Annual Report of the TürkeiEuropaZentrum for the Year 2012

Two successful conferences, two readings as well as six lectures on various themes connected with present-day Turkey as well as its history: the Centre has offered a broad range of activities in 2012 and a program that attracted students and academics as well as the general public of Hamburg. Attendance has been numerous and lively discussions followed each event. Since June 2012, a new research project has been affiliated to the centre as well.

I: Workshop: Research on Turkey in Germany II - Professional and Academic Perspectives

This workshop took place at the Asien-Afrika-Institut of Hamburg University on 2/3 March 2012. Executing partners were Network Turkey e.V. and the TürkeiEuropaZentrum (TEZ). The Mercator Foundation provided financial support.

The targeted attending groups were students, doctoral candidates and postgraduate researchers in the various fields of Turkish Studies. More than 100 participants (67 of them contributing a paper) coming from Germany, Switzerland, England and Turkey proved that there is dire need for such an event. The fact that the participants came from such diverse fields of studies as Turkish Studies, political science, Islamic Studies, history, anthropology, economics, sociology, geography, educational studies, literary studies, medicine, law and others led to a very fruitful exchange of ideas beyond disciplinary boundaries. Special lectures complemented the various workshops and the lively discussions. In 2013 the first volume of Jahrbuch der JungenTürkeiforschung in Deutschland will be published.
II: Symposium and Panel Discussion: “Europe, Turkey and the Cyprus Conflict” (20.06.2012)

On June 20th, TEZ organized a symposium on the Cyprus question in cooperation with Europe direct info-Point Europe Hamburg, the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation in Cyprus, the German-Cypriot Forum and Europa Union Hamburg. On the occasion of the takeover of the presidency of the European Council by the Republic of Cyprus in July 2012, experts discussed the historical background of the Cyprus conflict, perspectives of possible solutions within the framework of the European Union and the process of access to the EU by Turkey as well as the present controversial subjects like the question of property restitution and oil and gas discoveries in the area. The symposium was followed in the evening by an open panel discussion that was chaired by Dr. Jochen Bittner, editor journalist of the weekly Die Zeit.

In cooperation with:

III: First DFG Project Attached to TEZ

Since June 2012, Dr. Berna Pekesen is connected with TEZ through her DFG (German Research Foundation) -project titled “Leftist Authoritarianism in Turkey 1960-1990”. Dr. Pekesen is researching the social, regional and religious background of leftist authoritarianism that developed in Turkey especially after 1969; she analyzes its expressions and impacts as well as the question how it manifested itself in the social relations within the groups. As a result, she wants to determine the conflict between traditional attitudes and “revolutionary” deeds. This project which is supported by the German Research Foundation with a grant of € 223.000 is the first long-term study connected with present-day Turkey at TEZ. We expect it to provide impulses for workshops as well as other connected research.

Financed by:
IV: TEZ Lecture Series during Summer Term 2012

Within our lecture series, in April, the author Nedim Gürsel (Paris) read from his novel Allah’ın Kızları/AllahsTöchter (Allah’s Daughters) that had just been published in German and widely reviewed in the German press. The reading took place in cooperation with Suhrkamp Publishers and the Turkish Community Organization in Hamburg (TGH).

In June, TEZ hosted the author Fethiye Çetin (Istanbul). She read from her memory book Anneannem/My Grandmother, translated by Christine Tremmel-Turan and Tevfik Turan into German and published by “Auf dem Ruffel” Publishers. After the reading, Mrs. Çetin spoke about her project of reconciliation, which comprises the restoration of fountains in the formerly Armenian village of Habap, today Ekinöüzü. She presented the results and gave as a present a DVD with the documentation of this project to the TEZ archives. Cooperation partner for the reading was Amnesty International.

The year 2012 started with a lecture by Prof. em. Dr. Klaus Kreiser (Berlin) with the title of “The readings of Atatürk”. He gave an insight into Atatürk’s library which literally speaks volumes about which kind of books Atatürk read and was influenced by. The speaker presented this within the wider framework of the culture of reading in Ottoman society at the beginning of the 20th century.

In May, the art historian Prof. Dr. Burcu Doğramaci (Munich) spoke about “The point of view of the emigrants. Photographs and Research in Turkey”. She showed that the motivation of many emigrants to study the country intensively was due to a need to get acquainted with the country of their exile and at the same time corresponded to their scientific interest: studying Turkey in order to better understand her.

Also in May, Prof. Edhem Eldem (Istanbul) spoke about “6,000 Ottoman Bank Employees, 1890-1930: A Sample of a Cosmopolitan Petty Bourgeoisie?” A very rich series of staff records of the Ottoman Bank in Istanbul enable a reconstitution of individual profiles, based on such precise information as identity, nationality, religion, linguistic skills, education, former employment, professional skills, family links with bank employees, and references/recommenders and give an insight into the white-collar petit bourgeoisie before the First World War. This lecture was organized in cooperation with Hafen City University (HCU) Hamburg.

In cooperation with:
V. Lecture Series in Winter Term 2012/13

Our lecture series in winter was titled “The Ottomans in the World” and looked into the various relations the Ottomans had with other parts of the world.

Prof. Claus Schönig (Berlin) started the series with a talk about the origins of the Ottomans in the context of the Turkish speaking world under the title of „The Ottomans and other Turks”.

Prof. Dr. Selçuk Esenbel (Istanbul) looked into “Ottoman-Japanese Relations as the Site of Informal Diplomacy, Intelligence and the Transnational in Eurasia” and presented the various fields of Ottoman-Japanese relations during the 19th century. This lecture was organized in cooperation with the Institute for Japanese Studies at Hamburg University.

In the last lecture in 2012, jointly organized with the seminar for Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Gottfried Hagen (Ann Arbor, Michigan) presented the concept of “mental maps”. He spoke about “Changing Mental Maps”. In his lecture, he presented rich pictorial material and discussed categories that helped the Ottomans to organize and structure their picture of the world. He showed how they presented and communicated this picture, explained how the mental maps changed over time and which factors influenced these changes.

A last lecture in January 2013 by Prof. Dr. Ralph Kauz (Bonn) about the Ottoman–Chinese relations, organized in cooperation with Chinese Studies of Hamburg University, will conclude the series.

In cooperation with:

Islamwissenschaft
Japanologie
Sinologie
VI. Publications of TEZ Members (selection)


Gabriele B. Clemens et. al. (Hrsg.), Napoleonische Expansionspolitik: Okkupation oder Integration?. Berlin: de Gruyter 2012.


Arnd-Michael Nohl, Interview und dokumentarische Methode: Anleitungen für die Forschungspraxis. VS Verlag 2012.


VII. Preview

The next lecture series by TEZ in summer term 2013 will be titled: „The Republic of Turkey-90 years – a success story?“. Six lectures will present various aspects of Republican Turkey in history and at present. We are happy to announce that our next speakers will be Dr. Yaşar Aydın, Prof. Dr. Gabriele Clemens, Amke Dietert, Dr. Corry Guttstadt, Dr. Berna Pekesen as well as Prof. Dr. Stefan Plaggenborg.

In cooperation with Dr. Yaşar Aydın (Faculty of Economics and Social Studies) and the Hans-Böckler-Foundation, from 21st to 22nd of June 2013, TEZ will host a conference on “Circular Migration” in the Asien-Africa-Institute.

TEZ together with Dr. Berna Pekesen will organize and host another conference in 2013/14: “The Turkish Sixties”: Social change and political radicalism in Turkey”.

You will receive information and invitations as usual via our mailing list as well as on our homepage: http://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/tuerkeieuropa/

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