



Arab migration to Istanbul and the creation of Arab cultural and media scenes

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During the last two decades, Turkey (and particularly Istanbul) has become a place for the creation and the dissemination of cultural and media flows to Arab countries. Istanbul hosts several thousand Arab journalists and media professionals working for Arab websites, newspapers, magazines, and satellite TV and radio stations for Syrian, Palestinian, Egyptian, Iraqi, Libyan and Yemeni audiences. In the publishing sector, Arab publishing houses and bookshops have been established, and an Arab book fair was held for the first time in Istanbul in 2015. Research centres and think tanks publishing in Arabic have also been set up. All of this has contributed to making Istanbul a place of Arab intellectual and ideological production. This presentation will focus on the plural relationship between “expressive specialists” (Ulf Hannerz) and the city through the analysis of different professional and life trajectories. It will also address the issue of urban cosmopolitanism in a context of forced migration and political engagement.