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## From the Theme Editors...

We think it would be best to start by noting that proposing "Everyday Nationalism" as a theme for *Moment* came with certain hesitations. Foremost among these is the perception that nationalism is a saturated and even tiresome topic at this point in both academic and non-academic public opinion. As observed in other examples and traditions, it is hard to find effective graduate programs, long-term periodicals or associations/working groups focused on nationalism studies in Turkey. The relatively low number of graduate theses on nationalism and the relatively low interest in the courses on nationalism are also significant at this point. However, both the practical experiences imposed by living in Turkey and the conviction that competence in one branch of the social sciences gives one the right to speak on other subjects brings up a focus that everyone talks about - and feels compelled to talk about. In the face of this cacophony that accompanies the turbulent flow of political life, the necessity of opening new debates on nationalism all over again - albeit with the word "everyday" at the beginning - can also raise doubts in this respect.

However, the same doubts are what triggered our excitement towards the theme. Lefebvre's proposition of "the familiar is unknowable", which Lefebvre underlines with reference to Hegel in relation to debates on everyday life, in a way offers a legitimacy to the effort to tirelessly discuss the general and everyday forms of nationalism. It is precisely in the face of the damage caused by this familiarity of knowing and understanding that different methods, different foci and the search for a new balance between depth and breadth become urgent, possible and meaningful. Therefore, we have taken "everyday nationalism" as the theme title as a way of overcoming the familiarity of nationalism, and we are happy to realize that we are not alone in our interest as exemplified in this new issue. In the end, with a Bülent Ortaçgil-esque emphasis, it is open to debate whether understanding is enough to solve the problem, but we believe that this issue of *Moment* will make a direct and important contribution to the debates on everyday nationalism in Turkey.

As an ideology produced by modernism, nationalism still functions as one of the founders and legitimators of the current outlook of the world and the nation-states based on the capitalist economic system. The optimism brought by the developments in the recent past such as the disappearance of borders, the formation of standard law systems, common currencies, and supranational organizations, seems to be buried under the rising wall against immigration waves. At the point it has reached today, the dichotomies and

contradictions it has established such as inside and outside, us and others have become more common, striking, and painful. Once stood against the supremacy of the church, absolute monarchies, and expansionist movements, nationalism now points its muzzle at segments suffering from social inequalities, especially immigrants. Its creative quality which inspired songs, poems, and dances, is quite left behind now, and it often manifests itself in divisive discourses.

When we go one step beyond what is familiar, it is possible to encounter a different landscape. Fortunately, the history of nationalism also includes enrichment and deepening of the ways to understand and interpret it. Coming along with postmodernism and the "cultural turn", there has been important transformations and expansion in social sciences in terms of focus, method, and purpose which also affect the ways of thinking and discussing nationalism. All transitions from macro-analysis to micro-analysis, from ideology to discourse, from Eurocentrism to subaltern studies, from the clear boundaries of disciplines to interdisciplinarity, from the press to the new media, and from the "top" to the "down" affect the context in which nationalism will be sought, found and discussed. The idea that nationalism can be found not only in the unstable and conflicted geographies of the world but also in the tranquility of prosperous and established societies; that it can manifest itself not only in crises and extraordinary situations but in the ordinariness of life; and that it could be observed in all kinds of personal attitudes, relationships, and preferences, apart from passionate demonstrations and harsh political speeches, is strengthened in light of these developments.

The theme of this issue, "Everyday Nationalism", can be considered as an umbrella term under which the aforementioned issues can be gathered. Despite often associated with Michael Billig's Banal Nationalism, this theoretical framework, which greatly expands banal nationalism's scope and effect, follows Eric Hobsbawm's observation that even if nations are built from above, they cannot be understood unless viewed from below and his emphasis that attention should not be paid to governments, and spokespeople and activists of the nationalist movements but rather to ordinary people who are the targets of nationalist propaganda. The dialog Rogers Brubaker established between "ethnicity" literature and nationalism debates, who describes ethnicity not as an essence but as something that is only possible via everyday communication and encounters and is constantly reproduced, seems to create quite a productive perspective shift. Thus, as Beyen and van Ginderachter emphasize, everyday nationalism seeks common people's connections to the concept of the nation within not only national symbols, rituals, and identities but also their everyday behaviors, preferences, and tastes, by "writing the mass into a mass phenomenon". The literature, which was previously based on the political histories of vast geographies when it comes to knowledge about nations and nationalism, strives to answer such questions as to when, where, and in which contexts people consider nation meaningful for their lives and how they negotiate their ethnic and national identities in their everyday lives by referring to the 'everyday' based on mostly ethnographic methods. Moreover, it diversifies national symbols and perspectives towards images; and includes stamps, banknotes, souvenirs, street signs, decorative objects, foods, habits of

doing the dishes, and even the greeting words in a phone call into the conceptual toolbox consisting only of uniforms, flags, and colors. And maybe most important of all, it completely redirects the nationalism reading based on a historical development inevitably shaped by the establishment of nation-states; and as suggested by Fox and Miller-Idriss, focuses on the "here and now" of nationalism through the 'every day'.

In this new issue of *Moment*, we can say that our invitation to discuss "everyday nationalism" as a theoretical and conceptual framework and the everyday forms of nationalism in Turkey and in the world has been well received. After a rigorous evaluation process, with our gratitude to authors, we present nine articles, one interview and two book reviews, all with purpose of searching traces of nationalism and references to the nation in the ordinary relations, contacts, encounters, production and consumption processes of everyday life. Taking Anderson's characterization of nationalism as having "no grand thinkers on the scale of Hobbes, Tocqueville, Marx or Weber" even further, this issue places political leaders, nationalist parties and formations, and intellectual production in a secondary position and searches for its existence and arguments in the streets, galleries, advertisements, game shows and newspapers, that is, predominantly in media texts.

While there are multiple ways to consider nationalism an ideology in Turkey, it is possible to say that, as a sociological phenomenon, it has developed largely within a line of research fed by the cultural studies school. Though the messages produced by media texts constitute a significant element of everyday life, they do not provide all the information needed. For this very reason, it is necessary to underline that an ethnographic curiosity regarding the meanings of nationalism that are created through human experience, encounters, and performance still requires further development.

The Everyday Nationalism issue of *Moment Journal* opens with an interview with Jon Fox. Fox is one of the figures who plays a role in the liberation of everyday nationalism developing as part of nationalism studies. Meticulously and sincerely answering our questions, he touches upon the intersections between his personal story and the development of nationalism studies and makes inspiring assessments for "everyday nationalism researchers".

The first article within the theme is based on an autoethnographic research by Duygu Altınoluk and Bayram Koca. In their study conducted in Kilis, one of the cities with the highest refugee population in the country, they evaluate the opposition against Syrians as a performance of everyday nationalism. Similar to their research reflecting the streets, Elifcan Çoruk aims to conduct a study regarding television. Examining the relationship between everyday nationalism and food through the TV program *Masterchef Turkey*, the author reflects on cooking and eating within the debates on how nationalism is reproduced. In the third article in this issue, Erdem Çolak analyzes the relationship between everyday nationalism and contemporary art, focusing

on the artworks produced by artists from different countries by interfering in national symbols and the critical perspective they bring to national identity, national history, and national policies of states.

The fact that newspapers have become the main research material in nationalism studies considering the great coverage of banal and everyday nationalism approaches on the agenda is also evident in this issue of *Moment Journal*. A striking coincidence is that nationalism is traced in newspapers through murder and its manifestations in news texts. The first article of such research is written by Bengi Bezirgan-Taniş where she compares the news about Sevag Balıkcı, who was killed by a bullet fired from the gun of another soldier while doing his compulsory military service on April 24, 2011, in newspapers with different ideological positions. She discusses the impact of nationalism on the words and images used -or not used, in the coverage of the murder of an Armenian soldier by a Turkish soldier in the same police station and the funeral process. The article by Sevil Özçalık Dumanoğulları and Selin Kul focuses on the representation of the murders committed by the National Socialist Underground (NSU) in the German media between the years 2000 and 2011. They underline the extent to which everyday forms of racism coincide with the activities of the organization labeled as "extreme". The title "Döner Murders", which is preferred to describe the victims of Turkish origin, stands out as a clear example of the blurring of the boundaries between the "extreme" and the mainstream when it comes to anti-immigrant sentiment.

Another aspect addressed in two different studies in this issue is advertisements. The relationship between advertisements, which have great significance due to their critical role in conveying and imposing a message to the audience, and everyday nationalism is multi-dimensional from the consumption of the nation to the nationalization of what is consumed. In the first of the articles addressing this multi-dimensionality, Canan Neşe Kınıkoğlu focuses on national days remembered through advertisements and examines how national days are remembered in advertisements today when Kemalist nationalism and historiography are now considered to be opposition. Onur Özger's study, on the other hand, discusses the discourses and signs surrounding the image of Turkishness, circulating and commercialized as a cultural commodity, in advertisements, and how the representations of "us" and "them" are presented in the reconstruction of the Turkish nation.

Neither the subject "Everyday Nationalism" nor this issue covering it can be limited to certain practical cases. In this issue of *Moment Journal*, two articles directly contribute to the conceptual and theoretical discussions regarding the theme. In the first of these articles, S. Yetkin Işık and İlker Özdemir address the role of interconnected elements such as masculinity, anti-intellectualism, and violence/militarism in the formation and reflections of romantic nationalism, which they define as the expression of emotional tendencies. Tayfun Yıldırım, on the other hand, discusses the process of the reconstruction of the nationalist subject referring to Michael Billig, Louis Althusser, and Judith Butler. Here, he emphasizes the fact that subjects are both the

product and the agent of nationalism contrary to the belief that nationalism is imposed on individuals through indoctrination.

Finally, we would like to present two book reviews that contribute to the theme of this issue; in the first one, Eren Yılmaz evaluates Barış Ünlü's highly acclaimed and discussed book *Türklük Sözleşmesi (The Contract of Turkishness)* in light of "everyday nationalism", the perspective that is perhaps needed all along. Ünlü's interpretation of the ways of Turkishness and the contract through everyday nationalism offers a new perspective considering the previous reviews of the book. The second review is written by Umut Yener Kara on Chiara Bonacchi's *Heritage and Nationalism: Understanding Populism through Big Data*. Within the debates on big data, he addresses how, in the age of social media, the heritage of historical civilizations and myths, that is, the "past" as a subject matter, has become an important element in sustaining populist nationalism and in the construction of political identities and belonging.

In our call for papers for this special issue, we stated that we would not accept any articles outside the theme. However, three studies from the previous "Visual Culture" issue pose an exception to this and are included in this issue for the sake of maintaining the continuity of *Moment Journal*. In these articles, Alper Erçetingöz addresses the position of documentary photography in the post-truth era, Ebubekir Düzcan analyzes the early years of cinema in terms of visuality, and Merve Alçayır focuses on the role of new media technologies in the perception of the refugee image.

We are deeply pleased to take on the role of guest editors for this issue of *Moment Journal* and would like to acknowledge and mention the collective effort that made it possible. Therefore, we would like to thank the editor and associate editors, the journal secretariat, the language editors, the referees for their meticulous evaluations and reviews, and of course the authors who contributed to this issue with their articles for making such a difficult task easier.

We hope to meet you in upcoming issues.

**Emel Uzun Avcı & Kadir Dede**