



UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI  
**L'ORIENTALE**



Dottorato  
Asia  
Africa  
e Mediterraneo



**C EST**



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CEST Symposium

# Who Owns the Nation?

## Imperial Imaginaries and Cultural Resistance in Contemporary Turkey

14-16  
January  
2026

Sala Conferenze  
Palazzo Corigliano  
(2nd floor)  
Piazza San Domenico  
Maggiore, 12  
80134 Napoli

in cooperation with  
 Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

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Global Affairs

**Scientific Committee:**

Lea Nocera, Kerem Öktem, İpek Yosmaoğlu

**Organizing Committee:**

Lea Nocera, Valentina Marcella, Carlotta De Sanctis

**Administrative Secretariat:**

Carlotta De Sanctis

This symposium is convened as part of the Consortium for European Symposia on Turkey (CEST), funded by Stiftung Mercator and administered by the Stockholm University Institute of Turkish Studies. Members of the Consortium are based at SciencesPo Paris, University of Vienna, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, University of Naples L'Orientale, Stockholm University, University of Copenhagen, and University of Deusto. CEST is also generously supported by the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program at Northwestern University.

<http://cest-turkey.org>

## Symposium Program

### Wednesday 14 January

15.00 Registration

15.30 **Welcome and introductory remarks**

Lea Nocera (University of Naples L'Orientale/CEST)

Paul T. Levin (Stockholm University/CEST)

Kerem Öktem (Ca' Foscari University of Venice/CEST)

İpek Yosmaoğlu (Northwestern University/CEST)

16.00 – 17.00 **Keynote Lecture**

*Terra (In)firma: Irreconcilable Spatio-Temporalities in the Sacred Landscapes of the Upper Euphrates*

Zeynep Kezer (University of Newcastle)

**Introduced by:** Kerem Öktem (Ca' Foscari University of Venice/CEST)

17.00 – 18.20 **Panel 1**

**Contested Memories: Mourning and Counter-Hegemony**

**Chair:** Valentina Marcella (University of Naples L'Orientale)

*Open-Ended Mourning: Rethinking the Frameworks of Memory Studies through the Prohibited Dersim Genocide Memorial* - Çiçek İlgiz (Forum Transregionale Studien)

*"We lost but we fought too": Understanding the Multiplicity of Counter-Hegemonic Endeavours in Contemporary Turkey* - Can Haldenbilen (University of Basel)

**Discussant:** Jenny White (Stockholm University/CEST)

18.30-19.30 **Screening** of the documentary *Sweet Home Adana* (Turkey, Portugal, Italy, 2024, 21') followed by a conversation between Nagehan Uskan (director) and Necati Sönmez (Documentarist co-founder)

20.00 *Dinner*

## **Thursday 15 January**

### **9.00 – 10.00 Morning Lecture**

*Vernacular Counter-Visions: Pop Cultural Capital and Creative Resistance*

**Lisel Hintz (Johns Hopkins University SAIS)**

**Introduced by:** Lea Nocera (University of Naples L'Orientale/CEST)

### **10.00 – 10.30 Coffee break**

### **10.30 – 12.30 Panel 2**

#### **Reimagining the Nation: Identity and Ideological Ruptures**

**Chair:** Paul T. Levin (Stockholm University/CEST)

*"The Future is in the Sky, Independence in Technology".*

*Techno-nationalism and Cultural Hegemony in Turkey -*

**Yohanan Benhaïm (IFEA)**

*Monumental screenfare: struggle for the conquest of Constantinople/Istanbul in the post-truth era -* **Josh Carney (Marburg University)**

*Muslim Deconversion and the Unravelling of Turkey's Islamist–Kemalist Divide -* **Metin Koca (University of York)**

*Fifty Shades of Turkishness: Conflicts and Convergences in the Saraçhane Protests -* **Jiyan Andıç (Boğaziçi University)**

**Discussant:** Elise Massicard (CNRS-CERI Sciences Po/CEST)

### **12.30 – 14.00 Lunch**

### **14.00 – 15.45 Panel 3**

#### **Gendered Nations: Feminist Counter-Narratives and Everyday Resistance**

**Chair:** Carlotta De Sanctis (University of Naples L'Orientale)

*Against Fitrat: Counter-Hegemonic Muslim Feminists and Islam as a Feminist Weapon in Turkey* - **Feyza Burak-Adli** (Northwestern University)

*Speaking Without Words: Maternal Healthcare, Language Exclusion, and Everyday Resistance in Contemporary Turkey* - **Eylül Arslan** (Koç University)

*Family, Nation, and Gender: Muslim Women Intellectuals and the Politics of Familism in Contemporary Turkey* - **Fatma Murat** (Bilkent University)

**Discussant:** Bilge Yabancı (University of Deusto/CEST)

15.45 – 16.15 *Coffee break*

16.15 – 18.00 **Panel 4**

### **Spatial Politics and Cultural Contestations**

**Chair:** Yavuz Köse (University of Vienna/CEST)

*Spatial Politics and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Contemporary Diyarbakır (2015–2025)* - **Pelin Oral** (EHES)

*Discursive ruptures and unspoken continuities: Post-earthquake reconstruction in Antakya* - **Francesco Pasta** (IFEA)

*Forging Counterpublics: The Case of Municipal Museums in Istanbul's Cultural Contestation* - **Eda Öztürk** (Université Paris Cité)

**Discussant:** Kerem Öktem (Ca' Foscari University of Venice/CEST)

20.00 *Dinner*

## Friday 16 January

### 9.00 – 10.00 **Morning Lecture**

*Who Owns the Arts? A Hundred Years of Music and Literature*

**Kenan Sharpe (Sabancı University)**

**Introduced by:** İpek Yosmaoğlu (Northwestern University/CEST)

### 10.00 – 10.30 *Coffee break*

### 10.30 – 12.15 **Panel 5**

#### **Artistic Resistance: Cultural Practices and Alternative Belongings**

**Chair:** Joakim Parslow (University of Copenhagen/CEST)

*Cinematic Resistance and the Politics of Representation: Kurdish Autonomous Filmmaking in Contemporary Turkey* - **Nagehan Uskan (independent scholar)**

*Counter-Hegemonic Movements: Alevi Ritual, Embodied Memory, and Artistic Citizenship in Contemporary Turkey* - **Sinibaldo De Rosa (independent scholar)**

*Turkish Psychedelia as Worlding: Negotiating Belonging Across Cultural Tensions* - **Setenay Gültekin (İTÜ)**

**Discussant:** Peter Cherry (BIAA)

### 12.15 – 13.00 **Conclusions**

### 13.00 *Lunch*





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