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Media Imaginaries of post-Gezi displacement from Turkey: Affect and emotions toward affinity, resilience, and hope

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This talk explores digital media spaces and practices that have emerged within the experience of post-Gezi displacement from Turkey through the lens of mediated affect and emotions. Due to authoritarian transformation of the political regime in Turkey, a growing number of people have left the country in the years that followed the 2013 Gezi movement. Many dissident academics, artists, journalists, and students who were persecuted by the increasingly repressive political regime as well as others who wanted to migrate because of political, social, and economic turbulence, arrived in Berlin, Germany. This talk is based on engaged ethnographic research on the affective cultural sphere of post-Gezi migration from Turkey, that I carried out in Berlin over five years (2018-2023) by following a broad range of affective practices and imaginaries across digital media platforms, artistic projects and public events. These intellectual, aesthetic and everyday imaginaries mediate the lived experiences of political oppression, displacement, and relocation through individual and

collective stories, memories, and testimonies. Words, images, sounds, and gestures manifest and circulate profound emotions and affect that flow from traumas and injuries as well as solidarities and resistances and that move toward senses of possibilities and impossibilities in unknown presents and futures. In this talk, I draw on online blogs, short documentaries, and Youtube videos, created by people who recently left Turkey, to discuss how affective practices of mediating the lived experience of displacement form relationalities and belongings through the emotions and affect they manifest, create, circulate, and archive. Rather than confining these affective imaginaries to a distinct sphere of “migrant” media and supposed ethnic, migrant, or diasporic communities, I examine mediated emotions and affects of displacement as part of broader emergent frameworks of living with and acting on troubled times, which characterize our contemporary cultural, social, and political horizons, such as resilience, recuperation, affinity, and hope.