
Editorial

Perceptions continues to publish special issues, and this one examines 50 years of migration from Turkey to Germany. The emigration process is a multi-dimensional and multi-faceted one and needs to be studied from different perspectives and through an interdisciplinary approach. As migration from Turkey to Germany has been happening for half a century, it is time to evaluate the past, raise questions about current issues, and think about the future. Turkey's new foreign policy puts a renewed emphasis on the Turkish population abroad and Turkish migrants in Germany are of major interest in the new policy. *The Center for Strategic Research (SAM)* will continue to organize academic events on this issue with a particular focus on its relevance for policy making.

This special issue is published in cooperation with the *Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities*. SAM coordinates its activities with related state institutions and it has a growing network of think-tanks and universities. For example, we have published a paper by Mehmet Görmez, *President of the Directorate of Religious Affairs*, in SAM Papers and will continue to publish reports and papers on institutions with a role in the foreign policy-making process

in Turkey. Our cooperation with the relatively new institution of the Prime Ministry, *Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities*, will continue with specific projects on issues of joint interest. Also *Perceptions's* book review editor Şule Toktaş edited this special issue and I would like to thank her for her efforts in bringing this collection together.

The first article in this issue, entitled '50 Years after the Labour Recruitment Agreement with Germany: The Consequences of Emigration for Turkey', is by Ahmet İçduygu. The author provides the facts and figures that outline the process of emigration from Turkey to Germany and demarcates its fundamental aspects. After providing a historical synopsis, he examines the push and pull factors behind the movements of people across borders, the waves of migration over the years, and the change in the content and context of these waves. Additionally, he explores the similarities and differences between migration to Germany and migration to other regions in the world, including Australia, the Middle East, and other areas of Europe. Dr. İçduygu also provides insights regarding the impact of emigration on the Turkish social, economic and

political life, and gives an assessment of labour emigration from Turkey in the last 50 years.

Migration from Turkey to Germany, however, did not consist solely of labour migration and also included movements of people to reunite with families, as well as to study, as the two following articles discuss. In his article, 'Politics, Symbolics and Facts: Migration Policies and Family Migration from Turkey to Germany', Can M. Aybek examines family migration with a focus on German immigration policies. He provides demographic figures and substantial data concerning family reunions after the initial wave of guest workers emigrated from Turkey to Germany. Basing his argument on a theory of symbolic politics, he analyzes the political discussions that emerged concerning Germany's policies regarding family migration from the 1960s to the early 2000s, and concludes that the German policy was underpinned by anti-immigration sentiment. Although the last decade has witnessed a partial reversal, this process has been accompanied by measures that limit migration and integration.

As regards student migration from Turkey to Germany, Başak Bilecen-Süoğlu examines the brain drain/brain gain/brain circulation arguments in her article 'Trends in Student Mobility from Turkey to Germany'. The movement of highly skilled workers across national borders is a pressing subject in migration

studies and development studies. In this article, the author examines the results obtained from qualitative research that was carried out with doctorate students in Germany, and reflects on the fact that the experiences of international students are indicative of the opportunities and the infrastructure both in the sending and receiving countries. Dr. Bilecen-Süoğlu argues that decisions by highly skilled immigrants concerning their future are shaped by policies on immigration and education, along with visa and labour market regulations.

Deniz Sert, in the article 'Integration and/or Transnationalism? The Case of Turkish-German Transnational Space', carries the discussion to transnational spaces, another crucial aspect of immigration in a globalized world. By using empirical research conducted using semi-structured and life-course qualitative interviews with Turkish-German immigrants and their significant others, the study reveals a wide variety of transnational contacts, activities, and orientations. The article shows that cross-border activities and orientations undergirded by transnational practices are frequent in the German-Turkish case. One finding of the research indicates that there is a positive correlation between cross-border activities and orientations, and inter-cultural and integration-related practices. The author, after analyzing these varieties in light of the theory on transnationalism and integration,

concludes that transnationalism and integration are mutually supportive processes and that there is a positive, concurrent and mutually beneficial relationship between them, rather than a mere co-existence.

Taking up the issues of transnational spaces and the globalized nature of international migration, Bianca Kaiser, in '50 Years and Beyond - The Mirror of Migration: German Citizens in Turkey', provides a detailed analysis of the heterogeneity of German migrants to Turkey. Her analysis of the German community living in Turkey, the population of which is estimated to be between 90,000 and 120,000, reveals that there are different categories of immigrants. Appointed personnel members and their families are a form of expatriate migration, and the German spouses of Turkish citizens and the descendants of German spouses of Turkish citizens represent a type of family migration. Additionally, there are German citizens who have migrated to Turkey to retire, and there is education-based migration as well through Erasmus and other exchange programmes. Refugees who fled the Nazi regime in the Second World War and settled in Turkey represent yet another form of migration. Kaiser examines in detail the characteristics of each migrant group, reconfirming the existence of a transnational space between Germany and Turkey.

In the last article of this special issue on migration from Turkey to Germany, Philip Martin draws a comparative analysis of Turkey as a migrant sending and receiving country. The author makes an overall assessment of migration from Turkey to the EU, and reviews the general trends of migration out of and into Turkey while providing insights about guest worker recruitment and integration in Western Europe. Martin also highlights the recent changes in Turkey's country profile as regards the outward and inward movement of migrants. This article critically analyses the relationship between the economy and labour migration in Turkey, which borders and has close ties with one of the most developed regions in the world, and draws a comparison with the situation in Mexico, which, due to its proximity to the USA, offers fertile ground for such a comparative approach.

Perceptions is the flagship publication of SAM. In addition to *Perceptions*, SAM publishes SAM Papers and Vision Papers. SAM has also redesigned its web page and you may follow SAM activities and publications at <http://www.sam.gov.tr>. Soon, we will have new special issues, looking at, among other topics, the foreign policy-making process, Turkish-Armenian relations, and the Balkans. Stay tuned for more.

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