



Turkish Cinema: Identity, Distance and Belonging

By Gönül Dönmez-Colin

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Turkish Cinema: Identity, Distance and Belonging is the first comprehensive study of the cinema of Turkey to be published in English. A recurring theme in the book is the Turkish quest for a modern identity in a world where borders, attitudes and people themselves are shifting and relocating. Turkey is a society striving to reconcile modern attitudes to morals with traditional values and centuries-old customs and its films reflect these contradictions.

Against this background Gönül Dönmez-Colin evaluates contemporary Turkish filmmakers, as well as the films of those who have left and those who have been exiled from Turkey. Themes of internal and external migration, as well as the voices of the 'denied identities' such as the Kurds are integral to the book. Gender and sexuality, taboo subjects that only the new generation of filmmakers dare to expose are also discussed – homosexuality, lesbianism, honour killings, and incest are some of the ground-breaking points of the author's account.

Written by a film scholar familiar with Turkish language and culture who has undertaken extensive research both in Turkey and its neighbouring countries, this is an indispensable reference for students of cinema and Middle Eastern studies, as well as the general reader interested in this dynamic, rich and thoroughly modern national cinema.

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Review

"A much needed book, Gönül Dönmez-Colin's *Turkish Cinema* offers challenging and innovative perspectives on this rich national film tradition. Thoroughly researched, fluently written and always thought-provoking, *Turkish Cinema* is an indispensable work for anyone interested in the complex and persistent role of film in defining identities."—Alberto Elena, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

(Alberto Elena)

"With interest in Turkish cinema so high, it is particularly apt that renowned film scholar Gönül Dönmez-Colin has chosen to bring out her insightful and comprehensive review of Turkish cinema . . . I heartily recommend this book as scholarly, lucid and readable. It is profusely illustrated . . . its discussion of the underlying circumstances of each production will enhance the viewing experience."

(*Edinburgh Review*)

"*Turkish Cinema* provides non-Turkish readers with a welcome introduction to a subject which hitherto has received scant critical attention." —*Screen*

(*Screen*)

"This volume provides an in-depth yet accessibly written analysis of the various visual and conceptual themes that run through Turkish film from the early 20th century to the present. It specifically examines the ways in which Turkish cinema both reflects and attempts to create a modern national identity for Turkey."—*Middle East Journal*

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"The importance of *Turkish Cinema: Identity, Distance and Belonging* lies in just that: Donmez-Colin lays out convincingly how today's Turkish cinema is connected to its past. . . . In a film-cultural climate where these kinds of developments seem to count less and less, this is an important argument to insist on."

(Olaf Moller *Cinema Scope*)

About the Author

Gönül Dönmez-Colin is a film scholar specializing in the cinemas of Central Asia and the Middle East. She is the author of *Women, Islam and Cinema*, *Cinemas of the Other: A Personal Journey with Filmmakers from the Middle East and Central Asia*, and *The Cinema of North Africa and the Middle East*.

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