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The spatial negotiations of local gender norms in the Turkish province Hatay

Abstract

Irrespective of the fact that gender equity in Turkey was established 1934 in quite an early stage and subsequently consolidated through international obligations, crucial differences between the national and local level still exist. Women's limited participation in areas of education and in the labor market, their negligible presence and activity in public affairs, especially in rural Turkey raise the question of the local causes of ongoing social inequality of women against the background of spatial practices and mobility.

The dissertation project analyzes the structural interlinkages of space and gender norms and to illustrate empirically the sustained effects of local gender norms on spatial mobility in Hatay, a Turkish province at the Syrian border. Within a theoretical framework of constructivist approaches the dissertation focuses on the following questions:

How is women's spatial mobility and their access to certain spaces (de-)legitimized and justified on a local level despite the constitutional equality of men and women? How do local norms regarding the spatial mobility practices of women affect their social mobility and their inclusion in society?