



— Network Turkey Event —

Invitation to “jour fixe” in Berlin:

“The Meaning of a Journey: Turkish Tourists’ Narratives and Imagination in Southeastern Anatolia”

Sandra Finger

Date

Thursday March 19th, 2009, 7:00 PM

at

**Café Gelegenheiten
Weserstraße 50, 12045 Berlin**

The southeast of Turkey, shaped by decades of violent clashes between the Turkish military and Kurdish rebels, represents a region of utmost military and political interest and thus is usually regarded with precaution and reservation. The encounter during culture tours in this otherwise troubled region (that nevertheless presents a part of the Turkish Republic) serves here to scrutinize how Turkish tourists from the western part of the country perceive themselves and negotiate their belonging within Turkey. Given the tourist guide’s focus on culture as historical past, his silence about cultural plurality in the Southeast today and the lack of tourists’ inquiry, the personal narratives mirror a struggle with socio-cultural “otherness” within the group and within oneself. This month’s “Netzwerk Türkei Jour Fixe” discusses individual agency vis-à-vis the “other” and the key dynamics that shape the self-construction of the tourist, and thus of the citizen, in Turkey.

Introductory speech by Sandra Finger

Sandra completed her M.A. in Cultural Studies at Sabancı University in Istanbul. With her previous background in social anthropology, her research has been mainly based on fieldwork such as an oral history project about the descendants of German immigrants to Constantinople during the 19th century. The main concern in her academic work has been the comparison and opposition of different modernities coexisting in one place. Placial order and the impact of modern technologies, urbanisation and national identities constitute major issues.

If you are interested in taking part in this discussion please email
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