

Shifting Identities in Mediterranean Narratives: A Study of Orhan Pamuk's *The White Castle* and Metin Arditi's *Le Turquetto*

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Abstract

The current study examines the representation of Mediterranean identity in Orhan Pamuk's *The White Castle* and Metin Arditi's *Le Turquetto*. The purpose of the paper is to uncover how both novels challenge the stability of their protagonists' identities to highlight the fluidity of the 16th and 17th century Mediterranean's cultural makeup. With the explorations of Mediterranean homogeneity by Mediterranean historians such as Braudel, Matvejevic, Horden and Purcell taken as a starting point, the close reading of both novels show that Pamuk and Arditi's representation offers an unorthodox understanding of the unique types of identities the region can invoke and inquires into its historically complex interplay between East and West. This examination concludes that through the portrayal of characters who find themselves compelled to acclimate to unfamiliar surroundings, both Orhan Pamuk's *The White Castle* and Metin Arditi's *Le Turquetto* end up providing a deeper understanding of the Mediterranean as a site of cultural blending and transformation.

Keywords: Mediterranean Literature, World Literature, Turkish Literature, Orhan Pamuk, Metin Arditi