Constructing an Urban Future: The sustainability and resilience of cities – infrastructures, communities, buildings and housing.

• Paper / Proposal Title:
EVALUATING THE ‘GHETTO’ TERM THROUGH TURKEY

• Format(s):
In-person presentation / Written paper

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• Abstract (300 words):
The practice of socio-cultural, social exclusion and residential segregation brings a heterogeneous identity to cities in the multidimensional and complex structure of urban culture. This heterogeneous appearance of the cities, which contains ethnic, religious
convergence, cultural and denominational uniformities, are surrounded by homogeneous network of relationships, which also manifest themselves in the form of spatial relationships in urban areas called ghettos.

Until the 1980s, the concept of ghetto was rather an outcome of ethnic, religious, denominational, and cultural discrimination; however, with the 1980s, ghetto term has also been used for parts of the cities, which have deprived infrastructures, lack of social facilities and socio-economically poor groups. With the 2000s, closed-societies/ gated communities, which are spatial parts of consumer culture, have come to be known as modern or rich ghettos. After 2010 along with the wars especially in Middle East, ghettoes who emigrated to secure their lives in other lands caught the attention. Hence, after the 1980s ghetto with the using outside of its real meaning has begun to lose its characteristic to be an instrument of ethnic, religious, denominational or cultural discrimination and become to be a classificatory exclusionary instrument.

Within the scope of this study, the process of ghettoization has been selected from Turkey. The way in which the concept will be argued in five case studies and three different periods: 1940-1960 (Jewish Ghetto of Balat); 1960-1980 (Roman Ghetto of Sulukule and Denominational Ghetto of Gazi Neighborhood); and post-1980 (‘Gated Communities of Mavişehir Neighborhood and Post-War Ghetto of Önder Neighborhood) (see in Appendix.1). Variety of examples on ghettos through Turkey will be evaluated on the keywords, which form the basis of the ghetto term, and these cases carry the ghetto characteristic or not will be researched.

Keywords: Residential Segregation, Social Exclusion, Homogeneous Relation, Urban Heterogeneity, Social Identity

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Asmin Kavas (PhD) graduated from the Department of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture from Bilkent University in 2008. In 2011 she received her master's degree from Department of Political Science and Public Administration Urban and Environmental Science from Ankara University with the thesis on "Voluntary Environmental Organizations in Turkey". In 2012, she started her doctorate and completed her doctoral degree on 19th June 2017 with the thesis on "A study on the Relationship between Municipalities and Voter Behavior: Ankara Yenimahalle and Altındağ District Municipalities Case".


Asmin Kavas joined to The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) in May 2015. She has been working as a Specialist in City Studies Program and Area Studies Program of TEPAV.
Eren Çağdaş Bilgiç graduated from the Department of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Fine Arts, Design and Architecture from Bilkent University in 2013. While he was a student, he founded ‘Design and Architecture Society’ and he also was an ‘Erasmus Student’ in ‘University of Rome’. In 2015, he got accepted into ‘Urban Planning MSc Programme’ in ‘Istanbul Technical University’. After he worked ‘architecture and planning offices’, he founded his own design studio. In 2016, he accepted as ‘instructor’ at Atılım University, Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture.

Since 2013, he participated several urban transformation and regeneration projects of municipalities and ministries of state, several ecological planning projects with NGOs; and Spatial Strategy Plans in ITU.

Bilgiç, beside his project career, also participated in academic papers, conferences, which were organized from ‘AESOP’, ‘Ankara University’, ‘Bilkent University’, ‘ITU’ and some NGOs as assistant or author. Moreover, he worked in workshop executive works in Bilkent University.

He is now giving lectures of ‘Architectural Presentation Techniques’, ‘Introduction to Landscape Design’, ‘Principles of Site-Planning’, and ‘Urban Design Project Studio’ at Atılım University and he took part in board of management at an academic NGO, named ‘Human, Space, Energy and Environment Organization’.
Appendix 1: The Evolution of 'Ghetto' in Turkey