

Abstract

In the last decade, state power in the “New Turkey” has been gaining strength, adopting an increasingly authoritarian character, and penetrating more and more spaces that previously maintained a certain degree of independence. Concurrently, new social movements and areas where various forms of resistance arise are expanding. This thesis ethnographically examines one such space, Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, and the dynamics between the administrative, state, and police power with resistance practices of academicians and students that have significantly evolved since January 2021. This research aims to understand the transformations of the resistance in response to the repressive apparatuses it faces, based on two fieldwork periods (February–June 2023, and April–May 2024). It focuses particularly on the form and objectives of student and queer student resistance, which have become the primary targets of the authoritarian intervention at the university. The study discusses how queer participants in the protest navigate their vulnerability and mobilize intersectionality to reclaim their queer subjectivity in the face of power that seeks to render it invisible. By emphasizing forms of resistance that persist beyond the initial mobilization, this research contributes to the anthropological understanding of resistance in authoritarian regimes and the mechanisms of marginalization in the contemporary socio-political context of Turkey.

Keywords

power, state, hegemony, resistance, university, intersectionality, subjectivity, queer (LGBTI+), Turkey