Tas, Birkan, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Netherlands

Sexualized Spaces, Spatialized Sexualities

Regarding space as a physical, mental and social product in Lefebvrian terms and a social reality which is produced by and productive of (sexual) identities and broader social relation, this paper explores the relationship between space and LGBTQ sexualities in the everyday life of Istanbul's urban district called Beyoğlu. Drawing upon queer theories and using an autoethnographical framework of analysis, the study aims at examining the role of space in the practice of sexuality in everyday life. This is achieved though in-depth interviews and a visual analysis of photographs taken by LGBTQ participants living in that area who are instructed to take their own photographs in spaces where they feel most secure, as far as the practice of their sexuality is concerned. In so doing, the study aims at analysing the dialectical relationship of the material and experienced aspects of space and it questions the relationships between space and queer theory.