

Problematizing the Hyphen: Disorientation and Doubled Otherness in Fatih Akin's *Head-On*

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Abstract

As guest work programs after World War II transitioned into permanent settlements, Turkish immigrants in Germany, bringing their customs and traditions along with them, presented specific challenges to politics of citizenship. These tensions are skilfully addressed in Fatih Akin's *Head-On/Gegen die Wand* (2004), the recipient of the Golden Bear at Berlinale. The film explores the complications of hyphenated identity in regards to the second-generation, German-born Turks, who are doubly-Othered due to their racial and religious difference; their alienation is further enhanced because of their troubled relationship with the national and diasporic communities. Drawing on diaspoetics, this essay focuses on the characterization of the two protagonists, who experience "disorientation" as a temporary disruption of identity caused by the confusion, alienation, and instability. Simultaneously, the film provides an interesting study of Turkey's desire to construct a Eurasian identity in order to boost its membership bid for the EU.

Keywords: hyphenated identity, disorientation, immigration, generation gap