

ESRA AKCAN

Michael A. McCarthy Professor of Architectural Theory
Cornell University



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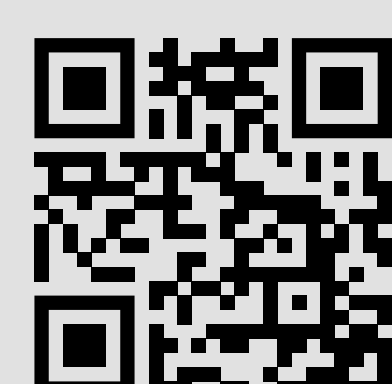
Partitions and Healing Spaces



Living in Cappadocia. Photo by Esra Akcan.

After an overview of the presenter's previously published work on the relation between migration and architecture, this lecture will explore the right-to-heal after massive mass migrations during nation-state formations as a topic of transitional justice. It will concentrate on the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, including the "Exchange of Populations" treaty (1923) that divided the communities residing in thousands of villages and towns into two purified categories between Greece and Turkey, assuming the alignment of religion, nation and territory, regardless of the actual diversity of peoples, and whether there were hostile or peaceful relations on the ground. The lecture will expose the contrast between the declarations of state agents and international law diplomats on the one hand, and the experiences of those involved on both sides of the Aegean Sea on the other hand. It will discuss the residues of this historical wound today, by studying the practice of a handful of architects, residents and stonemasons as a struggle toward healing through architecture.

Esra Akcan is Michael McCarthy Professor in the Department of Architecture and the Resident Director of Institute for Comparative Modernities at Cornell University. Her research on modern and contemporary architecture and urbanism foregrounds the intertwined histories of Europe, West Asia and East Africa, and offers new ways to understand architecture's role in global, social and environmental justice. Akcan received awards and fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard University, Graham Foundation (3 times grantee), American Academy in Berlin, UIC, Institute for Advanced Studies in Berlin, Clark Institute, Getty Research Institute, Canadian Center for Architecture (2 times scholar), CAA, Mellon Foundation, DAAD and KRESS/ARIT. She is the author of *Landfill Istanbul*; *Architecture in Translation*; *Turkey: Modern Architectures in History* (with S.Bozdoğan); *Open Architecture: Migration, Citizenship and Urban Renewal of Berlin-Kreuzberg*; and *Abolish Human Bans: Intertwined Histories of Architecture*. Her forthcoming books include *Right to Heal* and the co-edited volume *Migration and Discrimination*.



Foyer, 75 Kallipoleos Ave, 1678, Nicosia

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxse7u9>

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