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Religiöse Orte in der Türkei: Wandel, Wechsel, Fortbestand  
TEZ-Vortragsreihe im Wintersemester 2022/2023

TEILNAHME  
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## THE PRESENTATION OF THE TURKISH *TEKKES* AS CULTURAL CENTRES: A REFLECTION ON THE BANALITY OF ‘CULTURE’

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**ABSTRACT:** The legal closing of the Sufi lodges in Turkey in 1925 caused the sudden ruination of hundreds of buildings that were used as *tekkes* before that event. In the last two decades, many of those buildings have been restored and opened to the public as museums or cultural centres. The museumisation of *tekkes* is part of a larger assimilation of Sufism into the notion of ‘national culture’. Upon close inspection, this culturalisation of Sufi lodges reveals an attempt to seal the ruination of their significance as sacred places. It is an attempt to commit a ‘perfect crime’: the *tekke* that is re-created as a cultural centre gives testimony to a destruction for which nobody is blamed and no explanations are offered. Thus, the history of early republican violence against Sufi communities continues to be repressed. This return of the repressed could turn *tekkes* into uncanny objects, yet they are mostly examples of a banal understanding of the Sufism they claim to preserve.

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### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

‘Lodges of Debate: Two Museumised Sufi *Tekkes* in Anatolia’, in V. Rey (ed.), *The Art of Minorities*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020, 87–108.

‘Sufism in Mexico: A Transformed or Trans-formal Tradition?’, in H. Rashid et al. (eds), *Bloomsbury Religion in North America*, London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021. Online publication, doi: 10.5040/9781350970632.004.

‘Sufi Communities in Secular Mexico’, in *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

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