**Housing as a Tool of Integration or Ethnic Segregation? An Analysis of Turkish Migrants in German Cities**

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The main aim of this paper is to examine the role of housing in shaping the processes of integration and ethnic segregation amongst Turkish immigrant communities in two German cities – Berlin and Köln. This study attempts to investigate (1) how housing policy in Germany has an impact on integration and ethnic segregation, and (2) to what extent Turkish communities have similar and different strategies in the search for housing.

The existing literature primarily claims that Turkish migrants in Germany have been pushed into low-quality housing as well as segregated neighborhoods as a result of discrimination, and housing opportunities. On the contrary, drawing upon a collection of semi-structured interviews in Berlin and Köln, this study argues that most of the Turkish migrants can afford to move to better neighboring places; however, they do not move out of their ethnic and religious concentration areas as such in Kreuzberg/ Berlin and Mülheim/Köln because of their personal choices and individual motives rather than inadequate housing and social exclusion policies and practices.

Within the processes of house preferences, there should be more specific attention to cultural norms and values between the Turkish migrant and German societies. Empirical findings of the research show the importance of Conservatism - traditional family and religious values, and how it plays an essential role in shaping residential preferences amongst Turkish communities in Germany. Although there are considerable differences in house strategies among Turkish diaspora, the findings are contextualized how everyday life and practices of Turkish communities have turned their physical houses into an illusion of "Heimat," when they have social relations and interactions with their co-ethnics in the hostland.

Since the housing policies and practices can counter processes of integration, housing regimes should be a particular policy for migration governance, especially for multi-ethnic and multicultural societies. On the contrary, there is a still lack of data and empirical research on the interconnectedness between housing policies and migrant integration. As a result, this study follows the new theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding the role of housing policies and practices in Migration Studies.