**Between Cautious Sympathy and Hesitant Indifference:**

**The Kurdish View on Gezi Protests**

In

*Bridging Divides: Rethinking Ideology And Protests In The Age Of Globalization*

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Gezi Park events, characterised by large public protests, police brutality and harsh discourses of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) leaders against the protesters, sprang up spontaneously after plans to uproot the trees in the park became clear, and later engulfed the whole country during summer 2013. As was the case in other parts of Turkey, the events were closely followed and debated in the southeast densely populated by Kurds. Kurds have adopted divergent, and to some, ambivalent attitudes towards Gezi Park protests ranging from a cautious sympathy to a hesitant indifference. In particular, the Kurdish political movement and its Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) were criticized for not offering their full support to the protestors vis-à-vis the ‘repressive’ policies of the government. This article mainly aims to explore the diverging and mixed views of the Kurdish public with a view to understanding the factors shaping their approaches to Gezi Park events. It argues that to fully comprehend the Kurdish perspective on Gezi, one needs to consider both conjunctural and historical/structural factors lying underneath. While the potential impacts and implications of Gezi protests in the ongoing settlement process have constituted the core conjunctural factor, the traditional rift between the Kurdish parties and secular/nationalist Turkish groups have emerged as the main historical motive shaping Kurdish attitudes.