Istanbul Urban Sociology Course

Summary
Due to urbanization, modernization and industrialization policies of Turkey, Istanbul's population grew from around one million in 1950, to three million in 1980, 13 million in 2010 and finally reached more than 15 million today. As basically each year a city of half a million is added to the existing urban area, Istanbul keeps on growing. Triggered by giant urban investment projects, Istanbul probably transformed the most radically among European cities in the last decades.

How did this come about? What does that mean for a city and its inhabitants? Which social groups live in Istanbul, how do they survive and get along with each other? What are the fundamental conflicts in society? What kind of daily life offers the city? How is urban space produced? How do decision making process work under conditions of massive growth? Who are the winners, losers and opponents in this process? What is unique and what is ordinary about the example of Istanbul?

In order to answer these questions, we will refer to the concepts of three well-known sociologist and social theorist: Gramsci, Lefebvre and Bourdieu. Lefebvre's production of space theory, Gramsci's Force-Consent and Hegemony theories and Bourdieu's capital forms and distinction will serve analytic tools to understand the city and Istanbul in particular better.

Evaluation Method
Students are asked to write a paper of approximately 3000 words, that relates to the articles, lectures and discussion in the lectures. The student chooses the topic of the paper independently, but with the help and advice from the lecturer. Papers may focus on Istanbul, any comparative study is welcome, too. Paper proposals will be discussed in Lecture 5 on 16th of march and full papers will be submitted via mail to erbatur@erbatur.com until the 23rd of March. 25 % of the grading will be based on contribution to the discussions in class.

Plan
15.03.2018-Lecture 4: Re-thinking Distinction, Social/Spatial Segregation with Bourdieu.

Reading List
Lecture 1:

Lecture 2:

Lecture 3:
Çavuşoğlu, Erbatur & Strutz, Julia, “We’ll Come and Demolish Your House! The Role

Lecture 4: