

## Esra Özban Commentary

While 27th Istanbul Pride Week was taking place in Istanbul, I was in Berlin for Queering Memory Conference as a scholar of Twin City program. Unfortunately, my partner in crime and dear colleague Esma Akyel could be with me to present neither *Lubunya* magazine nor *Pembe Hayat Youtube Channel* since they once again stuck in borders due to the visa rejection. Thanks to the technology, they could talk to a wonderful audience who gathered in Berlin on a summer day filling the room for Trans Focus session. While İstanbul queers were discussing the current economic crises and its effects on queer communities in Turkey along with this year's theme 'What is economics, ayol?', an amazing crowd of queers from all over the world gathered in Berlin to talk about 'Queering Memory'. Remembering 2019 summer, I would say I was lucky to be a participant in the conference and learn/talk/discuss about how we remember and forget, but I was even luckier to catch 17th Istanbul Pride March on June 30, which we have gathered in tiny streets of Istiklal after it being banned for 4 years in a row. As Esma said in their video message, hate borders love queers!

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