also published numerous articles, book chapters, and essays in both academic and public forums, alongside editing a conference book and authoring four children's books. Her extensive body of work underscores her dedication to advancing knowledge in Kurdish Studies, Alevi Studies, and feminist scholarship. Between 2013 and 2021, she taught at several universities in Turkey and the United States. From 2022 to 2023, she conducted research at Harvard University, completing her latest book.