

## **Kebab and Lederhosen - Traces of Turkish Heritage in Munich**

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### **Abstract**

Germany recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its guest worker agreement that attracted almost one million Turks to migrate to Germany in the 1960s and early 1970s. While many of them were planning to return to their home country in the beginning, the majority permanently stayed in Germany forming the largest ethnic minority group until today. The guest workers did not only bring their families with them but also customs, rituals, and objects. This heritage is today an essential aspect of German society and culture.

In the paper I will describe various ways and practices of how Turkish migration is inscribed in the urban landscape of Munich, one of Germany's biggest cities and an important hub for arriving immigrants. Almost 50.000 of the 1.4 million citizens in the city have a Turkish migration background. By now, especially the second and third generations of Turkish migrants have often obtained German citizenship and are very well integrated in Munich city life while still preserving their Turkish heritage.

The talk presents empirical as well as archival results of a project based at the Munich City Museum and examining the city's migration history. My work focuses on heritage practices that materialize migration history in urban space. It addresses the following questions: Which memories have been taken along from the home country to the new home? How have different forms of heritage been maintained and modified during the last fifty years? How is Munich's cityscape defined by the Turkish heritage?

Considering the current discussion about migrants in Germany as well as in other European countries my presentation does not only shed light on how heritage of migration has been inscribed in German society but also what can be learnt from that experience to facilitate the integration of migrants from different cultural and religious backgrounds.

