The Importance of Creativity and Innovation for Adopting Istanbul as European Capital of Culture

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The Importance of Creativity and Innovation for Adopting Istanbul as ECoC

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1 Introduction

The Importance of Creativity and Innovation for The Development of

Istanbul – Κωνσταντινούπολις – στιν πολιν – إسلامبول

Wrapped in „hüzün“ – Istanbul’s mood of melancholy – suffering from the image „The sick man of the Bosphorus“
2 Historical Background

Focussing Three Aspects

• Birth of Turkey as Republic (1923)
  Fighting against the desintegration of the country

• „The long way to the west“
  Migration from Far East Siberia to Anatolia and then to Europe

• The On-going Search for Cultural Identity
  Paradigm shift from homogeneity to specification
2 Historical Background

Nation Building: Birth of Turkey as Republic by the Army (1923)

The Turkish nation loves its armed forces; and regards it as the preserver of its ideals.

 Atatürk: „Father of all Turks“
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2 Historical Background

„The Long Way to the West“ (U. Steinbach)

Turkey‘s Moon and Star
Moving towards Europe – and the EU?

EC‘s recent progress report

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Nâzım Hikmet Ran (Jan. 15, 1902 – June 2, 1963)

Invitation

Galloping from Far Asia
and jutting out Into the Mediterranean
like a mare’s head:
this country is ours.

Wrists in blood, teeth clenched, feet bare
and this soil, spreading like a silk carpet:
this hell, this paradise is ours.

Shut the gates of servitude to others,
don't let them open again,
abolish man's slavery to man!
This invitation is ours.

To live! Like a tree, „single and free
and brotherly like a forest:
This yearning is ours!
Turkey rehabilitates poet Hikmet

„It is a step toward accepting differences in opinions, languages and ethnicity, which is necessary to become a member in the EU“

Dogu Ergil, Political analyst, Ankara University
http://gurcanaral.multiply.com/links/item/120

Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet regains citizenship

„Nazim Hikmet was stripped of his citizenship for his Marxist beliefs in the 1950s after he fled the country, having spent years in Turkish prisons.

Hikmet, who died in exile in Moscow in 1963, revolutionised Turkish poetry during the 1930s and has had his work translated into some 50 languages.“

Alison Flood, 07 Jan. 2009,
http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2009/jan/07/turkey-nazim-hikmet

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2 Historical Background

• Search for Cultural Identity/Unity

‘How happy is he who can say “I am a Turk”’

One country, One nation, One leader –

No space for diversity?

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Main Conflicts in Present Politics

3. Decreed Standstill?

**Article 301 (Turkish Penal Code)**

1. A person who publicly denigrates Turkishness, the Republic or the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, shall be punishable by imprisonment of between six months and three years.

2. A person who publicly denigrates the Government of the Republic of Turkey, the judicial institutions of the State, the military or security organizations shall be punishable by imprisonment of between six months and two years.

3. In cases where denigration of Turkishness is committed by a Turkish citizen in another country the punishment shall be increased by one third.

4. Expressions of thought intended to criticize shall not constitute a crime.

This article was amended on April 30, 2008.

http://en.wikipedia.org/
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Intellectuals break habits and pick a fight with the establishment

Bastard Out of Istanbul of Istanbul
Free speech runs afoul of Turkish authorities
Publishers Weekly 10/3/2005
By Michael Scharf

On December 16, Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk, whose memoir Istanbul: Memories and the City was published in June, will go on trial for remarks he made recently to a Swiss newspaper regarding the 1915 Armenian genocide: "thirty thousand Kurds and a million Armenians were killed in these lands and nobody but me dares to talk about it."

Currently at home in Istanbul, Pamuk is being charged with "insult[ing] the Republic," and faces up to four years in prison. Pamuk may be the best known, but he is far from the only writer in legal trouble for demanding that Turkey face up to its violent past. According to PEN International, there are more than 50 cases on similar charges pending in Turkish courts. Seen in this context, novelist Elif Shafak is either very brave, a little reckless, or both.

On Sunday, September 25, on the occasion of a repeatedly scuttled, finally consummated conference in Istanbul on recognizing the genocide, Turkish novelist Shafak, 34, published an op-ed in the Washington Post that refers to "the massacres, atrocities and deportations that decimated Turkey's Armenian population in the last years of Ottoman rule, particularly 1915." While there has been no official reaction yet, Pamuk's case suggests that Shafak's writing could provoke the government to bring charges against her. It's a possibility that Shafak acknowledges, but does not seem to dwell on. Even before her op-ed, the literati in Istanbul and elsewhere had been bracing for a widening of the controversy in the form of her sixth novel, The Bastard of Istanbul.

http://www.armeniapedia.org/
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in Memoriam

† Hrant Dink, killed Jan. 19, 2007

‘How dead is he who says “I am an Armenian”’

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Collecting garbage of former times

„The Cracking of the Pits

Orhan Pamuk collects in his „Museum of Innocence“ the garbage of a great love and a great city: all the little tiny things as well as smells and noises.“

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4 Culture of „Crossing the Bridge(S)“

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4 Culture of „Crossing the Bridge“

Fatih Akın’s music movie, released on 09 June, 2005, 

Canvas Audience Award, 2005

- Baba Zula
- Ceza
- Orient Expressions
- Duman
- Replikas
- Erkin Koray,
- Istanbul Style Breakers,
- Mercan Dede,
- Selim Sesler,
- Brenna MacCrimmon,
- Siyasiyabend,
- Orhan Gencebay,
- Sezen Aksu,
- Aynur Doğan

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Elif Şafak: Aşk, bu dünyayı aşan bir duygudur /

Love is a feeling which excels this world

What do Mrs Ella Rubinstein, a middle aged housewife of a Jewish family living in Boston in the 2000s and Mevlana who lived in Konya the 1200s have in common? Elif Şafak comments that “love is not a feeling which only belongs to this world but also excels beyond”.

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http://www.ebruproject.com

Ebru
Reflections of Cultural Diversity in Turkey

The Project and The Book

Over seven years in the making, Ebru is a sweeping and poignant photographic journey that illuminates, through the faces of its people, the rich cultural diversity of Turkey.

The English translation of “ebru” is “marbled paper,” which refers to the fluidity of paint and water on paper, with its creative combination of water and paper, “ebru” inspires the possibility of conceptualizing historical flow and “passing solidarity” at the same time. As such, it is a metaphor that offers a promising alternative to others like “the mosaic” or “the cult” for thinking through the new and old dilemmas of cultural politics at the turn of the century.
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Official Statement:

CULTURAL LIFE IN ISTANBUL

With the declaration of the Republic in 1923, the state took the primary role in guiding and investing in organised cultural activity. This was seen as part and parcel of making a break with the past and giving the new Republic a clear identity as Turkish (supporting a revival of Turkish folk forms) and secular Western (promoting western classical music, ballet and opera). However, today the non-governmental and private sectors play an increasingly influential role in the cultural field and, in many cultural areas, a leading role. This is particularly the case in Istanbul.

http://www.en.istanbul2010.org/
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5 ECoC as Framework for Further Development

Targets

http://www.en.istanbul2010.org/

Founded on the mission to prepare Istanbul for the process of 2010 European Capital of Culture and to coordinate joint efforts for this process Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency has got following primary targets:

- To expose unique features of Istanbul
- To realize projects for preservation of cultural heritage
- To improve infrastructure and participation to culture and arts
- To present Istanbul bu culture and arts
- To increase the share of Istanbul in cultural tourism
- To encourage Istanbul people to participate in decision making process

Civil Society Dialogue
İstanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Grant Scheme Programme

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6 Conclusion, Hope and Expectations

Summing up:
The task of innovation and creativity for Istanbul as a microcosmos of a globalised world is to become aware of the different cultures within, accept and integrate them to enrich the own world and build something new, for the benefit of all.

http://www.en.istanbul2010.org/