

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the events in Istanbul's Sulukule quarter, which began in 2005, when the authorities ruling in Istanbul approved the revitalization project of Istanbul's Sulukule quarter in Fatih district. The oldest Roma quarter in Istanbul, dedicated to the local Roma according to legends already by Sultan Mehmed II. for helping in the conquest of the city, was a famous place where many went for music, dancing and entertainment. As a result of the revitalization project, several hundred families lost their homes and luxury houses were built on this place instead. The goal of the work is to map this project from its beginnings to 2010, to focus on how local residents were dealt with and what their options were to defend themselves against the project. The work places the project in Sulukule in the context of the phenomenon of kentsel dönüşüm, which is taking place throughout Turkey and which aims to revitalize residential areas, among other things, due to the impending earthquakes. However, this project mainly affects zones where investments do not flow in the long term and are inhabited by less well-off social groups that cannot effectively resist revitalization. The work will outline the history of the Roma community in Turkey and in Sulukule. The main contribution of the work will be the creation of a systematic case study of the gentrification project in the district of Sulukule, analyzed on the basis of reports that appeared in the media, and an analysis of how the community was affected, what defense options were available to them and whether human rights were violated.

Key Words:

Roma in Turkey, Sulukule, kentsel dönüşüm, Roma rights, gentrification