

Jemal Nebez Award Commission

Award Letter

March 20, 2025



The **Jemal Nebez Award Commission** is honored to present **Khanna Omarkhali** with the 2025 Jemal Nebez Award in recognition of her outstanding academic contributions to Kurdish studies, particularly Yezidi studies.

As a leading scholar in Yezidi studies, Omarkhali has significantly advanced the understanding of Yezidi theology, oral traditions, and the social structures of the Yezidi community. Her systematic documentation of Yezidi sacred texts and meticulous analysis of the transition from oral to written traditions have set a new standard in Yezidi scholarship, making her work an indispensable resource for future research.

Additionally, her contributions to Kurdish grammar and linguistic structure have deepened the understanding of how Kurmanji Kurdish is used in both religious and secular contexts. As a professor at Georg-August University Göttingen and Free University Berlin, she has played a key role in teaching and disseminating Kurdish language and culture while advancing linguistic and pedagogical resources for Kurmanji Kurdish.

Omarkhali's unwavering dedication to academic excellence and her commitment to safeguarding Yezidi traditions have amplified Yezidi voices and shed light on their resilience amid persecution and genocide. Her work has had a profound impact on academic discourse, and as such, the Jemal Nebez Award Commission is honored to present the award to Khanna Omarkhali.

Haci Akman

Professor

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On behalf of the Jemal Nebez Award Commission within the Jemal Nebez Foundation (Berlin, Germany)