



Fixing Stories

News “fixers” are translators and guides who assist foreign journalists. Sometimes key contributors to bold, original reporting and other times key facilitators of homogeneity and groupthink in the news media, they play the difficult but powerful role of broker between worlds, shaping the creation of knowledge from behind the scenes. In *Fixing Stories*, Noah Amir Arjomand reflects on the nature of news production and cross-cultural mediation. Based on human stories drawn from three years of field research in Turkey, this book unfolds as a series of narratives of fixers’ career trajectories during a period when the international media spotlight shone on Turkey and Syria. From the Syrian Civil War, Gezi Park protest movement, rise of authoritarianism in Turkey and of ISIS in Syria, to the rekindling of conflict in both countries’ Kurdish regions and Turkey’s 2016 coup attempt, Arjomand brings to light vivid personal accounts and insider perspectives on world-shaking events alongside analysis of the role fixers have played in bringing news of Turkey and Syria to international audiences.

NOAH AMIR ARJOMAND is the Mark Helmke Postdoctoral Scholar in Global Media, Development, and Democracy at Indiana University in Bloomington and the Center for International Media Assistance. A sociologist, filmmaker, and documentary photographer, Arjomand has published writings and photography in *Public Culture*, *Dissent*, and *Profil*. His first feature-length film, *Eat Your Catfish*, premiered at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam in 2021.

“This wonderfully original book helped me to understand my own career as a foreign correspondent. With its innovative methods and fine-grained research, *Fixing Stories* will surely become a valuable resource for journalists and media scholars alike.”

Matthieu Aikins, contributing writer for the *New York Times Magazine* and author of *The Naked Don't Fear the Water: An Underground Journey with Afghan Refugees*

“With its ethnographic breadth and creative take on writing, *Fixing Stories* poses a powerful caveat to so many grand theories of journalism and media that are blind to the emergence of truth in practice. Arjomand weaves a refined story between multiple moral worlds of journalism in Turkey and Syria, places deeply ridden with both historical and contemporary conflicts over fixing the truth. *Fixing Stories* provides the reader with a rare window on journalism, cultivating the mundane shapes the grand narratives take during the practice of journalism.”

Suncem Koçer, Kadir Has University

“A fascinating journey across the complex and hitherto unexplored world of fixers as they attempt to create a fragile unity among disparate worlds and unify the moral universes of multiple audiences. *Fixing Stories* ultimately alerts us to how all knowledge is mediated through chains of brokerage.”

Mona Baker, University of Oslo

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Local Newsmaking and International Media
in Turkey and Syria

NOAH AMIR ARJOMAND
Indiana University



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Figure 0.1 Map of Turkey and Syria

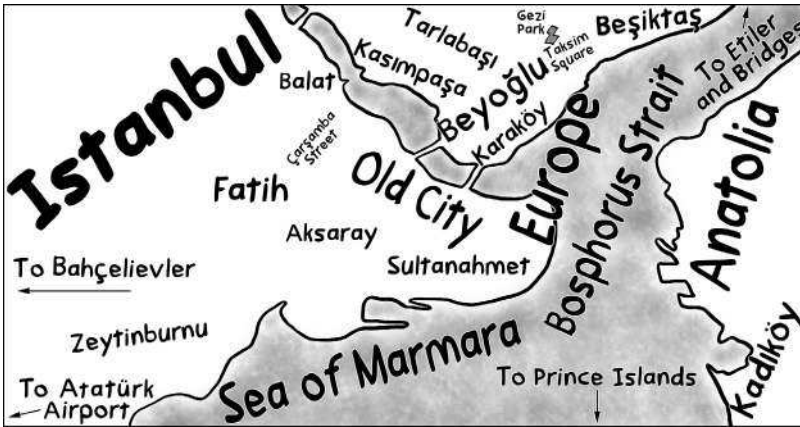


Figure 0.2 Map of Istanbul

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