

Migration, Islam and Masculinities: Transforming Emigration and Immigration Societies

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The Ghetto Flâneur: Movement and Space in Thomas Arslan's Oeuvre

My talk discusses the representation of movement and space in Thomas Arslan's oeuvre particularly in his film *Geschwister—Kardesler* (Brothers and Sisters, 1997). I situate the politics of movement and space in *Geschwister* in the transnational cinema of ghetto films characterized by movement in public but circumscribed spaces, which connects such diverse films as *Horse*, *Shaft*, *Bush Mama* and *Mama Roma*. These films capture the aftereffects of migration, both transnational and rural to urban. The recurring motif of movement through urban space evokes Walter Benjamin's concept of the flâneur. Since Benjamin developed the notion of the flâneur in exile, my talk investigates the vestiges of migration in his theorization of the flâneur. My talk also emphasizes the underlying structure of gender that turns the flâneur into an inherently male figure accompanied by the figure of the female prostitute. Arslan's cinematic construction of movement and space illustrates the limitations of Benjamin's model but also re-imagines the figure of the flâneur. *Geschwister* portrays the social reproduction of masculinity in migration and through that process comments on and reconfigures a migratory concept of masculinity.

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