Deniz Yonucu (München)

Violent Interpellation, Sectarian Imaginary and the Politics of Fear in Urban Turkey

This paper elaborates on the much-cherished yet ephemeral coalescence of dissent during the Gezi Uprisings of 2013 in Turkey. It argues that the violence reified in working-class Alevi spaces and bodies during the Gezi uprisings, which was accompanied by increasingly racializing anti-Alevi discourses was an effective police intervention that was concerned with the reorganization and partition (ala Rancière) of anti-AKP dissent. Based on extensive field work conducted in the working-class neighborhoods of Istanbul with high Alevi and Kurdish population, it illustrates how the concentration of police violence in these areas paving the way for defensive counter-violence against state security forces was effective in separating Kurdish and Alevi working-classes – two main dissident groups of Turkey – from middle-class secularist Turks, who were a newly emergent mobilizing group at the time.

Deniz Yonucu received her PhD in Social Anthropology from Cornell University. She is currently a DAAD Visiting Professor at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Institut für Ethnologie. She has completed her post-doctoral research as an Alexander von Humboldt post-doctoral fellow at Leibniz-ZMO and Forum Transregionale Studien. Before that she was a visiting scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Deniz Yonucu’s work has appeared in *International Journal of Urban and Regional Studies, Social & Legal Studies, Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, among others. She has published various op-ed articles related to her area of research in the *openDemocracy, Jadaliyya, PoLAR Forum* and beyond. Her book manuscript entitled *Policing Dissent: Space, Sectarian Fears and Violence*, illustrates how counterinsurgency/policing practices serve as effective tools for refashioning dissent against the state. The research for this project received funding from a variety of institutions, including the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Newton Fund of the British Council.

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