

## **Ecological citizen in the midst of right to the city movements in Turkey**

Social movements, as powerful channels of political expression and mobilization, have become global phenomena with potential to reshape societies and politics around the world. The purpose of this paper is to produce an interdisciplinary study of right to the city movements by analyzing the re-politicization of the citizens engaged in Turkey's Gezi movement. Despite the large diversity of scholarly explanations of social movements revolving around different societal issues in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe, little has been said about the repercussions that politicization can have on our understanding of citizenship. Firstly, the paper aims at analyzing how processes of urban and ecological re-politicization feature in Turkey's Gezi Movement. Gezi movement became landmarks of contemporary socio-ecological struggles manifesting themselves as mobilizations against urban transformation. The struggles targeted mega-projects that were leading to enclosure of urban/rural commons, but at the same time they also created ruptures, generating spaces of hope, cooperation, and the reclamation of right to the city against market-oriented developmentalism. Secondly, the paper aims at exploring the concept of ecological citizenship. This will be done by analyzing strategies and potentials of the movements regarding socio-political change and improvement of citizenship practices. The new concept of ecological citizenship has emerged from critiques of liberal democracy, highlighting the limited degree of citizen participation in areas that generate ecological problems, e.g. decisions about consumption, investment strategies, production and technology. From this perspective, the reconstruction of citizenship as ecological citizenship underlines the responsibilities and obligations of the citizen in the framework of a sustainable society and in relation to unrepresented or underrepresented collectives. As such it also represents an expansion of political space and participation. The proposed research project draws on the concept of ecological citizenship to analyze new public spaces created by Gezi, and how these serve as platforms for creative and constructive strategies of ecological transformation. These strategies include guerilla plantations, urban gardening, neighborhood forums, protest art, world extension teams for social media mobilization and participatory budgeting. This is conceptualized along a continuum of active citizenry, whereby social movements facilitate the movement of populations towards active and ecological citizenship. Together, the focus on new spaces, practices and strategies means that the proposed paper will be capable of balancing the mass media discourses, which tend to view social movements through lenses of conflict, chaos and violence.