

Heritage in Motion. Transformations of Turkish Cultural Heritage in Practices of First and Second Generation Norwegians

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Abstract

The notion of culture, in context of international migration, has gained a pejorative meaning being an explanatory factor for the conflicts between immigrants and dominant society (Alghasi, Eriksen, Ghorashi 2009: 5). So-called culture of immigrants has been regarded widely in a hegemonic discourse as a limitation of integration and its connotations are generally negative bringing up references to patriarchal violence, including forced marriages and criminal activity of male youths. Taking however, immigrants' point of view, culture, understood as a set of values, traditions and patterns of behaviour brought by the first generation newcomers from their background localities, is often seen as a positive, distinguishing factor. Some of those practices, traditions and values constitute cultural heritage of a group being an important reference to peoples' identification.

This paper discusses transformations of Turkish collective heritage under the influence of migration, reflected in routine practices and narrations about the past of Turkish minority in Norway. It answers the question how Turkish collective heritage is exercised by first and second generation Norwegians of Turkish origin and how collective narrations of Turkish past have been adjusted to the present needs of Norwegian-Turks. It also analyses how elements of Norwegian and Christian heritage has been introduced into Turkish and Islamic traditions.

The author argues that these new qualities of heritage are not mere hybrids of Turkish and Norwegian influences, but they constitute a unique and dynamic way of exercising Norwegian-Turkishness.

References:

Alghasi, S., Eriksen, T. H., & Ghorashi, H. (2009). *Paradoxes of Cultural Recognition : Perspectives from Northern Europe*. Farnham: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.