

VIII. International Cultural Studies Conference

Environment and Culture

organized by

Cultural Studies Association of Turkey and Department of Anthropology, Yeditepe University

September 1-3, 2015

Yeditepe University

Ataşehir, Istanbul

The eighth cultural studies conference, on the theme of “Environment and Culture,” jointly organized by the Cultural Studies Association of Turkey and the Department of Anthropology at Yeditepe University, will be held on September 1-3, 2015 at the Yeditepe University campus on the Asian side of Istanbul.

The international cultural studies conferences that are organized every two years by this association have made significant contributions to cultural studies and brought together scholars who work in this area. Since the first one in Kemer, Antalya (2001), the conferences have been organized jointly with 100. Yıl University in Van (2003), Koç University in Istanbul (2005), Işık University in Şile (2007), Karaelmas (now Bülent Ecevit) University in Zonguldak (2009), Kadir Has University in Istanbul (2011), and Bilkent University in Ankara (2013).

Founded in 1998, the Department of Anthropology at Yeditepe University, has organized numerous conferences, including the Eastern Mediterranean and Central Asia Regional Conference on “Social Sciences in Health” (1998); the “Crisis Management” (1999); International Forum for Social Sciences and Health World Congress (2005); “Turcoman Tents” (2007); “Anthropology Education, Internationally and in Turkey” (2008); and “Materiality, Memory and Cultural Heritage” (2011) conferences; as well as “The 10th Border Crossing Student Conference” (2012). The current research focus of the department includes environmental ethnography.

The environmental crisis, as manifested in issues such as climate change, urban development, and water shortage, continues to be the subject matter of social science research and theory. While the environment has largely been the focus of natural sciences and engineering disciplines, the anthropogenic era strongly involves the built environment and calls for a redefinition of the “natural.” At the same time, theoretical conceptualizations of the social environment, such as *habitus*, remain core theoretical tools for our understanding of human life and culture. The combination of the natural, physical and social environments as understood and critically problematized by social scientists and humanities scholars call for new social scientific explanations. The purpose of the conference is to question existing paradigms in topics that bring together the concepts of “culture” and “environment,” to present critical and analytical studies in these themes, and to explore new theoretical and methodological approaches in cultural studies with the challenges of integrating inter and trans-disciplinary perspectives.

The 2015 conference bears, but is not exclusive to, the following as its core issues and sub-themes, inviting abstracts in the realm of cultures of Turks and Turkey, whether they are located in or outside Turkey. The conference is open to a variety of approaches and themes as long as they deal with the interaction of “culture” and “environment,” and are pertinent to the central focus of the conference. Papers based on original field research as well as textual analyses are also welcome.

- Culture in environment / Environment in culture
- Cultural conceptualizations and constructions of nature and environment
- Cultural ecology
- Cultural perception of environmental change
- Environmental politics and policies
- Environmental protest movements
- The environment in art and literature
- The environment in the media
- Nature and education

- Civil society and the environment
- Culture, gender and the environment
- Colonialism and the environment
- Nature and mythology
- Critical readings of folklore and religious texts on nature (Trees and Forests, Water, Rivers, Seas and shores, Lakes, Mountains, Rocks, etc.)
- Culture of forest villages
- Landscapes as cultural objects
- Wars and the environment
- Endangered species and ethics
- Wild life politics
- National laws, borders and the environment
- Technology, culture and the environment

Keynote speakers will be announced later.

The working language of the conference is Turkish. Sessions in English will be scheduled as necessary.

A volume containing a selection of the papers will be published and made available during the conference.

Proposals, in either Turkish or English, may be in the form of

- individual paper presentations,
- pre-organized panels consisting of 3 to 4 individual presentations,
- poster sessions,
- exhibitions,
- workshops or
- film shows

and should be submitted on the conference website at <<http://semp2015.kulturad.org>>. Proposals, not to exceed 200 words, should include five keywords and should be accompanied by a short curriculum.

Important Dates:

- **01 May 2014:** Deadline for abstract submission
- **15 July 2014:** Notification of results
- **15 December 2014:** Early Registration deadline
- **15 December 2014:** Registration deadline for inclusion in the program
- **15 December 2014:** Deadline for submission of full papers

Please note that the early registration fee is 100 TL for members of the association and 150 TL for non-members; it will then be 150 TL for members and 200 TL for non-members. The fee covers the conference bag and program booklet, tea/coffee and cookies, and reception.

All other information will be made available on the conference website.

Write to <semp2015@kulturad.org> if you have any questions or for more information.

The Organization Committee