Abstract / Sunum özeti:

Can one strive for change and keep an active hope all the while openly acknowledging that everything is *not* going to be OK? This is one of the main questions I deal in my MA thesis titled *Catastrophic Futures, Ethical Presents: Lifestyle Activism and Hope in the Permaculture Movement in Turkey*. Permaculture is an ecological design system which functions with the ethical values of caring for people and for Earth as well as sharing the surplus. Put forth in Australia in the 1970s, it became a worldwide movement which refrains from using a political language, especially a leftist one, despite its desire to establish a “global alternative nation.” In this paper, I explore how it is possible to hold on to ideals of social, political, and economic change, all the while keeping a vivid imagination regarding scenarios of possible catastrophic futures. Are utopian politics and the apocalyptic imagination are really as incompatible as has been previously suggested by critics from various fields? My study of permaculture goups in Turkey suggests otherwise. While giving them a certain anxiety about the future, apocalyptic scenarios serve not only to push permaculturists to act in the present, but also make them envision a world in which there is possibility for salvation through permaculture and other actions. As I argue against the criticisms targeting apocalypticism, I at the same time strive to complicate the recent anthropological and philosophical discussions on hope by distinguishing between two kinds of hope that I discern as coming out of my fieldwork with permaculture groups in Turkey.