



ZMO-Colloquium Winter Term 2015/2016

*The Future of the City: Contested Urbanism
in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*

Thursday, March 3rd, 2016, 5 pm

Authoritarian Urban Planning and The People's Response: Understanding the Protest in Gezi Park

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Tarık Şengül (METU, Ankara)

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

Turkey has been undergoing a dramatic change fueled by the twin dynamics of the commodification of the commons and by the conservative authoritarianism of the AKP led government. Urban space itself has been at the heart of this conflict and has created a radical split in society. The Gezi uprising emerged as a reaction to government policies which were accompanied by an increasing authoritarianism of the government and a failure of the insitutional political fields in responding to such divisive policies. As an ongoing process Gezi emerged as a political mobilisation from the outside of usual insitutional political fields and has challenged not only dominant urban policies but also the accepted rules of the political field. As an unusual political form, the Gezi uprising has been a bottom-up populist mobilisation which has brought a vast array of groups and organisations together around a demand, but without a clear leadership. Likewise, the Gezi uprising has produced its own distinctive spatial practices as well as representational spaces and spaces of representation in a short period of time. Nonetheless, it is still early to judge whether the Gezi uprising could be deemed as an event creating durable changes in the dominant structures and relations of Turkey.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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Having received his undergraduate degree in City and Regional Planning and a postgraduate degree in Political Science and Public Administration at METU, **Tarık Şengül** obtained his PhD degree in Urban Studies in the University of Kent at Canterbury with a thesis entitled "Hegemony and Urban Space". He acted as the coordinator of preparation of the Master Plan of Diyarbakir Metropolitan area (2004-6) and was the president of Chambers of Urban Planners (2008-2010). He is currently a Professor of Urban Studies in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at METU where he has been working since 1987. He is the author of number of books in Turkish and numerous articles, published in national and international journals.