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Reconfigurations of state and citizenship in an Istanbul neighbourhood

Idel, C.

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What does it mean to build a “New Turkey”? Based on ethnographic research in Kayaşehir, Istanbul, this dissertation explores how the AKP’s vision of a post-secular modernity is brought to life through the ordinary spaces and practices of neighborhood life. Rather than focusing solely on authoritarianism and exclusion, it examines the productive dimensions of this political project, asking how ideas of citizenship and the state are cultivated, experienced, and contested in everyday life. Using place-making as its central analytical lens, the study reveals how homes, streets, mosques, and community networks become key sites where political ideals take material and social form. Bridging geography, sociology, and anthropology, this dissertation offers a new perspective on how broader political transformations are enacted through the mundane practices of everyday urban life.

Making the New Turkey

Ceylin Idel

Making the New Turkey

Reconfigurations of State and Citizenship in an Istanbul Neighbourhood

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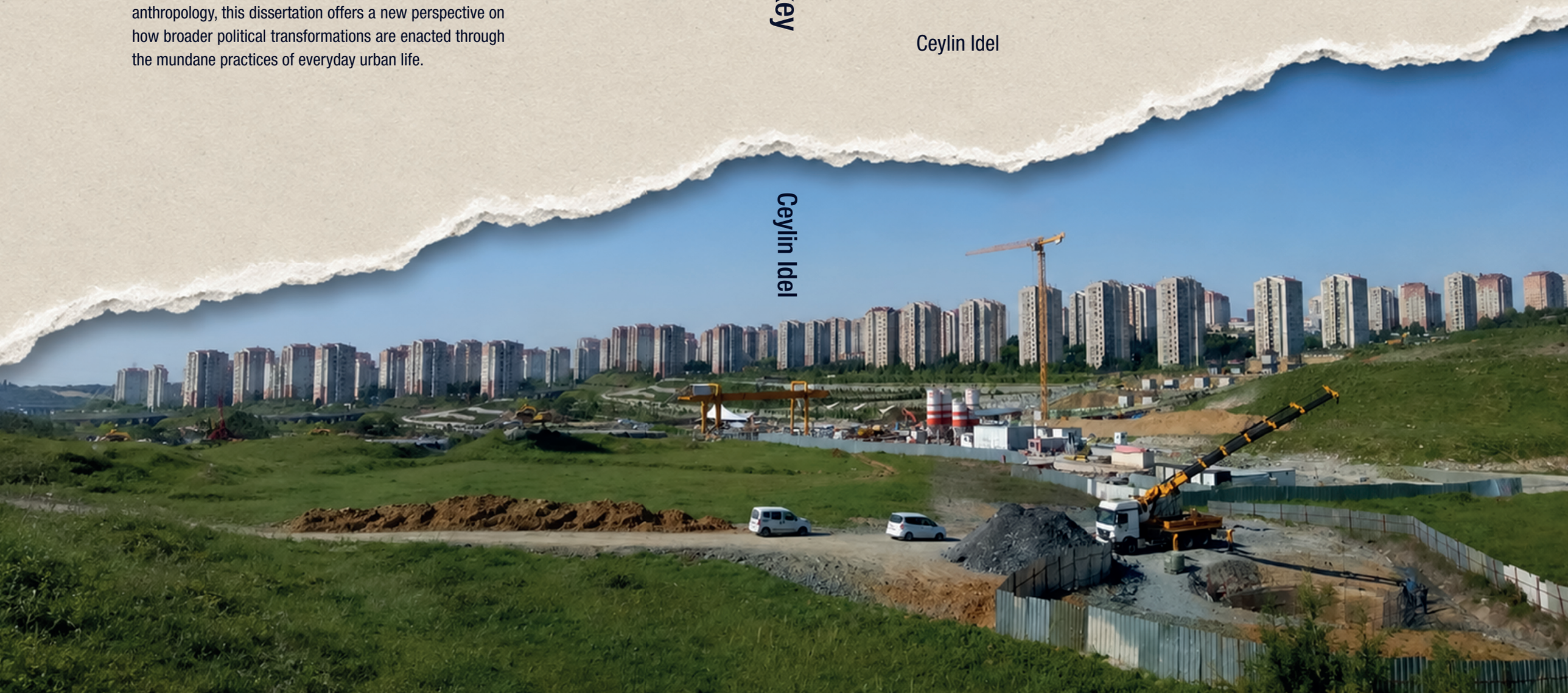

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Making the New Turkey

Reconfigurations of State and Citizenship in an Istanbul Neighbourhood

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ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
ten overstaan van een door het
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in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Agnietenkapel
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Table of Contents

Foreword 11

Chapter 1: Introduction 13
The Setting 13
The Story of Two Women 16
The Old and the New Turkey 22
Urban Development 24
De-privatisation of Religion 28
How to Understand the New Turkey? 32
The New Turkey as a Hegemonic Project 33
Between Divides: Researching in a Polarised Context 40
Outline of Chapters 46

Chapter 2: Reconfiguring Modernity, Secularism, and Citizenship through Place-Making 51
Contesting the 'Secular' in Modernity 52
Making of the State and Citizen 59
Place-Making: A Conceptual Lens 63

Chapter 3: Case Study and Methods 71
Methodology 81
Methods 83
Approach to Participant Privacy and Consent 87

Chapter 4: Making a Party/State: Everyday Engagements with the AKP as the State 91
Introduction 91
The AKP as a Good Neighbour 97
The AKP as the Guardian of Religion and Nation 104
Conquest Rally 107

Politics without Politics 112
Conclusion 118

Chapter 5: Making the Pious Citizen: Everyday Engagements with Religious Morality **121**
Introduction 121
The Muhammedi Cemaat: Inscribing the Pious Citizen from Below 128
The Diyanet: Inscribing the Pious Citizen from Above 135
The Relationship between the Muhammedi Cemaat and the State: Contestations over the Right to Educate Pious Citizens 141
Conclusion 145

Chapter 6: Making Pious Womanhood: Everyday Engagements with Gender Norms **149**
Introduction 149
Co-constitution of Piety and Neighbourly Relations 155
Quietly Challenging and Negotiating Gender Norms 160
Openly Challenging and Negotiating Gender Norms 165
Disputing Multiple Ways of Being a Woman 168
Nurturing New Friendships and Alternative Gender Norms 170
Conclusion 174

Chapter 7: Conclusion **179**
Reconfiguration of State and Citizenship 180
The Fusion of Party and State 181
The Embedding of Religious Morality in Everyday Conduct 183
Conservative Islamic Gender Norms 184
Contributions to the Literature 186
On Modernity 186
On State and Citizenship 189
Contribution to Turkish Scholarly Debates 193
Implications for Future Research 194

References 197

Summary 233
Samenvatting 241
Appendix 249
Acknowledgements 253

Table of Figures

Figure 1	Location of the Kayaşehir neighbourhood (satellite image) within Başakşehir Municipality (shown in red); the municipality is depicted in red in the upper-left corner of the Istanbul map *Source: Ayşe Burcu Kısacık and Ebru Kurt Özman*	72
Figure 2	Bird's-eye view of the Kayaşehir TOKİ *Source: author*	72
Figure 3	TOKİ sites separated by roads and fences *Source: author*	73
Figure 4	Semi-public spaces in TOKİ sites: children's parks and pergolas *Source: author*	73
Figure 5	Kayaşehir shopping mall *Source: author*	75
Figure 6	Kayaşehir Millet Bahçesi: an extensive park surrounding Kayaşehir *Source: author*	75
Figure 7	Advertisements for Islamic schools *Source: author*	78
Figure 8	An expandable condolences truck in a site *Source: Basaksehir, 2019*	102
Figure 9	Conquest Rally at the former Atatürk Airport *Source: author*	109
Figure 10	Aerobatics show by SoloTürk *Source: author*	109
Figure 11	Global Call *Source: SCF, 2021*	113

Foreword

This dissertation is part of the research project 'Between Collectivization and Enclosure: Self-organization and State Formation in Rapidly Growing Cities'. The project, headed by Prof. Dr Justus Uitermark at the University of Amsterdam, develops a sociological and geographical approach to examine how people connect or disconnect in the process of setting up and governing amenities. The other researchers in this project are Afra Foli, Shubhagato Dasgupta, Frederico Roman Ramos, and Joris Tieleman. The project ran from 2018 to 2024 and was funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (Vidi Grant: No. 452-17-003).

This dissertation adheres to the ethical principles and procedures of the AISSR Ethics Advisory Board, as confirmed by the formal approval obtained through the ethical review of this research. In line with the FMG guidelines on research integrity and the transparent use of generative AI, this dissertation has made limited use of generative AI tools for language correction and editorial refinement. All substantive analytical, empirical, and conceptual contributions are solely my own.

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