



# **Grassroots Literacies: Lesbian and Gay Activism and the Internet in Turkey (SUNY Series, Praxis: Theory in Action)**

*Serkan Görkemli*

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*Examines the grassroots activism of an Internet-mediated collegiate lesbian and gay organization in Turkey.*

*Grassroots Literacies* analyzes the complex issues surrounding lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender representations, technology, and grassroots activism in international contexts through the lens of Legato, a collegiate lesbian and gay association that engaged in activism in colleges and universities in Turkey from the mid-1990s to the early 2000s. Using the Internet and digital media, Legato enabled students to connect with each other on campuses across the country and introduced them to new (i.e., lesbian and gay) identity categories and community activism. Serkan Görkemli presents historical, cultural, visual, and interview-based analyses of Legato members' "coming out" experiences and uses of digital media. Members emerged as sexuality activists with the help of the Internet and engaged with negative representations of homosexuality through offline events such as film screenings, reading groups, and conferences in the challenging context of burgeoning civil society efforts in Turkey. Bridging transnational and literacy-based studies, the book ultimately traces the contours of a "transnational literacy" regarding sexuality.

Serkan Görkemli is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Connecticut-Stamford.

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