

The University of Toronto

TURKISH-GERMAN INTERSECTIONS **-Art between Integration and Resistance-**

GER 423H / Winter 2017

Instructor: **EROL M BORAN**
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Hours: M 10-12

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Class meets on **M 4-6 at tba**

DESCRIPTION



This course looks at the 50 year cultural history of Germany's largest ethnic minority. Starting in the 1960s, Turks first came as labour migrants ('guest workers') and later, in the 1980s, as asylum seekers; there were always artists among them. With them new impulses and perspectives reached German culture. First in Turkish, but soon also in German the migrants reacted to and interacted with their new surroundings. Over the years a vibrant Turkish-German cultural scene developed. Comparable to the political realm, their cultural integration was filled with challenges and obstacles. Nonetheless artists of Turkish origin have since become such an integral part of Germany's cultural landscape

that the scholar Leslie Adelson talks about a Turkish turn of German literature. This development is not restricted to literature, but also encompasses film, political cabaret, stand-up comedy, rap and hip-hop, etc.

The course focusses on central developments, important artists and their works. Its goal is to explore the contributions of Germany's culturally most active minority to German culture, to familiarize ourselves with the characteristics of Turkish-German art ('art with an accent'), and to look at German postwar history from the perspective of that minority. The course requires regular readings in German and several four obligatory film sessions after class (i.e. M 6-8).



[Note: A more detailed syllabus will be posted in early August.]