

MOURNING FOR THE DISAPPEARED: THE CASE OF THE
SATURDAY MOTHERS

ŞEHİTNUR KÜRÜM

İSTANBUL ŞEHİR UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	iii
Öz	iv
Acknowledgements	v
Table of Contents	vi
CHAPTER	
1. Introduction	1
2. The normal process of mourning and the one seen in the case of ambiguous loss	6
2.1. The definition of mourning	6
2.2. Ambiguous loss.....	17
3. New Social Movements	24
3.1. The definition of new social movements	24
3.2. Differences between NSMs and previous movements	25
3.3. Collective movement stemmed from NSMs	28
3.4. Changes in culture and identity: The emergence of collective identity	29
3.5. NSMs as a new form of media	31
3.6. Collective behavior and struggles in relation to social movements.....	32
3.7. The role of NSMs in society	33
3.8. What initiates NSMs?.....	34
3. 9. Summary	39
4. Similar cases from Argentina and Bosnia	41
4.1. A case from Argentina: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo	41

4.1.1. A new organization: “The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo”	42
4.1.2. The process of mourning	43
4.1.3. The absence of the fathers and the power of the mothers.....	45
4.1.4. The role of motherhood in the Mothers’ movement	47
4.1.5. Being a revolutionary mother	49
4.1.6. The importance of the Plaza de Mayo	51
4.1.7. The Mothers’ movement as a peace movement.....	52
4.2. The case of Bosnian women	53
4.3. Women of Bosnia and Argentina: Common grief and different approaches	61
4.4. Summary	65
5. The case of the Saturday Mothers in Turkey	66
5.1. Similar stories and common grief	70
5.2. The process of mourning in the case of the Saturday Mothers (the lack of the requirements of mourning)	72
5.3. The importance of a body, a grave, and funeral rituals during mourning	83
5.4. The establishment of the Saturday Mothers.....	96
5.5. The construction of a visible place for the disappeared	99
5.6. Galatasaray Square: A constructed for the disappeared	102
5.7. Regarding the Saturday Mothers as a new social movement.....	105
5.8. Conclusion	111
6. Conclusion	113
References.....	117
Appendices	
A Questions in the Interviews	124
B Curriculum Vitae	128