



Family and Religion/Secularity in Turkey and Germany

DFG Project *Piety and Secularity Contested: Family and Youth Politics in post-Kemalist “New Turkey”*

DFG Humanities Group *Multiple Secularities: Beyond the West, beyond Modernities*

Leipzig University, **25-26 January 2024**

Convenors

Markus Dressler (Institute for the Study of Religion/Modern Turkish Studies, Leipzig University)

Tuğçe Özdemir (Cultural Sociology, Leipzig University)

Approach and Aims

In Turkey, the question of religion and secularism has been contested since the beginning of the republic and is therefore politically very loaded. One domain, in which and through which this contestation is worked out is that of family. In the course of the republic, various socio-political actors from the far right to the far left, from the secularist towards Islamist camps, draw on more or less specific concepts of “family” as a means to express their political visions. Against the background of these public and political discourses and the policies that they produced, the first aim of our workshop is to investigate empirical data on how family is imagined and experienced by individuals and families within the fabrics of everyday life – with particular attention to the role of religion in the imaginations and experiences related to “family”. This includes the question of how questions of religion/piety intersect with sexuality, gender, class, ethnicity, and age. Whereas Turkish secularism and counter-discourses have produced strong binaries with regard to religion – i.e., secularity in terms of discursive practices of distinction – in everyday life contexts distinctions are much less clear, leaving much room for grey zones and ambivalences. Through the lens of “family”, we would like to explore this tension between public discourses and policies and everyday life experiences with regard to religion and secularity.

The second aim of the workshop is to compare the sociological data from Turkey on imaginations and experiences with regard to family and religion with data from research on family in Germany. The comparison with Germany is interesting since neither are religion and secularism very relevant and contested topics in public debates on German society, nor is there a similarly contested debate on family (by itself and in relation to religion).

Workshop Programme
“Family and Religion/Secularity in Turkey and Germany”
Leipzig University, 25-26 January 2024

Schedule

Thursday, 25 January 2024

- 13:30–14:00** Registration & Coffee
- 14:00–14:15** **Opening and Introduction**
Markus Dressler (Leipzig University)
- 14:15–17:35** **Panel 1: Intergenerational Relations and Transmission of Family Values and Practices**
Chair: Markus Dressler (Leipzig University)
- 14:15–15:15** Tuğçe Özdemir (Leipzig University)
“Family Imaginations & Experiences in Daily Life and the Role of Forms of Religiosity in Intergenerational Relations” (work in progress)
- 15:15–16:15** Yıldırım Şentürk (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University)
“Transmission of Values in the Family Settings” (work in progress)
- 16:15–16:35** Coffee Break
- 16:35–17:35** Christel Gaertner & Linda Hennig (Münster University)
“The role of the “narrative of choice” in parenting and negotiations about religion in the family (work in progress)
- 19:00** **Joint Dinner at PAN Restaurant**

Friday, 26 January 2024

- 09:30–13:00** **Panel 2: Family and Youth in the Negotiation of the Boundaries Between Religious and Secular**
Chair: Lena Dreier (Leipzig University)
- 09:30-10:30** Nil Mutluer (Leipzig University)
“Gender, Family and Youth Policies in pro- capitalist and colonial localities in Turkey: The Cases of Kayseri and Diyarbakir” (work in progress)
- 10:30-11:30** Ülker Sözen (Leipzig University)
“Marriage Advice on Turkish Social Media: Self-Help Gurus and Religious Discourses” (work in progress)
- 11:30–11:50** Coffee Break
- 11:50-12:50** Büşra Kırkpınar (Yıldız Technical University & Leipzig University)
“Comparative Reflexivity of Individual Worldviews in Contemporary Turkey: Ideological Distance or Public Interaction” (work in progress)
- 13:00-14:00** Lunch
- 14:00-16:30** **Panel 3: Parenting and Family Relations in the Context of Religiosity and Secularity**
Chair: Monika Wohlrab-Sahr (Leipzig University)
- 14:00-14:40** Biray Kolluoğlu (Boğaziçi University)
“Parenting and education: Navigating class, religiosity and secularity in Istanbul” (completed work)
- 14:40-15:40** Hagen Findeis & Anna-Maria von Elm & Lena Dreier (Halle University)
Religiosity in East Germany. Families as Contexts of Transmission, Interruption and Reconstitution (work in progress)
- 15:40-16:00** Coffee Break
- 16:00-16:40** Aslıgül Aysel (Münster University)
"From 'Guest Worker' to 'German Turk' – Examination of the Transformation in Turkish Life Worlds in Duisburg" (completed work)
- 16:40-17:10** **Concluding Discussion**