



Eda Elif Tibet

Learning to be freed: Deep encounters with the unaccompanied asylum seeking youth in Turkey

The asylum seeking youth often voyage emotionally through the many wounds they receive along the way. Having to endure the horrors of war and violence, they are often haunted by the memories of neglected traumatic childhoods. This presentation is based on a PhD field work period between 2015 and 2016 in Istanbul Turkey and is co-created together with the youth from Afghanistan, Somalia, DRC, Iran and Syria residing at a state care shelter for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers. Among them, Abdi Deeq becomes the interlocutor, translator and the co-ethnographer of the research, as we conducted participatory radio shows and photography workshops together. Thus, the many new metaphors of hybrid realities produced during the workshops in videos, audio recordings, photographic images and in their elicitations, provided a deep encounter and recognition into their legacies of pain, suffering and triumph in ways that transformed present reality and representation, as the youth longed, searched and learnt to be freed.

Biosketch

Eda Elif Tibet is an independent documentary filmmaker, an anthropologist from Istanbul and a current PhD candidate at the University of Bern, Switzerland. She holds an MPhil degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Kent, UK. Her recent award-winning films include [Refugee Here I am](#) (2015) and [Ballad for Syria](#) (2017), produced and directed under her independent label, [Karma Motion](#). In the premises of shared and participatory action research, she aims for social change and therefore her understanding of filmmaking is against any hierarchical representations or power relations. As part of her PhD research, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, Elif followed the lives of the unaccompanied asylum seeking youth in Turkey right at the time of the drafting processes of the EU and Turkey deal till its realisation (2015/2016). By undertaking an ethnographic effort to illuminate the singularity of human becoming, she documented on how new intersections and imagination can sometimes against all odds propel unexpected futures.

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