Digital-Cultural Ecology and the Medium-Sized City

Abstract Submission Form

1. Paper / Proposal Title: Translocal Dynamics of Urban Digital Networks in Medium Sized Cities of Turkey

2. Format: written paper / *screening / short film / other – please specify*

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6. Abstract (300 words):

In the last decade, an important motivation of the Turkish government has been to bridge the digital divide among Turkish cities. Starting from mid 1990, information and communication technology infrastructures have rapidly expanded in the metropolitan areas; from digital broadcasting to e-participation, "a digital turn" has shaped largely the daily lives of urban inhabitants. Although the expansion of the national broadband infrastructure lags behind the OECD average, the private sector mobilizes its resources to accelerate ICT utilization nationwide. On the other hand, mainly coming to the discussion during the election times, mid-sized cities do not attract attention from the urban researchers in Turkey. Although few researches cover the political and economic implications, social and cultural change has been largely unnoticed. Based on a mixed method study, this paper aims at describing the social and cultural changes that Turkish households experience in the middle-sized Turkish cities. Statistical data provide insights on the changing ideas of work, entrepreneurship, leisure, and consumption. In addition,

qualitative research reveals varying perceptions for required levels of digital literacy and civic competence for sustaining living standards during the 21st century neoliberal ecologies. Our interdisciplinary and mixed method approach aims for drawing out taxonomy of digital competence and new commons' scenarios in medium sized cities of Turkey by analyzing related global literature and adding insight derived from the local dynamics and translocal urban networks.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Eda Ünlü-Yücesoy, PhD, Urban Planner, Associate Professor of Sociology and Senior Researcher at the Centre for Urban Studies (CUS), Istanbul Şehir University since 2010. She received BSc and MSc degrees from the department of City and Regional Plannning at Middle East Technical University, Turkey and PhD from Human Geography and City and Regional Planning at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. As a post-doc, she worked at the Graduate Program in Architectural Design at Istanbul Bilgi University, where she also co-curated the socio-economic geography section of the exhibition, titled "Istanbul 1910-2010; the City, Built Environment, and Architectural Culture", sponsored by Istanbul 2010 Cultural Capital of Europe. Professor Murat Güvenç. She received TUBİTAK Career Award in 2011, financing the research on the commercial geography of Istanbul, titled "Workplaces in Istanbul: continuity and change in metropolitan central business district in the period 1900-2011". Her research and publications have focused on spatial relations, social and economic geography, urban history, urban planning, public space, and spatial transformation in Istanbul.

Asli Telli Aydemir, PhD, After receiving her BA degree in political science and international
relations, she studied feature writing and freelance journalism. She focused on social anthropology and critical studies at MA level in Paris 8-St. Denis and on Media & Communication Sciences at PhD level in Double Diplome program of Appalachian State University and European Graduate School. Her PhD thesis discusses the dynamics of community engagement in informatics-based modelling of digital cities towards the possibility of interacting towards a working urban hub. Her research areas of interest and publications in
scholarly journals center around social and civic impact of trans and/or polymedia, new media literacy, cybercultures, social media facilitated activism practices and networked society enformatics. Asli worked as a researcher for multi-partnered FP6 project, entitled "Civicweb: Internet, young people and participation" in 2006-2009. She has been working as full-time faculty in the College of Communication and Cultural Studies MA Program of Istanbul Sehir University since 2010.