

Turkish Germans in the Federal Republic of Germany

As the largest national group of guest workers in Germany, the Turks became a visible presence in local neighborhoods and schools and had diverse social, cultural, and religious needs. Focusing on West Berlin, Sarah Thomsen Vierra explores the history of Turkish immigrants and their children from the early days of their participation in the postwar guest worker program to the formation of multigenerational communities. Both German and Turkish sources help to uncover how the first and second generations created spaces of belonging for themselves within and alongside West German society, while also highlighting the factors that influenced that process, from individual agency and community dynamics to larger institutional factors such as educational policy and city renovation projects. By examining the significance of daily interactions at the workplace, in the home, in the neighborhood, at school, and in places of worship, we see that spatial belonging was profoundly linked to local-level daily life and experiences.

Sarah Thomsen Vierra is an assistant professor of history at New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire. She received her doctorate in European history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and was granted the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize by the Friends of the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC, in 2012. She has published on West Berlin's Turkish community, the influence of the Cold War on the guest worker program, and migration in modern German history more broadly. Her research interests include migration, ethnic and religious minorities in European society, and everyday history.

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Immigration, Space, and Belonging, 1961–1990

Sarah Thomsen Vierra

New England College

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Abbreviations

ASBB	Amt für Statistik Berlin-Brandenburg, Berlin
BFKA	Bezirksmuseum Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Archiv, Berlin
BPA	Bundespresseamt Archiv, Berlin
DLSA	“Die Leute vom Sparrplatz” Ausstellung
DOMiD	Dokumentationszentrum und Museum über die Migration in Deutschland, e.V., Cologne
DTHA	Deutsches Technikmuseum Historisches Archiv, Berlin
EDF	Dr. Eduard Ditschek, personal files pertaining to Volkshochschule Wedding, Berlin
HHS	Herbert-Hoover-Schule (Realschule), Berlin
LAB	Landesarchiv Berlin
MMA	Mitte Museum Archiv und Bibliothek, Berlin
SCA	Siemens Corporate Archives, Munich
SBZ	Staatsbibliothek zur Berlin, Zeitungsabteilung, Berlin
TPO	Theodor Plievier Oberschule (Hauptschule), Berlin