

PinS Proposal: Humanities Sample

Introduction: "Almanya'da yabancı, Türkiye'de alamancı, konumundaki iki arada bir derede bir toplum," is a Turkish saying, which translated to English is "A stranger in Germany, a foreigner in Turkey, a distinction in Turkey." It was derived from the movement of Turkish low-skilled labor to European countries, and from the social conditions of Turkey beginning in the 1970s. The less formal "alamancı" describes Central Anatolian Turkish workers who migrated to Germany for employment and better living conditions. The term now has become a slang description of modern identity and the relationship between two completely different cultures. Regarded as outcasts by both Germans and Turks, the social position of the alamancı has become normalized by the media and integrated into politics.

***(1)** Both the Turkish and the European understanding of German-Turkish identity is rapidly changing. Turkish traditions are challenged by German economy and prosperity. German-Turks are no longer just guest workers, as the new generation is now provided with German education and socio-economic privilege, such as entrepreneurial opportunities and media acceptance. The German-Turkish identity is contradictory and complex. Yet, there are few studies explaining how this unique identity has continued to thrive in spite of its complexity. I propose to research this unique identity and the extent to which Turkish nationalism maintains itself as people migrate to western Europe and Germany in particular.

Aim: *(3) The aim is to analyze social trends of Turkish nationals within German- Turkish communities in Berlin, Germany and to investigate how nationalism is maintained within a community that is far from its formal borders. Our goal is to facilitate an innovative approach to understanding conflict resolution and to reconcile examples of the past to current models. We are trying to examine the change in nationalism and sense of home from past to present; more broadly, a changing sense of "Turkishness."

***(1) Background:** Studying International Studies at the University of Denver and interning at ORDAF (Ortadoğu ve Afrika Araştırmacıları Derneği) and ACC (African Community Center) Denver has given me the opportunity to work with and further my interest in migration, Turkish foreign policy, Turkish language, conflict resolution and ethnographic writing. My Co- Principal Investigator, Buğrahan Namdar, is a graduate of Sabancı University and currently works for the Istanbul Policy Center. He has implemented the survey evaluation method in five European Union youth outreach projects and published multiple articles for online magazines. Namdar and I have contacted two of our former professors from Sabancı University, Ayşe Gül Altınay and Ayşe Parla. Both Altınay and Parla are working anthropologists from Istanbul, Turkey. Altınay specializes in nationalism and cultural diversity, while Parla is currently investigating the politics of emotion in the political landscape of contemporary Turkey. Both have agreed to contribute quantified research support, management support, and access to a network of NGOs and Turkish-German citizens' networks and contacts.

***(1)** Namdar and I plan to build on the research of Bernhard Nauck, a German sociologist who studies the German-Turkish population and who also co-wrote, *Intergenerational Consequences of Migration: Socio-economic, Family and Cultural Patterns of Stability and Change in Turkey and Europe* (Nauck, 2016). Specifically, we will implement his research published in, *Educational climate and Intergenerative Transmission in Turkish families: A comparison of migrants in Germany and non-migrant* (Nauck, 1995), as a comparative model for our work.

Methods: *(2) We will conduct all research using qualitative methodology, inspired by Diana Markosian's interdisciplinary methodology in: *1915* (Markosian, 2016), an ethnographic

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exhibition tracing the Armenian Genocide and its effects on migration. We will be conducting interviews, in person, supplemented by email and/or Skype. All interviewees will be provided with appropriate honoraria. In preparation, **our research has identified and provided us with access to eight potential Berlin sites and people: **(5)*** 1) *Istanbul Policy Center*, 2) The German Consulate in Istanbul, 3) *Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities*, 4) *Mustafa's Gemuese Kebab*, 5) Şahin abi, a music teacher whose wife is German and whose children are growing up within this generation; 6) Çağdaş, a maker of short films, 7) Mustafa Amca, Namdar's uncle who is married to a German woman, and 8) Beril Marie Duman, a German Turk who is living in Istanbul and working with the *Istanbul Policy Center*. **The German Consulate in Istanbul and *Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities* have also agreed to later provide us with supplemental statistical data if given this grant. **(1 in Bold)*.**

****(2, 3 and 6)*** We plan to identify the rest of our interviewees through site observation. We will look to restaurants/cafes and sports bars that cater to Turkish-Germans, and Turkish owned cafes within Turkish communities in Berlin, such as Kreuzberg. We will interview the owner of *Mustafa's Gemuese Kebab*, a Turkish-owned restaurant and popular Doner Kebab stand in Berlin. *(Author could spend more time explicitly discussing the necessity for travel and interview preferences/rationale for different interview mediums).*

We are estimating a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 40 interviews. We will focus on two generations of German-Turkish individuals: teenagers and those over fifty. ****(4)*** We have split the questions among three preliminary categories, including, but not limited to: 1) extent of nationalism (ranking system of one through ten will apply), 2) external identity/ ritual patterns (*Turkishness*- Prior to and post migration) and 3) history/ lineage. Sample questions include, how long have you lived in Berlin? What languages do you speak at home? How has media affected your perception of Turkish identity? How often do you return to Turkey? Questions such as these will provide a structure for further conversation.

****(1) Goals and Significance:*** Conducting these interviews will provide the University of Denver with research on the changing contours of national identity from two generations of Turks. This research will also provide the appropriate preliminary information to strengthen my methodology for other research grants expanding on the same topic in greater depth, which could include the effects of cross immigration on other age groups and gender. Upon completion, I will have established a foundation to work more closely with *Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities*, an organization that provides support for Turkish people living abroad and which aims to increase the effectiveness of Turkish communities in different countries. As a representative of the University of Denver, my goal is to produce foundational work that will engage in inter-ethnic cooperation, reconciliation, and prosocial behavior.

****(2 and 4)*** After visiting Istanbul recently, the parallels of events occurring in Turkey and the US are unmistakable. It is essential that we continue to redefine the meaning of the politics of social construction and interaction for our world and community. Changing policies of migration, state sovereignty, open and closed borders, and cultural integration and its significance all indicate how we interact and define communities. This study is directly applicable to the changing face of migration in the US. The current political situations in Turkey

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as well as the US have been unpredictable. Because of this unpredictability, research in the field is critical to aid in conflict resolution.

As we continue to understand nationalism and now it intersects with local culture, we can better evaluate solutions on how to create a more inclusive environment for immigrants, displaced persons, and individuals subject to change and globalization. While this case study is relevant to Germany and Turkey, it might offer insights for comparative studies between the US and Mexico. We have seen that nationalism can be detrimental, but it can also be used in a productive and necessary manner to maintain community in foreign environments.

The age of advanced technology relies on globalization for business and economy. This, and future research, has the potential to give value to those who are planning for investment in Turkey. Continuous research will highlight certain social dynamics, Euro-Turkish context, and public perception by presenting various dimensions of German-Turkish relationships.

***(1) Final Product:** I will share the results of our research as part of a multi-media ethnography project and exhibition at the University of Denver, consisting of comparative photography, video, and transcript excerpts from our interviews. This exhibit will provide a clear, visual, and cross linguistic understanding of contemporary Turkish identity, nationalism, and community.

* My proposed destinations have both been approved by Enterprise Risk Management.

* This research will be started by January 2nd, 2018 completed by February 24th, 2018.

BUDGET

Airfare from St. Petersburg to Berlin (Arriving directly from Study Abroad)	\$200.00
Compensation for Co-Principal Investigator's travel to/from Berlin	\$150.00
Accommodation total for two (Rent for one month)	\$325.00
Airfare from Berlin to Istanbul	\$75.00
Honoraria for interviewees	\$210.00
Transcribing software (Express Scribe NCH software)	\$40.00
EVIDA, 1536kbps PMC voice recorder and flash drive	\$30.00
*Video/ film device is already available.	
*The voice recorder will be later donated to the University of Denver's Arts and Humanities Department upon request.	
Airfare from Istanbul to Denver	\$500.00

Total

\$1,530.00 Works Cited

Guveli, Ayse. *Intergenerational Consequences of Migration Socio-economic, Family and Cultural Patterns of Stability and Change in Turkey and Europe*. N.p.: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. Print.

Nauck, B. (1995). Educational climate and intergenerative transmission in Turkish families: A comparison of migrants in Germany and non-migrants. In P. Noack, M. Hofer, & J. Youniss (Eds.), *Psychological responses to social change. Human development in changing environments* (pp. 67-85). Berlin/New York: Aldine.

"Diana Markosian • 1915 • Magnum Photos." *Magnum Photos*. N.p., 02 Sept. 2016. Web.

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*(2) The author establishes that they are the right person to carry out this research in demonstrating how their research interests align with their experience, the ways they can crucially fill a gap, and the benefits their research offers DU and other stakeholders.