

Istanbul 2010: city of dreams, contrasts and contended spaces

International conference of Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Berlin: 4./5.12.09

Istanbul is where Turkey's heart beats, they say. Unlike other cities, more and more visitors have come sightsee and swarm the 12-million-inhabitant-metropolis throughout the last years. Istanbul has become one of the economically most dynamic metropolises of Europe. Travellers from all over the world are enthusiastic about Istanbul's art and music scene, about the lively nightlife with its particular mixture of familiar and exotic styles. Istanbul is considered a trendy place. Nevertheless, beyond the flashy shopping centres, the hip cafés, bars and clubs and beyond the artistic mélange there is a quite different Istanbul, too. It's the city of its inhabitants, of the people who are living and have to make a living in this vast space of urban agglomeration: displaced people from South East Anatolia without better occupational outlook, who are looking for a lousy job at the outskirts of the city and have never seen the Bosphorus. Young queers who feel protected by the urban anonymity in their search for diverse sexual and gender identities. Long-established Romanies whose dwellings and settlements are forced to yield the city's gentrification process. All these people also mould the face of this city with its dazzling contrariness.

2009 is the 20th anniversary of the sister cities Berlin and Istanbul, in 2010 Istanbul wants to present itself as the European Capital of Culture, as a cosmopolitan boom town. In addition, Istanbul is hosting the 6th European Social Forum in June 2010. This set of events is our motive to take a closer look at the Bosphorus metropolis: looking from both perspectives, from Berlin, from Istanbul. We're going to explore the terrain from different points of view of the metropolitan space, such as urban studies, arts and history. Istanbul is offering a particularly alive and bubbly field of political intervention to social scientists, activists and persons engaged in the cultural sector, who will concede us a glance behind the scenes of the magazine look of the city. Istanbul's bridges do not only cross the Bosphorus, they also tauten to Berlin, for example in the field of music – here and there expression of diversity, unrest, enthusiasm, protest and tradition: major city Rock and Ska from Istanbul, Turkish arabesque style and Kurdish Folk from Berlin. Whether it's about music, film, science or art – in both cities you can find reflected the traces of migration, the search for identities and for a living under the conditions of urban transformation.

Friday 4th of Dec. 2009

Music spheres between Berlin and Istanbul

10:00–13:00

Transcultural space Berlin-Istanbul – city excursion to Berlin-Kreuzberg
(registration required – limited participants)

14:00 Opening of the conference

14:00–15:30

**„Tell me what you listen to, I tell you who you are“ – music as means of political
positioning and mobilization**

MIESTE HOTOPP-RIECKE (Zweiheimisch)

Istanbul in Berlin: analysis of the production of a metropolis

NURETTİN ALPHAN TUNCER (Zweiheimisch)

16:00–17:30

Music in the context of migration, subculture and politics

AZIZA A. (musician, German-Turkish Hip Hop)

PIERRE HECKER (University of Leipzig)

Host: MEHMET GÖKHAN TUNCER (Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences)

18:00–20:00

Evil people do not have songs? Political music in Turkey

NEJAT YAVAŞOĞULLARI (songwriter of »BULUTSUZLUK ÖZLEMİ«)

FERHAT TUNÇ (musician and publicist)

Host: CEM DALAMAN (RBB) – requested

Saturday, 5th of Dec. 2009

Istanbul: creativity, spaces and fences

10:30–11:30

Metropolis of Istanbul: Between the global and the local

ÇAĞLAR KEYDER (Boğaziçi University Istanbul)

Host: ANNE STECKNER (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation)

12:00–14:00

Urban Transformation in Istanbul: critically revisited

ORHAN ESEN (Editor of «SELF SERVICE CITY: ISTANBUL»/INURA)

JEAN-FRANÇOIS PÉROUSE (University of Toulouse)

Host: WASILIS VON RAUCH (Ilisu Action Committee)

14:00–15:00 lunch break with buffet

15:00–16:00

Art meets politics and (sub)culture in Istanbul

PELİN TAN (Technical University Istanbul)

Host: ANNE STECKNER (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation)

16.30–18.30

Movie: «The Other Side of Istanbul» with director DÖNDÜ KILIÇ (New Lies Productions)

Exhibition: «Becoming Istanbul» with curator PELİN DERVİŞ (Garanti Galeri)

19:00–21:00

Stories of a city: following Istanbul's traces

MURAT BELGE, reading from the book «INTERCITY: BERLIN – ISTANBUL»

Host: ÇAĞLA İLK (Forum Berlin Istanbul)

Photo exhibitions:

»Instants« in Istanbul / by IRENE MOLINA RODRÍGUEZ

»Night« in Berlin / by İBRAHİM COŞKUN

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