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**Title**: Non-spectacular policy making: Silence and resistance in an abortive urban renewal project in Eskişehir, Turkey

**Abstract:** At the intersection of social anthropology and critical urban studies, this dissertation studies the policy-making process of Eskişehir’s Risk Zone Urban Renewal Project designed for the waterfronts of Porsuk River. Unlike eventful, conflict driven urban renewal programs, the Risk Zone Project represents a non-spectacular, abortive, and silent case which did not draw much public attention and did not face open conflicts. The dissertation scrutinizes how the Risk Zone Project was catalysed into the metropolitan municipality’s urban rescaling policies for accumulation and growth while dovetailing with neoliberal urban governance techniques based on a performance of participatory policy-making and techno-moral claims to prevent vulnerability and risk against alleged future earthquakes. Although the riskiness of the zone has been subjected to debates among experts, participation created its deserving and undeserving subjects, and renewal policies were uncertain alarming risk of dispossession, the project did not invoke movements or collective resistance. To interrogate whether the urban governance techniques of the policy-makers managed and co-opted populations – as often argued by the literature, this study problematizes the silence of people. Ethnographic research reveals reconfigurations of psychological and socioeconomic vulnerabilities resulting from the project and inaugurating voices of unease, anxiety, dissatisfaction, and political sparks that are minor and do not resemble classical urban social movements. The study unveils the cloak of a non-spectacular and silent case and shows the interwoven relationship between practices of neoliberal urban governance geared towards accumulation and the range of vulnerabilities, agency, and dissent of residents beyond the binaries of movement/non-movement and resistance/acquiescence.