

ARIT LECTURE at ANAMED Auditorium and on ZOOM

Monday, December 12, 2022, 6:00 pm Istanbul, 10:00 am New York

Anatolian Rock and 1960s Social Movements in Turkey: Between the Countryside and the World

by Dr. Kenan Sharpe, ARIT National Endowment for the Humanities research fellow

In person hybrid lecture at Koc University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations Auditorium, İstiklal Caddesi, 181, Merkez Han, Beyoğlu

For livestreaming on zoom, please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlfumorjorHdBBmQNnxhPDqZYD2cPLW57->

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Dr. Sharpe offers a cultural history of Anatolian Rock, a genre of popular music combining Turkish folk music with European and North American rock 'n' roll. In the 1960s and 1970s, musicians like Cem Karaca and Selda Bağcan brought together traditional lyrics and melodies from the Anatolian countryside with modern instruments like electric guitars, bass, drum kit, and synthesizers. The presentation situates the music within the history of 1960s social movements in Turkey and the global youth countercultures of the period. It discusses the historical and social dynamics linking Anatolia to the cities and peasants to students, the influence of rural musical traditions on youth culture, the influence of the official ideology of peasantism in the creation of Anatolian Rock, and cold war-era dynamics of American cultural influence. The talk discusses the historical roots, musical underpinnings, and political implications of Anadolu Rock, as well as the reasons for its ongoing appeal.



Kenan Behzat Sharpe received his PhD in Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2019. His dissertation, "Cultural Revolutions: Turkey and the United States During the Long 1960s," focused on the poetry and popular music of social movements. His research explores the relationship between protest and cultural production in Turkey, Greece, and the U.S. during moments of political mobilization such as the 1960s and the 1930s popular front. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the American Research Institute in Turkey, where he is doing research for his first academic book, *Rockers and Radicals in Anatolia: Turkish Psychedelic Rock and the World 1960s*. Sharpe also works as a journalist, having spent two years as an arts/culture columnist at *Duvar English*. He hosts a weekly program called "Pop & Politics" at Medyascope.tv featuring interviews with Turkish artists, musicians, actors, writers, and filmmakers.