**Abstract**

**Effecting and Embodying the Stories of “Loss”**

Thinking through the stories told in the field, if anything else, is the main point of departure of this paper. This paper seeks to locate the stories of “loss” (the absence of that which had been presupposedly present once) within the larger framework of humanitarian aid and humanitarian moralities. These broader frameworks of aid and moralities project themselves not only onto the “events” of welcoming or “rituals” of aid-giving but onto the everyday constructions of productivity (labor), among other things.

Throughout the paper, I will suggest that stories in which the “loss” is recurrently brought up frame the figures of deservingness as well as morality. *Loss* that is found worthy of being narrativized easily slips into an implication of “threat” of losing one’s morality which should be addressed either through humanitarian aid or moral support (which are not seen two different things). This support is provided by those whose morality is ensured through being at the other end of humanitarianism (aid-giver) as well as through not having experienced the “loss”—hence, assumption of completeness and integrity. Therefore, the ways in which the loss is addressed, through story-telling as well as through acting upon it, open new venues for further questions as to how the “loss” is conceptualized; which forms of “loss” is more worth telling than others; and what the stories of “loss” conceal while revealing others.

In this paper, I propose to address, first, the forms of “loss” that is found worthy of being a story (in this case, loss of one’s homeland and one’s father – “refugees” and “orphans”, respectively). Secondly, I set out to ask how these forms of losses and their stories work to create figures of morality and how these stories conceal forms of labor, exploitation and the broader relations of force. Based on the field research I did in Denizli, Turkey, in January-December 2017, I propose to look into how the relations between stories of loss, morality and labor are intermingled and shaped by a humanitarian discourse.

Keywords: Humanitarianism, Loss, Morality, Story-telling