

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/circumcision-and-medicine-in-modern-turkey/>

This video discusses a research project focused on masculinity in Turkey, particularly the cultural practices of military service and male circumcision. The author explores how these rites of passage relate to notions of masculinity and medicalization, emphasizing that both practices are significant milestones in the lives of boys in Turkey.

The project investigates the historical transformation of male circumcision and its medicalization since the 1960s, when it transitioned from private home settings to hospitals. It argues that this process, influenced by state and market forces, is not linear, as often portrayed, but fraught with tensions and ambivalences from both families and medical professionals.

The author employs ethnographic methods, including interviews with circumcised individuals and observations of circumcision events, to gain insight into the complexities and challenges faced by families and medical practitioners. The findings reveal that the medicalization of circumcision is met with skepticism from families, particularly regarding the use of medical instruments and anesthesia, which causes anxiety about the duration and nature of the procedure.

The study also examines the emotional and professional ambivalences experienced by health officials and medical doctors, who struggle to balance delivering proper care while also navigating family expectations and societal stigmas associated with circumcision practices. Ultimately, the research aims to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of medicalization in Turkish society, highlighting the interactions between cultural practices, health care, and masculinity.