

TRAVEL IN IDENTITY. SPACE AND TIME OF THE „AFFILIATIONS“  
OF THE BULGARIAN TURKS SETTLED IN TURKEY

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Abstract

Since the establishment of the Bulgarian state in 1878, several waves of Turkish migrants have left Bulgaria to settle in the Ottoman Empire and, later, Turkey. These successive departures have resulted in multiple ways of being „a Turk from Bulgaria“ in Turkey. In examining Turkish root tourism to Bulgaria, the present article aims to explore the temporal and spatial dimensions of identity processes amongst „Bulgarian Turks“. More specifically, the paper investigates the relations between social trajectories and ways of (re)investing in the land of ancestors. Social affiliation and filiation, the text argues, are processes intimately intertwined. Root travels are also considered as temporal objects through which individual, family and collective pasts are selectively re-read, and changing accounts of belonging elaborated.