

University of Toronto

Departments of History and Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations  
Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies

## **Seminar in Ottoman & Turkish Studies**



Ulama and Students (Levni)



The last scene from the play "Akif Bey" by Namık Kemal

## **Theatre, Cultural Reform and Patriotism: Staging Namık Kemal in post-Ottoman Bulgaria (1878-1908)**

Milena B. Methodieva, University of Toronto

With the advent of the Hamidian regime the works of celebrated author Namık Kemal experienced an eclipse in the Ottoman Empire under ostensible pressure from the authorities. But at the same time among Bulgaria's sizable Muslim population Namık Kemal's patriotic plays went through a surge of popularity. This talk explores the debates surrounding theatre among Bulgaria's Muslims with a particular focus on the movement for cultural reform among the local Muslims. It examines how theatre was used as a means of mobilizing the Muslim community, a platform for moral guidance, and a way of asserting cultural presence and identity.

**Thursday | 16 November 2017 | 4:00-6:00 pm**  
**NMC Conference Room | Bancroft Building 200B | 4 Bancroft Ave.**

The purpose of this series is to bring together and initiate active discussion among scholars and students in any field relating to the Ottoman Empire, its predecessors, successors, and neighbors, be they allies or rivals, in Europe or Asia. It welcomes the presentation of completed studies, work in progress, as well as discussions on recent trends in Ottoman and Turkish studies. The seminar aspires to facilitate the building of bridges with scholars working in adjacent areas.