

THE CENTRAL ASIAN MIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN TURKEY AND RUSSIA: COMPARING POLITICAL SUBJECTIVITIES, DIASPORA POLITICS, AND CITIZEN-STATE RELATIONS

Workshop at the Department of Sociology, Boğaziçi University
15-17 January 2014
Şerif Mardin Seminar Room

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

How does migration influence notions of political engagement and citizenship? In particular, how does migrating from Central Asia to Turkey or Russia change an individual's ideas about political leadership, nationalism, religiosity and belonging? For example, do migrants develop different ideas about governance, authoritarianism, freedom of speech or relationships between religion and state? What new group alliances and imaginations of Muslim-ness, Turkic-ness, Soviet-ness emerge, and how do these developments affect local and national political movements? How should we trace the historical dimensions of emerging political sensibilities, and the role of states in encouraging remitting, transnationalism and political participation? These are some of the theoretical and comparative questions that we will broach as part of an interdisciplinary and international group of researchers during a three day workshop. We hope to stimulate discussion not only among social scientists, but also within the Central Asian diaspora.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS:

Dr. Jeanne Féaux de la Croix (Zentrum Moderner Orient)

Dr. Eva-Marie Dubuisson (Boğaziçi University)

Dr. Susan Rottmann (Boğaziçi University)

WORKSHOP SPONSORS:



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, 15 January

- 12 – 1:30 pm **Reception lunch at Kennedy Lodge, Boğaziçi Campus**
- 1:30-2 pm **Opening Introduction by Workshop Organizers** (Jeanne Féaux de la Croix, Susan Rottmann, Eva-Marie Dubuisson)
- 2 – 3 pm **COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES, LENS ONE: HISTORY**
- Lale Can (City College of New York)
- “The Political-Legal Status of Central Asian Pilgrims in the Ottoman Empire”
- Jeff Sahadeo (Carleton University)
- “Central Asian Migration to the RSFSR: Opportunities, Challenges, Legacies”
- 3:00-3:30 pm **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 – 5:30 pm **COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES, LENS TWO: TURKEY**
- Ayşe Akalin (Istanbul Technical University)
- “The Regularization of Turkmen Caregivers in Turkey”
- Meltem Sancak (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and University of Zurich)
- “Migration as a Way of Life”
- Tomas Wilkoszewski (Orient Institut-Istanbul)
- “We are from the cradle of Turkishness” Contested political discourses among Uighurs in Turkey”
- 7 pm **Dinner at Hazal Ana Restaurant, Rumeli Hisar Üstü**

Thursday, 16 January

- 9-10:00 am **Breakfast at Orta Kantin, Boğaziçi Campus**
- 10 – 12:00 pm **COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES, LENS THREE: RUSSIA**
- Assel Rustemova (Gediz University)
- “Explaining the Transformation of Immigration Policies in Russia: Cracking Down on Uzbekistan and Tajikistan”

Sophie Roche and Izzat Aman (University of Heidelberg)

“Political identity building and religious consciousness among Tajik migrants in Russia”

Rano Turaeva (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany)

“Regulating informal economies in post-Soviet Central Asia”

12-1:30 pm **Lunch at Kennedy Lodge, Boğaziçi Campus**

1:30 – 3:00 pm **ROUND-TABLE 1: STRATEGIC CITIZENSHIP**

Serguei Abashin (European University in St. Petersburg)

“The Role of Migration in Domestic Political Battles in Russia”

Madeleine Reeves (University of Manchester)

“To “Do-Up” a Passport: de facto dual citizenship”

Peter Finke (University of Zurich)

“Topic TBA”

Ainura Assamidinova (American University of Central Asia)

“Best practices in assisting labor migrants from Kyrgyzstan in Russia”

3:00-3:30 pm **Coffee Break**

3:30 – 5 pm **ROUNDTABLE 2: (TRANS)NATIONALISM**

Şener Aktürk (Koç University)

“Regimes of Ethnicity in Post Soviet Central Asia and the Caucasus”

Barbara Pusch (Orient Institut-Istanbul)

“Nationalism and Transnationalism in Migration”

Hans-Åke Persson (Roskilde University)

“Homeland, Hostland, Diaspora”

Tsypylma Darieva (Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena)

“Transnational Perspectives in Central Eurasia: Between Long-Distance Nationalism and Diasporic Cosmopolitanism?”

7 pm **Dinner reception at BUMED Alumni Facility, Boğaziçi Campus**

Friday, 17 January

9-10:00 am **Breakfast at Orta Kantin, Boğaziçi Campus**

10-11:00 am **Announcement of a New Network for Research on Migration, Identity, Communication, and Security in Turkey and Eurasia, Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul**
(Birgit Schlyter, Hans-Åke Persson)

11– 1 pm **‘World Café’ method: workshop reflections and directions for future collaboration and research**

1-2:30 **Lunch at Kennedy Lodge, Boğaziçi Campus**

2:30-7pm **Optional trip to Central Asian Migrant Neighborhood and Dinner** (at participants’ own cost)