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SOCIETÀ PER GLI STUDI SUL MEDIO ORIENTE

TITOLO/TITLE: *Cultural and Ideological Connections in Cold War Turkey: Political Paths, Media and Representations*

PROPONENTE/I – PROPONENT/s: Fulvio Bertuccelli

ABSTRACT (1500 parole/words):

This panel takes inspiration from the historiographical debate that has developed over the last thirty years from the need to adopt a pluralist and multidimensional approach in understanding the Cold War in its various facets (Westad 2012), with specific reference to the Turkish case. The conflict between the Western and the Eastern blocs indeed implied a wide range of local responses resulting from the interaction between global and local dynamics which affected not just high politics but societies' inner social and cultural dynamics as well (Saunders 1999, Robin 2001, Richmond 2003). By geographically and spatially extending the field of investigation and taking advantage of a wide range of disciplines, such as Cultural Studies, Intellectual History, Literature and Translation Studies, the “cultural turn” in Cold War studies has been building a new relation with the traditional disciplines on the subject (Political History, International Relations or Diplomatic History). In this perspective, this panel assumes that adopting a plural and “decentralized” perspective (as suggested by Westad 2005 and Mooney and Lanza 2013) is now an inevitable step towards gaining new insights into the complexity of spatially and chronologically diluted Cold War competition.

Undoubtedly, Turkey's position in the Cold War is not an uncovered topic although most scholarly production focuses on the country's foreign policy and diplomacy. In the last fifteen years there have been however works addressing the study of the cultural dimension of the Cold War questioning the relationship between global context and local manifestations (Üngör and Örnek 2013, Örnek 2015, Gökay 2012, Rajak et al 2017, Özkan and Gürakar 2021). Furthermore, we are witnessing the proliferation of scholarly researches focusing on individual protagonists or specific periods (Aytürk 2014 and 2017, Pekesen 2020, Bora et al. 2014). However, the cultural and ideological dimension of the Cold War in Turkey is a relatively recent focus and there are many issues, actors, literatures, and media as yet unexamined.

In this perspective, the panel aims to gather contributions from humanities and social sciences reflecting on the global dynamics triggered by the Cold War and their domestic manifestations. Papers could focus on theoretical-methodological issues and case studies as well.

Are particularly (but not exclusively) welcome papers aiming to:

- Reconstruct and problematise the link between the global dynamics of the Cold War and its local manifestations, highlighting the interaction between international and local actors and thus overcoming both the deterministic approach hegemonic in international scholarly production and the holistic approach of historiography purely focused on Turkey.
- Trace the ideological and organisational influences in Turkish political and cultural landscape, drawing on connections with global and regional movements and trends.
- Investigate how the Cold War impacted the broad field of cultural production, including educational materials, literature, and cinema.

In this perspective, the panel is intended to be a moment of interdisciplinary discussion between scholars aiming to rethink the interpretative paradigms of Turkey's political and cultural history and to explore the connections between the Turkish Cold War dynamics and the MENA area.

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Fulvio Bertuccelli holds a PhD in “Turkey, Iran and Central Asia” from University of Naples “L’Orientale” with a dissertation titled “Kemalism and Socialism in the Turkish Left (1960-1971)” successfully defended in July 2013. He is currently adjunct professor of History of Islamic Countries at the University of Bologna and postdoctoral research fellow in History of Eastern Europe at Sapienza University of Rome. His main interests are contemporary political movements in Turkey, Turkish nationalism, kemalism, collective memory, cultural history and Turkish literature. Among his recent publications are *Challenging the “cultural hegemony” of the left in Cold War Turkey: the case of the Yeniden Milli Mücadele (National Struggle Anew) movement (1970-1980)*, in “Twentieth Century Communism” (1/2021), *Il movimento socialista in Turchia (1960-1971). Ideologia e politica tra due colpi di Stato* [The Socialist Movement in Turkey (1960-1971). Ideology and politics between two military coups], Aracne, Roma 2023, and *Minorities and Diasporas in Turkey. Public images and issues in education* (co-edited with Mihaela Gavrila and Fabio L. Grassi), Sapienza Università Editrice, Roma 2023.

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