

Legitimizing Sources of Discriminatory, Exclusionary Discourses and Actions Against Syrian Immigrants: The Case of Mardin Province

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ABSTRACT

With the Syrian immigrants in Turkey becoming settled by dropping their guest status, the negative changes in economic, social, and cultural areas for the locals emerge as the main issues affecting daily life. Changes and transformations occurring in different areas of daily life appear as the main determinants that shape the daily communication and interaction between local people and foreigners. Therefore, in this study, it is aimed to determine the legitimating sources of discriminatory, exclusionary, and othering discourses and actions against immigrants and the changes that have occurred in the economic, social, and cultural areas with the arrival and settlement of immigrants in the city of Mardin, which is one of the border regions where Syrian immigrants live intensively. In the study, in-depth interview technique was used in the context of qualitative method. In this direction, in-depth interviews were conducted with 36 local people living in the city center and Kızıltepe district of Mardin. The legitimating sources of discriminatory and exclusionary discourses and actions against Syrian immigrants have been tried to be explained on the basis of different categories. According to the findings, immigrants who have become permanent residents in Turkey for a long time are often perceived by the locals as disruptive and dangerous outgroups with the potential to disrupting the order even more. In this context, stigmatizing, discriminatory, and exclusionary discourses and actions in the society are legitimized against the immigrants, who are declared scapegoats and placed in the category of the other as disruptive, self-indulgent, lazy, unfaithful, dishrag who do not defend their land, invader, and intruder.

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