

PhD student: Mazlum Kemal Dağdelen, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Main defence report: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aysu Arsoy – Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Eastern Mediterranean University

PhD dissertation title: Constructing Turkishness in Cyprus: A Discourse-Theoretical Analysis of Turkish Cypriot Children's Magazines Published between the 1950s and 1980s.

Date: September 11, 2025

The PhD thesis is of high quality, and I recommend it for the main defense.

Issues to be clarified and questions to be answered during the defense:

Research methodology

- How did you choose these magazines? [it is not clear]....
- What were the other options and why did you focus on only these ones?
- What is the legitimation of the selected period of study?

Theory/literature

- 'Paradigm shift' [at the begging]: What does it mean for this research? It is not clear.
- There are some gaps in the literature review, addressing for instance, the Turkish/Cypriot myth, which is not mentioned in the thesis [2.1 Nation as a discursive construction]. See, e.g., Arsoy, A. (2017). A Treasure in Varosha: The role of a Cypriot myth in the construction of Turkish nationalist identity. In V. Doudaki & N. Carpentier (eds). *Cyprus and its Conflicts: Representations, Materialities, and Cultures*. Berghahn Books, 228-245.

The language of the thesis is good but would profit from some 'polishing'.

RQs

- The primary research question of this study is: "How is Turkishness discursively constructed in Turkish Cypriot children's magazines published in Cyprus between the 1950s and 1980s?"

As it is mentioned in the thesis: "To better understand how Turkishness is constructed in these children's magazines within the conflicted context of Cyprus, the texts are analysed to examine how they attempt to produce and fixate the meaning of Turkishness by articulating specific signifiers".

Which Turkishness are we talking about? Developing Turkish Cypriotness or Turkishness?