

# SPACEPOL PROJECT NEWSLETTER #2

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**Updates from the ANR Project on  
Space and Politics in Capital Cities**

*Ankara, Astana, Abu-Dhabi, Cairo, Moscow, Tehran*



## Interventions by the team in recent seminars, workshops and conferences



*Gülçin Erdi* and *Savaş Zafer Şahin* participated in our SpacePol panel “A capital city still in the (un)making? Ankara in its centenary of becoming capital of modern Turkey” at the Turkologentag Conference held in Vienna 21-23 September. You can find the summary of the panel [below](#).

*Sibel Akyıldız* also organized a panel at Turkologentag titled "Environment as a political and social transformation tool in modern Turkey, environmental policies and civil society".

## Publications



*Gülçin Erdi* *Le Centenaire d'une Capitale: Que Reste-il de l'Heritage Moderniste et Republicain de l'Urbanisation d'Ankara ?*, Le Cahier des UMIFRES, à paraître, décembre 2023.

*Gülçin Erdi* *A Never-Ending Urban Rage France and its Banlieues*, Untold Mag September 25, 2023 (accessible here <https://untoldmag.org/a-never-ending-urban-rage/> )

*Roman Stadnicki* has a chapter titled *Branding Backlash: the erring of Urban Advertising in Gulf Cities* in “Branding the Middle East Communication Strategies and Image Building from Qom to Casablanca”, published by DeGruyter, 2023.

## Fieldwork



*Cairo Green & Grey* by the Cairo SpacePol Team

This small research and dissemination activity involves gathering data and information on Cairo’s physical expansion and land development and representing them on digital maps. It serves two purposes: 1) compile and collate recent information on the spatial transformation of the capital, and 2) present them as digital maps, thus diversifying the project's outputs. The title “Cairo Green & Grey” refers to the distribution of natural and man-made green spaces across the capital's territory on the one hand and the built and empty spaces on the other.

*Roman Stadnicki* carried out a three-week period of fieldwork in Abu Dhabi in May-June, focusing on the city's transformation by the developer Aldar, the "delegated project manager" of the government: a map is currently being designed by F. Troin, with a communication and publication in progress.

*Abu Dhabi SpacePol Team*: An ongoing experimentation and reflection with Laure Assaf, Anahi Alviso, and Manuel Benchetrit (photographer, videographer) on the symbolism of roundabouts in Abu Dhabi (a video is currently in production).

## REPORTS

### TURKOLOGENTAG

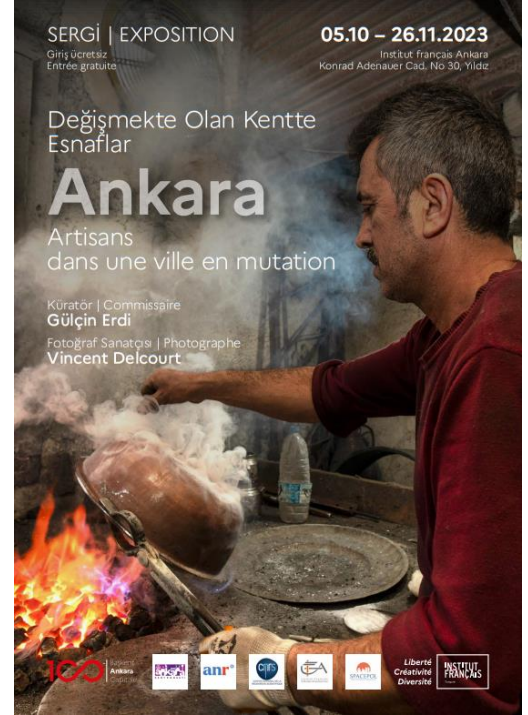
Our SpacePol panel “A capital city still in the (un)making? Ankara in its centenary of becoming capital of modern Turkey” addressed the symbolic and political production of urban space in Ankara and its impact on the urbanisation and the morphology of the city as well as on the everyday life of inhabitants. Our project director Prof. Gülçin Erdi alongside Professor Savaş Zafer Şahin, Emrah Söylemez and Pınar Cobanyılmaz all presented their insightful research looking at Ankara from different perspectives and engaged in a fruitful discussion with the members of the audience.



[\(Keep reading here\)](#)

## Opening of the SpacePol Photographic Exhibition at the Institut Français d'Ankara

Last 4th of October our SpacePol project with the support of the [Institut Français d'Ankara](#) opened the photographic exhibition titled “Ankara: Artisans in the Changing City”. The opening was a resounding success. Not only was the attendance great, but we also had the presence and participation of some of the artisans portrayed in the photographs! Thanks to Gülçin Erdi and Vincent Delcourt for putting together such a great exhibition, thanks to the always supportive team at the Institut Français d'Ankara, thanks to those who came along to share this moment with us and special thanks to all the artisans that participated!



You have until the 26th of November to catch the exhibition for free at the Institut Français d'Ankara. Don't miss it!

Keep reading [here](#).





# UPCOMING EVENTS



## *SpacePol Workshop Event in Istanbul 24/25 October.*

Space & Politics in Three Capitals: Perceptions, Contestations, and Environmental Governance (Ankara, Moscow, Astana).

This workshop will examine the heuristic potential of comparing three capitals among the six studied in the SPACEPOL project. Participants will discuss similarities and differences in several aspects of urban reality, particularly:

### 1. Perceptions

We intend to examine the symbolic functions of these capitals: theoretical approaches, history, their significance for identity, etc. Additionally, we plan to link this with tangible symbolic objects: iconic buildings, monuments, mega-projects, etc. Participants can also analyze the creation and perpetuation of the capital's image at various scales (regional, national, and global), with a potential focus on the historical evolution of the perception of these elements.

### 2. Contentions

The workshop aims to address social responses to urban policies, local governance, and the construction or resolution of public issues. Frictions between different groups and competing discourses at the municipal level can be similarly analyzed. Mobilization for or against specific projects can serve as case studies. Central locations of national demonstrations can also be included here, with a strong emphasis on the spatial dimensions of social processes.

JOURNÉE D'ÉTUDES  
**ESPACE & POLITIQUE  
 DANS TROIS CAPITALES**  
 PERCEPTIONS  
 CONTESTATIONS  
 ET GOUVERNANCE  
 ENVIRONNEMENTALE  
 ANKARA, MOSCOU, ASTANA  
 OCTOBRE 24 - 25  
 10.00 - 18.00  
 Hybride: Ifea Istanbul & Online  
 TOMTOM, NURI ZIYA SOK. NO:10  
 BEYOGLU/ISTANBUL  
 pour s'inscrire: [clararivasspacepol@gmail.com](mailto:clararivasspacepol@gmail.com)

Logos: IFEA (Institut Français d'Etudes Anatoliennes), CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), Institut Français d'Etudes sur l'Asie Centrale, SPACEPOL, citer|e|s (UMR 7324), anr, Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Geography.

### 3. Environmental Governance

Finally, workshop participants are encouraged to dedicate a portion of their presentations to how environmental issues are addressed in Ankara, Moscow, and Astana. This includes water management, air pollution, strategies for climate change adaptation, protection or threats to parks and other green areas, etc.

Read more [here](#)

### *Screening of the SpacePol documentary “Ankara la républicaine” 25 Oct in Istanbul and 31 Oct in Ankara*

We will be screening the documentary “Ankara la républicaine” directed by SpacePol member and professor Mina Saidi-Shahrouz on Wednesday 25 October in Istanbul (Ifea) and on Tuesday 31 October at the Institut Français d’Ankara. [Join us!](#)

FILM GÖSTERİMİ / PROJECTION **25.10.2023, 14:00**  
 Katılım ücretsiz | Participation gratuite

Institut français d'études  
 anatoliennes  
 Nuri Ziya Sokak No:10  
 Beyoğlu

**Cumhuriyet Ankara'sı**  
**Ankara la Républicaine**

En présence de :  
**Mina Saidi Shahrouz**  
**Gülçin Erdi**

Yönetmen | Réalisatrice  
**Mina Saidi Shahrouz**  
 Avec la participation de  
 Gülçin Erdi  
 katkıyla

Inscription obligatoire : [clara@spacepol@gmail.com](mailto:clara@spacepol@gmail.com)  
 Film avec sous-titrage français et turc  
 Türkçe ve Fransızca altyazılı

FİLM GÖSTERİMİ ve SOHBET  
 PROJECTION et DISCUSSION **31.10.2023, 19:30**  
 Institut français Ankara  
 Konrad Adenauer Cad. No 30, Yıldız

**Cumhuriyet  
 Ankara'sı**  
 Ankara  
 la Républicaine

Yönetmen | Réalisé par  
**Mina Saidi Shahrouz**  
 Avec la participation de  
**Gülçin Erdi** katkıyla

Konuşmacılar | Intervenants  
**Filiz Yenişehirlioğlu**  
**Zeki Kamil Ülkenli**

100 **Beşim Ankara** **CEP** **GA** **Hayat** **RENKPOL** **Liberté Créativité Diversité** **INSTITUT FRANÇAIS**

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