

## **Routes to the Homeland: Turkish-German Diasporic Cinema**

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### **Abstract**

This paper seeks to explore the underlying motivations and circumstances that encourage Turkish diasporic subjects to return from Germany to Turkey based on the analysis of Turkish-German films. In doing so, the study benefits from an extensive literature review on diaspora, diasporic cinema and return migration to broaden the comprehensive framework of the findings. Primarily, it seeks to find out how the popular 'myth of return' persists throughout the films and the extent to which the reconstruction of 'home' strengthens this myth. The following section will then outline how the myth of return is dismantled through five different routes of return migration to Turkey: family-related returns, return as escape, home-seeking journeys and lifestyle routes, deportation, target returns and routes of retirement. This study aims to advance the understandings of return migration as a relatively neglected phenomenon and to emphasise its prominent place within Turkish-German cinema.