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.

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Turkish Germans in the Federal Republic of Germany

Immigration, Space, and Belonging, 1961–1990

Sarah Thomsen Vierra

New England College

GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
Washington, DC

and

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I had very little idea at the outset of the journey that would end with this book just how many people and institutions would play such an important role in its making and my life, and it makes me very glad that I can use these first pages to acknowledge their formative contributions.

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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