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JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

BİLGİ EUROPEAN INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present the 17th edition of our newsletter. This edition of our newsletter highlights the European Institute's research initiatives, recent publications, conferences, workshops, graduate programmes, community outreach projects and insights from our staff and students.

This year we are pleased to announce the launch of two major projects to which we are proud to contribute. The Horizon Europe project PLEDGE: Politics of Grievance and Democratic Governance explores the dynamics of political discontent and governance challenges. In addition, the ValEUs - Foreign Policy Issues: Values and Democracy, led by the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, is a major research project addressing the challenges facing the European Union and exploring counter-strategies.

The newsletter starts with an overview of our projects. The newsletter contains a detailed description of the Jean Monnet Chair on the Diffusion of Norms and Turkey-EU Relations "BİLGİNormsEU". This is followed by a presentation of the European Institute's new projects. You will find highlights, scientific reflections from our project team as well as news and activities within these different projects at the European Institute. This year we are also pleased to present two special articles from our Institute team by Dr Özlem Cihan and Dr Ozan Kuyumcuoğlu.

The following part of the newsletter is dedicated to various activities, programmes, publications and testimonies related to the European Institute. The activities of the German Studies Unit of Dr Deniz Güneş Yardımcı, DAAD Fachlektor, such as conferences, round tables, workshops and publications are presented in this part. You will also read the testimonies of Prof. Dr. Ayhan Kaya, who visited the European University Viadrina in Germany to take over the Aziz Nesin Chair in European Studies, and the testimonies of our MA students in European Studies. The newsletter ends with a list of publications, conference papers, seminars and activities of our colleagues.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Rectorate and Board of Trustees of Istanbul Bilgi University for their continued support of the research and outreach activities of the European Institute. Most importantly, we would like to thank you all for your interest in the European Institute.

We wish you all a Happy New Year.



Dr. Özge Onursal-Beşgöl
Director, European Institute
İstanbul Bilgi University



Dr. Ozan Kuyumcuoğlu
Vice Director, European Institute
İstanbul Bilgi University

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

Istanbul Bilgi University is a non-profit higher education institution with more than 20,000 students (50% of whom receive scholarships), a community of more than 60,000 alumni and a faculty of more than 1,000 academics. BİLGİ operates with 8 faculties, 3 institutes and 3 professional schools, offering over 150 undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate programmes in various disciplines such as social sciences, economics, business, communication, arts, law, engineering and architecture. Founded in 1996, BİLGİ is known for taking an open-minded stance on key social and political issues in Turkey, actively participating in debates on EU integration and other sensitive social issues.

BİLGİ's strong European focus led to the establishment of the Centre for European Studies, which became the European Institute in 2007. The Institute conducts advanced research on EU politics and policies with a focus on diversity and pluralism. As the focal point for interdisciplinary European studies at BİLGİ, the European Institute supports research and academic programmes that examine processes of integration, Europeanisation, multiculturalism and the formation of European identities.

The European Institute's contributions extend to numerous EU-funded projects, including several Framework Programme 7 (FP7) and Horizon Europe projects, strengthening its role in addressing complex issues in European and international contexts. The Institute has received several prestigious funding awards, including the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Award (2013), three

Jean Monnet Chairs and several Jean Monnet Modules and "Learning EU at School" projects.

In particular, the "European Values at School - EUducate" project led to BİLGİ being designated as a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, the fourth university in Turkey to receive this recognition. The high evaluation score underlines BİLGİ's commitment to EU-focused academic excellence since 1996. The European Institute remains committed to outreach activities on core EU values such as human rights, pluralism and diversity, fostering a deep understanding of European integration and the values of citizenship.

In addition to the Jean Monnet Awards, BİLGİ's European Institute currently participates in Horizon Europe projects, further contributing to EU-focused interdisciplinary research and public engagement activities that promote the understanding and study of European integration and EU policies. The European Institute of Istanbul Bilgi University is also part of the Jean Monnet Policy Network project "ValEUs. Research & Education Network on Contestations to EU Foreign Policy", a major research initiative led by the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. Funded by a €1.2 million Erasmus+ grant from the European Commission for the period 2024-2027, the project emphasises both research and educational outreach to deepen understanding of the challenges to EU policies.

Prof. Ayhan Kaya is the founding director of the European Institute at Istanbul Bilgi University. After serving as deputy director from February 2019 to September 2024, Dr Özge Onursal-Beşgöl assumed the role of Director of the European Institute in September 2024.

Institute Staff

- **Prof. Ayhan KAYA** – Founding Director, Department of International Relations
- **Dr. Özge ONURSAL-BEŞGÖL** – Director, Department of International Relations
- **Dr. Ozan KUYUMCUOĞLU** – Vice Director, Department of International Relations
- **Dr. Deniz Güneş YARDIMCI** – DAAD Research Fellow, Lecturer
- **Emre GÖNEN, MA** – Department of International Relations
- **Didem BALATLIOĞULLARI, MA** – Institute Projects Associate
- **Prof. Laurent BAECHLER** – Director, MAEIS European Integration and Global Studies, CIFE

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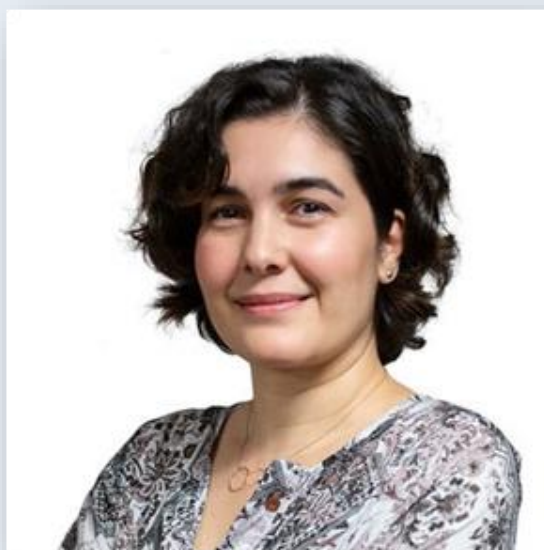
For more information, visit the **European Institute** [website](#).

Jean Monnet Chair on Diffusion of Norms and Turkey-EU Relations

“BİLGİNormsEU”

Dr. Özge ONURSAL-BEŞGÜL

Istanbul Bilgi University



launched in the Spring 2022 and Summer 2022 academic terms: “International Organisations and Norms, “Selected Topics in EU-Turkey Relations” and “The EU in the World”. During the first six months of the project, “Conversations on Europe and Türkiye Seminar Series” were organised to bring together students with scholars working on contemporary issues in Europe and Turkey. The seminars were online and open to the public. In the coming months, public webinars will be held as well as a new podcast series will be organised. At the end of the project, all the project materials, including the contents of the courses and their outputs, will be shared with the public on the project's webpage. The project's goal, specifically addressing young people relatively new to European studies, is to ensure the emergence of different public perspectives on Turkey-EU relations.

Prof. Ayhan Kaya from the Department of International Relations and Prof. Ayşe Uyduranoğlu from the Department of Economics contribute to the project as senior researchers. The project team also includes Dr Mehmet Ali Tuğtan from the Department of International Relations (expert and advisor), Dr Büke Boşnak from the Department of International Relations (expert), doctoral candidate Veysi Kondu from Boğaziçi University’s Department of Political Science and International Relations (expert), Doctoral candidate Bahar Özay from Boğaziçi University’s Department of Political Science and International Relations (researcher) and doctoral candidate Suna Gökçe Kızılkaya from İstanbul Bilgi University’s Political Science Program (researcher).

For more information, please click [here](#).

Dr. Özge Onursal-Beşgül has been awarded a Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Studies by the European Commission of the European Union (EU). Jean Monnet Chairs are funded under the Erasmus + Programme as three-year teaching and research posts for scholars specialising in European Union studies. Özge Onursal Beşgül will hold the Chair until 2025.

JM Chair on Diffusion of Norms and Turkey-EU Relations aims to focus on how norms at the EU level are constructed, diffused, and contested at the national level in different policy areas. The conceptual framework of norms diffusion will contribute to the diversification of the discussions on EU-Turkey relations, where most of the focus is on conditionality and change with pressure.

As part of the project, three new courses were

News and Events

May 7–28, 2024

The [#BİLGİNormsEU Jean Monnet Chair](#) Seminars took place online from May 7–28, 2024, moderated by Özge Onursal Beşgül. We were delighted to host esteemed speakers Ayşe Uyduranoğlu, Ayhan Kaya, Mehmet Ali Tuğtan, and Büke Boşnak, who generously shared their insights on critical topics and enriched the discussion with their expertise.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

The poster is a vertical rectangular graphic with a dark red background. At the top, it reads "Jean Monnet Chair Conversations on Europe and Türkiye" in white, with the hashtag "#BİLGİNormsEU" below it. A yellow box contains the dates "May 7 - 28, 2024" and "Online". The moderator is listed as "Özge Onursal Beşgül, Jean Monnet Chair". The speakers are listed with their dates and times: "May 7 / 17:00 Ayşe Uyduranoğlu", "May 14 / 18:00 Ayhan Kaya", "May 21 / 17:00 Mehmet Ali Tuğtan", and "May 28 / 17:00 Büke Boşnak". A yellow button at the bottom right says "Click to join.". Logos for the European Institute, the European Union, and İstanbul Bilgi University are at the bottom.

WEBINAR
Jean Monnet Chair
on Norms and Turkey-EU Relations
#BİLGİNormsEU

**The Rise of Civilisational Rhetoric and the Co-Radicalisation of Young Europeans:
Islamophobia vs. Islamism?**
Prof. Ayhan Kaya

WEBINAR
Jean Monnet Chair
on Norms and Turkey-EU Relations
#BİLGİNormsEU

**Green Deal:
EU Being the Leader of Climate Policies**
Prof. Ayşe Uyduranoğlu

WEBINAR
Jean Monnet Chair
on Norms and Turkey-EU Relations
#BİLGİNormsEU

The European Security and the Invasion of Ukraine
Dr. Mehmet Ali Tuğtan

Please click on the images to access the videos on YouTube.

New Project:

ValEUs: Research & Education Network on Contestations to EU Foreign Policy



The project titled '**VAIEUS: Research & Education Network on Contestations to EU Foreign Policy**' the application of which was made by a consortium including **Prof. Ayhan Kaya**, Faculty Member in the Department of International Relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and Director of European Institute, as co-coordinator and Faculty Member, **Özge Onursal Beşgül**, PhD from the Department of International Relations and the Vice Director of European Institute, as researcher was entitled to receive the support of European Commission's Erasmus + Jeanne Monnet Policy Debate programme.

In recent years, the EU has faced unprecedented challenges to live up to its mission to create a peaceful future based on common values. Despite the incorporation of foundational values into instruments of global governance, societal actors

have increasingly opposed both the methods by which the EU propagates its values and the values themselves. Understanding contestations is of utmost importance, not only for the resilience of the EU but also for its future role on the international scene.

ValEUs main objectives are (1) to enquire into the various contestations of the EU values and provide a realistic account of EU Foreign Policy; (2) to learn more about potential and successful counterstrategies to contestations and develop an alternative policy agenda; (3) to promote a new role for universities as responsible actors, as laboratories for democracy and committed partners to endangered regions, such as Ukraine.

ValEUs convenes 21 partner institutions from 18 countries and five continents. All institutions have a strong expertise in EU Studies across a wide range of academic disciplines and share the mission to build collective research capacity (WP3), develop innovative teaching collaboration (WP4) and engage in impactful societal policy debate (WP5), resulting in policy recommendations for EU and non-EU stakeholders. The consortium will create a common Peer Review Platform (WP2), organise academic conferences, co-teaching projects in cooperation with Ukrainian Global University, student laboratories for democratic participation and policy debates with civil society and political stakeholders. Moreover, it will disseminate and communicate project results through the project webpage and effective communication channels targeted to different stakeholders (WP6). Network insights will be published in working papers, policy briefs and a regular newsletter. For a greater public ValEUs will edit a MOOC and a dedicated podcast.

Istanbul Bilgi University Team

Prof. Ayhan Kaya

Faculty Member, Özge Onursal Beşgül, PhD

Didem Balatlıoğulları, MA

ValEUs Consortium Partners:

- **Stiftung Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)** – Germany
- **University of Pittsburgh** – USA
- **Istanbul Bilgi University** – Türkiye
- **Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu** – Poland
- **Université Al Akhawayn d'Ifrane** – Morocco
- **Doshisha University** – Japan
- **V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University** – Ukraine
- **Private Institution University Kyiv School of Economics** – Ukraine
- **Libertas International University** – Croatia
- **Nazarbayev University** – Kazakhstan
- **Roskilde Universitet** – Denmark
- **Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey** – USA
- **Panepistimio Aigaiou (University of the Aegean)** – Greece
- **Universiteit van Amsterdam (University of Amsterdam)** – The Netherlands
- **Univerzitet u Banjoj Luci (University of Banja Luka)** – Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Università degli Studi di Firenze (University of Florence)** – Italy
- **Universidad de Guadalajara** – Mexico
- **Fundación Universidad del Norte (University of the North)** – Colombia
- **Université Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis** – France
- **Sveučilište u Zagrebu (University of Zagreb)** – Croatia

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VALEUS PROJECT

*Prof. Timm Beichelt
European University of Viadrina
ValEUs Project Coordinator*

The ValEUs network with the full title "ValEUs. Research & Education Network on Contestations to EU Foreign Policy" has been funded by the EU program Erasmus+ with 1.2 million euros for three years since January 2024. Twenty partner institutions from 17 countries on five continents are involved. Among the partners are European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder, Germany) and BILGI Universitesi. Further universities, among others, are Université Paris 8 (France), Roskilde Universitet (Denmark) and the University of the Aegean (Greece). Two Ukrainian – the Karazin University of Charkiv and the Kyiv School of Economics – are also represented. Non-European partners are from the USA, Latin America, Kazakhstan and Japan.

How are European values viewed from the periphery of the European Union? What internal challenges to these values are there in the EU and what role do values such as ecology and sustainability play? These were some of the questions discussed by the network colleagues in Astana from September 13 to 15. At the opening session, the EU Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Aleška Simkić from Slovenia, gave an insight into the difficulties of keeping a balance between values as laid down in European Treaties and the necessities of Realpolitik. In the conference, which was titled "The Contestation of European Values from Afar" with online contributions, many non-European perspectives on EU foreign policy were voiced.

According to the organizers and the leadership of the network, this first conference of the entire consortium was a great success, as the substantive aspects of EU-skeptical discourses could be examined comprehensively. "The team of the On

Nazarbayev University bin Astana around Prof. Jean-François Caron proved to be a great host," emphasized Timm Beichelt, the Principal Investigator of ValeUs, in retrospect on the event. He and other members of the network were impressed by the commitment of all partners in the ValeUs research network. They also enjoyed the city of Astana, which hosted the 5th World Nomad Games in parallel to the ValeUs conference.

Beyond the conference, ValeUs activities that are already running and open to the public include formats such as the Foreign Policy Debates with Civil Society, in which, in a first edition, climate activist Luisa Neubauer, among others, spoke in a hybrid format at Rutgers University in New Jersey. A [recording of the conversation](#) can be found on the network's YouTube channel. The [ValeUs Lecture Series](#) on the various contestations of European values can also be followed online on YouTube, as well as a [ValeUs podcast](#) with Professor Ayhan Kaya from Istanbul Bilgi University. Another major event was a get-together at Viadrina on October 24, 2024 with Stephanie Kunisch, who is in charge of the network at the EU Commission.

News and Events

ValeUs Lecture Series

Why Do States Fail to Live Up to Their Normative Credo?

March 15, 2024

ValeUs inaugurates a series of lectures coordinated by the University of Florence, with Prof. Laura Leonard serving as the local coordinator. The series kicked off with this lecture by Jan Zielonka on March 15th 2024.

Prof. Dr. Jan Zielonka is a Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Venice, Cá Foscari. His thought-provoking lecture in Florence explored the complexities of international relations and the challenges faced by states in upholding their normative ideals.

For more information about the lecture, please click [here](#).



ValeUs Lecture Series (2)

Deliberative Democracy Instruments as a Panacea for Democracy in Crisis

May 22, 2024

On May 22, 2024 Prof. Paulina Pospieszna from the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland, presented a paper about "Deliberative Democracy Instruments as a Panacea for Democracy in Crisis."

This second Open Lecture series of the ValeUs project, held at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism (AMU), attracted over 120 listeners. The speech is available on the [ValeUs YouTube channel](#).



For more information about the lecture, please click [here](#).

ValeUs Lecture Series (3)

Nativist and Islamist Radicalism in Europe (at SPUI25)

June 14, 2024

On May 31, 2024 **Prof. Ayhan Kaya** from Bilgi University, gave a thought-provoking lecture about Nativist and Islamist Radicalism in Europe at Spui25, the academic-cultural podium of Amsterdam. During his lecture, he critically reflected on the co-radicalisation of populist young native groups and radical young self-identified Muslims with a migration background in Europe. The lecture is available on the [ValeUs YouTube channel](#) and the [SPUI25 website](#).



For more information about the lecture, please click [here](#).

ValEUs Workshop: Critical Perspective on European Values

20-21 June, 2024



On June 20th and 21st, the first-ever [ValEUs workshop](#) took place at Paris University 8. The ValEUs team harnessed the transformative power of collaboration, witnessing a remarkable confluence of expertise and ideas. Co-organized by Kolja Lindner at the University Paris 8 and Amelie Kutter at the European University Viadrina, this workshop aimed to facilitate discussions that clarify the foundations of a constructive critical perspective on European values, engaging with their immanent critique, performativeness, and historical contextualization.

For more information about the workshop, please click [here](#).

First Annual ValEUs Conference: The Contestation of European Values from Afar

September 13-15, 2024
Nazarbayev University
Astana, Kazakhstan

The conference "The Contestation of European Values from Afar", held at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, from September 13-15, 2024, explored whether these values can bridge the

cultural divide or contribute to Europe's marginalization.

With over 30 contributions from ValEUs scholars, the conference facilitated rich interdisciplinary discussions.

For additional details, please click [here](#).



ValEUs Lecture Series (4) Rethinking the Role of Culture and Arts in EU Foreign Policy

23 October, 2024
Venue: Energy Museum Seminar Room |
santralistanbul Campus, Istanbul Bilgi University



We hosted an engaging open lecture by **Dr. Claske Vos** from the **University of Amsterdam**, where she explored the vital role of **culture** and **arts** in shaping

the EU's external actions. The lecture also examined the opportunities and challenges these efforts face in today's complex global landscape.

The event was hosted by **Dr. Özge Onursal-Besğül** & **Prof. Ayhan Kaya**.



For more information about the lecture, please click [here](#).

ValEUs Lecture Series (5) 'In But Not of Europe': The Europe of Postcolonial Concern

8 November, 2024
Rutgers University

A hybrid workshop at Rutgers University, in collaboration with ValEUs, hosted by the Rutgers Center for European Studies, featuring Osseina Alidou, Mohamed Bamyeh, József Böröcz, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Faisal Devji, Randall Halle, Hans Kundnani, Zakia Salime, Belinda Davis, and Sadia Abbas (workshop organizer).

Taking its title from Stuart Hall's essay on European integration, "In But Not of Europe," this workshop seeks to address some of the most pressing issues facing Europe today—migration, the rise of the far right, and the contradictory responses to the wars in Ukraine and Gaza—putting Postcolonial Studies and European Studies, as well as humanities, social sciences and policy in dialogue.

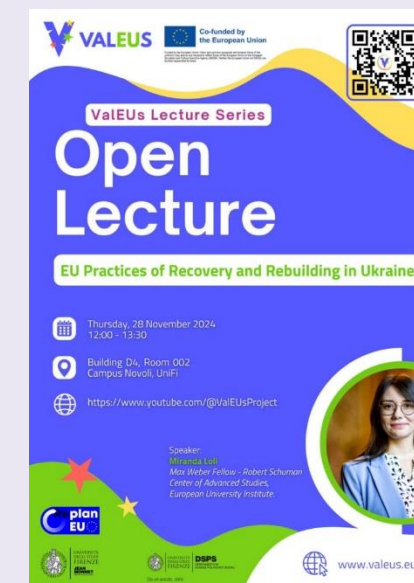


For more information about the lecture, please click [here](#).

ValEUs Lecture Series (6): EU Recovery and Reconstruction Practices in Ukraine

28 November, 2024
Building D4, Room 002, Campus Novoli, UniFi.

The lecture of our "EU practices of recovery and rebuilding in Ukraine" series with Miranda Loli, Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute.



For more information about the lecture, please click [here](#).

ValEUs Lecture Series (7) Role of the EU as a Global Actor: Challenges and Strategies

03 October, 2024

Universidad del Norte

As part of the 27th edition of Cátedra Europa, the event "Role of the European Union as a Global Actor: Challenges and Strategies" brought together renowned experts in international law and international relations to analyze the European Union's position in today's global landscape.

During the conference, Professor Amparo Alcoceba addressed the EU's challenges amidst multipolarity, globalization, and interdependence, emphasizing its lack of strategic autonomy in key areas such as security and energy, as well as difficulties in managing migration and financial crises. While achievements in democracy, human rights, and sustainability were acknowledged, their limitations in practice were also highlighted. The discussion focused on the EU's relations with Latin America, exploring its role as a key partner in areas such as peace and sustainability, while addressing challenges posed by competition with global players like the United States and China.

For more information about the lecture, please click [here](#).

ValEUs Lecture Series (8)

European Union Cooperation for Peace in Colombia

02 October, 2024

Universidad del Norte

The Universidad del Norte served as the epicenter of a significant academic gathering during the 27th edition of the Cátedra Europa. The event, titled "European Cooperation for Peace in Colombia," brought together prominent figures such as Adolfo Meisel, Rector of Uninorte, Francesco Svelto,

Rector of the University of Pavia, Luca de Paoli, Emanuele Castelli, and renowned Colombian academics, including Luis Trejos and Jairo Agudelo.

Participants agreed on the urgent need to strengthen international collaboration to build a lasting peace in Colombia. Crucial topics such as poverty, unemployment, and the challenges of implementing peace agreements were addressed. The importance of redirecting resources towards social development and fostering the training of professionals in international relations to strengthen diplomacy and conflict resolution was emphasized.

During the event, concrete initiatives to advance peace were explored, such as university cooperation between Colombia and Italy, sustainability projects, and the promotion of biodiversity. However, the challenges that still persist were also acknowledged, including the lack of political will, the influence of armed actors, and the complexity of peace dialogues.

For more information about the lecture, please click [here](#).

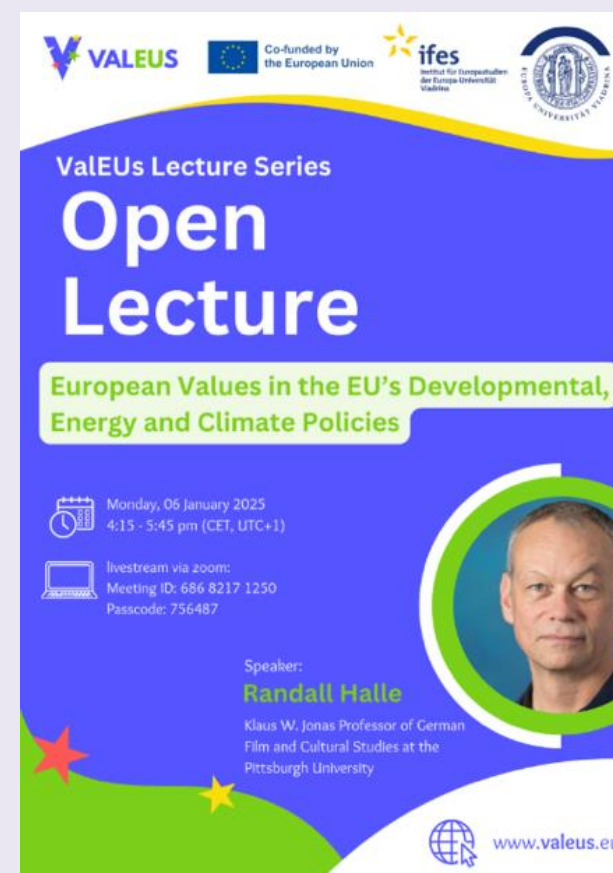
Upcoming Events

ValEUs Lecture Series: European Values in the EU's Developmental, Energy and Climate Policies

We are pleased to invite you to the next lecture in our series on "European Values in the EU's Developmental, Energy and Climate Policies." This lecture will be presented by Randall Halle. Halle directs the European Studies Center and is Klaus W. Jonas Professor of German Film and Cultural Studies at the Pittsburgh University.

The lecture at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) will take place on January 6th 2025 from 4:15 PM to 5:45 PM (Germany Time, UTC+1) in the main building, room HG 162. For those unable to attend in person, the event will be streamed live on the ValEUs YouTube channel, allowing participants to join remotely. We look forward to your participation and hope to see you there, whether in person or online!

For more information about the lecture, please click [here](#).



The poster for the ValEUs Lecture Series Open Lecture features a blue background with a white and green wave at the bottom. At the top, logos for VAEUS, the European Union, ifes, and the University of Pavia are displayed. The main title "ValEUs Lecture Series Open Lecture" is in large white font. Below it, the topic "European Values in the EU's Developmental, Energy and Climate Policies" is written in green. The date and time "Monday, 06 January 2025 4:15 - 5:45 pm (CET, UTC+1)" are shown next to a calendar icon. Zoom details "Livestream via zoom: Meeting ID: 686 8217 1250 Passcode: 756487" are listed next to a laptop icon. A circular portrait of the speaker, Randall Halle, is on the right. Below the portrait, his name and title "Speaker: Randall Halle, Klaus W. Jonas Professor of German Film and Cultural Studies at the Pittsburgh University" are provided. The website "www.valeus.eu" is at the bottom right.

New Project:

PLEDGE Politics of Grievance and Democratic Governance



The project titled ‘**PLEDGE: Politics of Grievance and Democratic Governance**’ to which **Prof. Ayhan Kaya**, Faculty Member in the Department of International Relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Director of the European Institute, applied as co-coordinator and **Prof. Pinar Uyan Semerci** and **Prof. Emre Erdoğan**, Faculty Members in the Department of International Relations, applied as researchers was entitled to receive the support of European Commission’s Horizon Europe programme.

Contemporary politics is angry and vengeful, with affective polarization and uncompromising antagonisms posing a significant challenge for European democracies and their governance. PLEDGE interprets political grievances as emotional signals of disaffection, frustration and insecurities that can develop into either anti- or prodemocratic outcomes. By engaging in collaborative research design and implementation involving academics, policy-makers, civil society actors, and citizens, the PLEDGE project intends to offer new understanding of anti- and pro-democratic trajectories of political grievances, and to co-create tools and practices of emotionally intelligent and responsive democratic governance and policy communication that promote prodemocratic forms of civic engagement.

The project will provide a framework of the emotional mechanisms of anti- and prodemocratic

grievance politics that explain dynamic interrelations between the emotions, values, and identities of citizens and groups, and empirically decode the psychological, sociocultural, and political drivers of these emotional mechanisms into operationalizable measures and indicators, focusing on 11 countries and 3 major crises (pandemic, war in Ukraine, climate/energy crisis).

PLEDGE will achieve these objectives through a cross-national interdisciplinary research project involving 15 partners and its policy outputs, co-created and piloted in design coalitions, will inform democratic innovation of processes and practices and incorporate emotions in the designed-for outcomes, thus improving their efficiency.



PLEDGE Consortium Partners

- **Helsingin Yliopisto (UH)**, Finland
- **Lunds Universitet (ULUND)**, Sweden
- **Freie Universität Berlin (FUB)**, Germany
- **Ethniko Kai Kapodistriako Panepistimio Athinon (NKUA)**, Greece
- **Uniwersytet Warszawski (UNIWARSAW)**, Poland
- **Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)**, Belgium
- **Universitat de Valencia (UVEG)**, Spain
- **International Psychoanalytic University Berlin GGMH (IPU Berlin)**
- **Istanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi (BILGI)**, Turkey
- **Tarsadalomtudományi Kutatóközpont (CSS)**, Hungary

- **Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University (PMBSNU)**, Ukraine
- **Stimmuli for Social Change (STIM)**, Greece

Istanbul Bilgi University Team

Prof. Ayhan Kaya
Prof. Pinar Uyan-Semerci
Assoc. Prof. Emre Erdoğan
Dr. Özlem Cihan
Didem Balatlıoğulları, MA

For additional details about the project, please visit the [website](#).

News and Events

16-19 February 2024
Kick-off meeting in Athens

PLEDGE consortium met physically for the first time during the project’s kick-off meeting that was carried out in Athens (Greece) on 16-19th of February 2024, with the active contribution of all partners under a very engaging atmosphere. Partners were introduced to the project’s work plan and discussed on the structure of all Work Packages (WPs) and their foreseen management, research and/or engagement activities within the lifetime of the project.

30 September – 4 October 2024
Launch Conference, Synergy building & 2nd consortium meeting in Brussels

October 2024 was one of the most active and fruitful months for PLEDGE project! On 30th of September & 4th of October 2024 the consortium met in Brussels for the project’s 2nd Steering Committee meeting to discuss the progress done so far and the next tasks of the implementation plan.

The consortium also hosted a hybrid Synergy

building workshop on 1st of October, successfully bringing together key stakeholders from EU-funded and other relevant projects. Participants familiarized themselves with ongoing initiatives in this field, shared insights, and explored possibilities for joint scientific and dissemination activities.

The highlight of the week was the PLEDGE Launch Conference, which was held in a hybrid mode and was co-organised by our partners Stimmuli for Social Change (Greece) and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium), with all partners’ active contribution and support. The Conference aimed at bringing together academics, civil society actors, media professionals and policymakers to explore innovative approaches to policy-making and political communication, by enabling them to take part in open discussions on the significance of emotions in grievance politics and the need for creating emotionally responsive strategies that resonate with the public’s emotional needs. Here is an overview of the activities we implemented in our Conference:

The 1st day of the Conference started with a session dedicated to the “Emotional politics of democracies” Horizon Europe cluster of projects, introduced by the European Commission’s coordinating officers. The session featured an overview of the recently funded projects under the European Commission’s call on “The emotional politics of democracies”, specifically PLEDGE, MORES, PROTEMO, ENCODE & CIDAPE. Each project’s representative presented its unique approach towards understanding how emotions influence political attitudes, citizen engagement and policy-making processes. The next session of the 1st day included a Panel Discussion on ‘Grievance Politics and Democratic Resilience’ focusing on 4 themes (Grievance politics & democracy, Emotional mechanisms & grievances, Grievance and Ressentiment in global crises (the Russo-Ukrainian war), Democratic design & innovation). Finally, an insightful World Café activity, where research findings on European

Parliament's (EP) elections campaign data & social media in grievance politics, were presented and discussed, and a democratic design workshop, where PLEDGE researchers presented State-of-the-art democratic design practices and case studies.

Day 2 activities of the Conference were divided in three distinct parts:

i) a session of 3 parallel Discussion Groups focusing on PLEDGE's key case studies, allowing stakeholders to share insights on pressing political grievances on the following thematic areas: 1) Democratic design, 2) The Russo-Ukrainian War, 3) Immigration.

ii) an interactive Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis workshop focusing on aligning the project's work plan with its intended impact. The workshop employed a co-creative methodological approach drawing from design-thinking practices, integrating stakeholders' feedback in the project's Theory of Change (ToC) and refining its activities for achieving greater impact.

iii) a Roundtable discussion featuring a group brainstorming exercise exploring strategies to ensure continuous collaboration and information flow between the PLEDGE consortium and the project's stakeholders, and to collaboratively develop a comprehensive Action Plan for the PLEDGE Coalition.



PLEDGE Conference: Understanding emotional Grievances – Forging Resilient Democracies

2-3 October 2024, Brussels

Locations:
 HOEK 38 – Leuvenseweg 38, 1000 Brussel (Wednesday 2nd of October)
 De Markten – Oude Graanmarkt 5, 1000 Brussel (Thursday 3rd of October)

[The PLEDGE conference](#), held on October 2-3, 2024, explored the emotional forces driving the rise of far-right and populist movements across Europe and beyond. Focusing on fear, resentment, and victimhood, the event delved into how these emotions fuel political shifts and how we can transform citizens' grievances into constructive democratic actions. Experts discussed how to make EU policies more emotionally responsive and inclusive, ultimately strengthening democratic governance.

- We are thrilled to announce that the **PLEDGE first official video** is now live!



Take a closer look at the various aspects of **#GrievancePolitics** and the project's goal of understanding its emotional dimension.

[Watch](#) PLEDGE official video!

Download the PLEDGE brochure [here](#).

Call for Papers | Forum 2025 – Emotions in Multilateral Diplomacy: Exploring Affect in International Organisations in Volatile Times

We are excited to announce a Call for Papers for the upcoming Forum on Emotions in Multilateral Diplomacy! This interdisciplinary event will explore the role of emotions in the formulation and conduct of multilateral diplomacy, as well as in shaping policy outcomes within IOs. We invite researchers, academics, and practitioners to submit original contributions focusing on the role of emotions in the new volatile security context and shifting global, international, and regional dynamics.

Length of proposals: max 300 words. Deadline 15 January 2025. Publication foreseen in fall 2025.

If you are interested in participating, find out more [here](#).

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PROJECT TEAM

“Neoliberalism, Resentment, and the Rise of Extreme Right”

Mikko Salmela
 University of Helsinki,
 PLEDGE Project Coordinator

In a new book, *Analytical Fascism -- What Stares Back When One Stares Into the De-enlightenment* (George Washington University Illiberalism Studies Program, 2024), the political and moral philosopher Mark R. Reiff argues that fascism has a coherent worldview with values whose appeal explains the rise of extreme right better than alternative explanations that view supporters of these movements and parties – such as Fidesz in Hungary, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in Turkey, the Law and Justice (PiS) party in Poland, the Alternative for Germany (AfD) in Germany, the National Rally in France, the Party for Freedom (PVV) in the Netherlands, and the MAGA movement in the United States – as empirically mistaken about facts or motivated by economic self-interest that overrides their political values. These explanations, that Reiff argues to be mistaken, allow liberals to think that supporters of these parties are yet not illiberal in their values, another mistake according to Reiff.

But why do we have this upsurge of illiberal values such as nationalism, white supremacy, ethnocentrism, male superiority, religious fundamentalism, and homophobia in Western societies. Importantly, these are categories whose membership can be identified by relatively obvious biological, racial, ethnic, religious, or otherwise objective or quasi-objective markers, as Reiff observes. These are ascriptive properties that are based on what individuals *are* rather than what they have achieved in free competition with others. The fact that illiberalism distances itself from liberal



principles of merit and desert as the basis of social ordering, instead emphasizing a present social hierarchy, reveals something essential about it. It allows those who perceive their status to be threatened in contemporary societies to reorient towards into values that justify their high status. While white male working class voters of Donald Trump are an obvious example of this kind of value reorientation, insecurity about status and social recognition can be more widespread in contemporary neoliberal societies whose social, economic, and ideological conditions feed *ressentiment*. The retrenchment of the welfare state, downsizing of the public sector, economic deregulation, and globalization have heightened grievances and precariousness. The neoliberal emphasis on competition and market exchange extends beyond the economy into social life, pressuring individuals to become “entrepreneurs of the self” (Foucault 2008) who compete with each other for various resources. This dynamic amplifies feelings of worthlessness, marginalization, dispensability, and frustration, while placing responsibility for success and failure squarely on individuals (Wacquant 2010; Mounk 2017). Additionally, as Scheler (1961) already remarked, tensions between the values of liberty and equality in liberal democracies exacerbate disparities in power, property, and education, breeding *ressentiment* among less fortunate or less successful, who in contemporary meritocracies often internalise their struggles and blame themselves (Sandel 2020; Mounk 2017).

Ressentiment can explain the shift in people’s values, observed by Reiff and some other political scientists. It is best conceived as an emotional mechanism witnessed among the powerless and disprivileged – either by objective standards or subjective experience; basically, anyone feeling precarious or vulnerable more chronically (Salmela and Capelos, 2021). The function of *ressentiment* is to manage frustration and threat to self-worth through two parallel transvaluation processes: first, what was desired or valued, yet unattainable, is

reassessed as undesirable and worthless; and new values are adopted instead; second, one’s self is reassessed as valuable and superior. *Ressentiment* operates through emotions. Its drivers are envy, shame, humiliation, or inefficacious anger that trigger the transvaluation of those values and identities that have become tagged with these emotions. This transvaluation externalizes blame onto perceived oppressors, justifying the emergence of other-directed moral emotions such as resentment, indignation, contempt, and hatred; the output emotions of *ressentiment*. While *ressentiment* appears to offer a solution, it does not resolve, but rather transmutes the underlying frustrations. As Salmela and Capelos (2021) argue, *ressentiment* is a psychological manoeuvre for evading mental pain. Internally, individuals escape the pain of confronting their perceived inferiority or impotence by adopting feelings of righteous anger, resentment, and hatred. Externally the “new” self is validated and sustained through social interactions and sharing the latter feelings with like-minded peers.

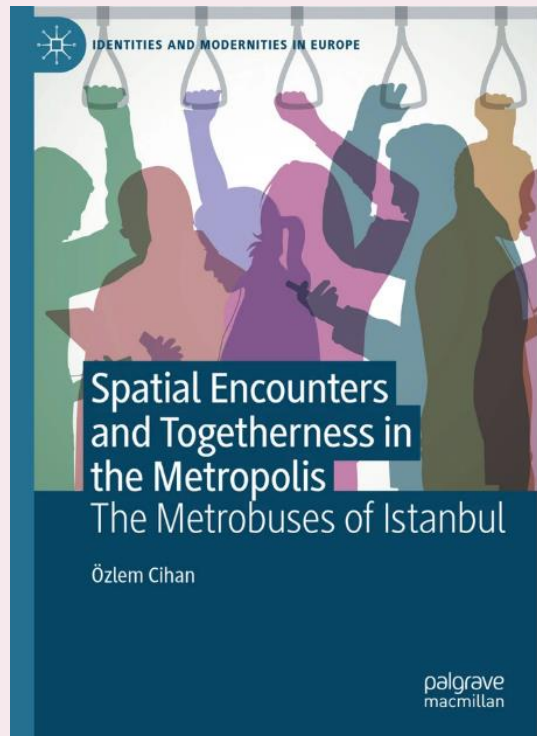
If this analysis is correct, we can see how the support of illiberal values, instead of representing a swing in an eternal pendulum between liberalism and illiberalism, as suggested by Reiff, has grown out organically from the emergence and strengthening of neoliberal economic order and citizenship regime in Western societies from 1980s onwards. However, the inherent *ressentiment*-inducing tendencies of neoliberalism render these societies, especially in times of crises, unstable and vulnerable to political turbulences that pose a threat to the fundamental values of those societies: respect for human dignity and human rights, liberty, democracy, equality, and the rule of law. Therefore, liberal politicians and policymakers neglect these signs of warning, posed by the rise of extreme right, at their peril if they let neoliberalism run rampant.

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Living Istanbul: Socio-Spatial Togetherness of the Metrobus

Dr. Özlem Cihan



Eroding barriers in the global world did not scale down our fundamental questions; however, the importance of multilayered analyses continues to grow. While structural factors remain critical, it is equally important to acknowledge how individual experiences and perceptions influence—and are influenced by—broader macro-level dynamics. In this regard, the city, as a socio-spatial structure, emerges as a significant framework in analyzing the particulars embedded in sociopolitical totalities. The modern urban condition vividly reflects sociopolitical experiences as individuals shape perceptions and practice within the shared spaces of the built environment. Analyzing the perspectives of diverse urban practitioners on socio-spatial togetherness in everyday life, therefore, provides a powerful lens for understanding these concrete pluralities. In this context, the urban condition offers unique insights into the connections between the global and the

local and the interplay between theory and practice. It reveals how abstract ideas can be translated into praxis, grounding them in the tangible realities of urban life. On the other hand, the phenomenon of the metropolis, is growingly altering the world's landscape through the network of global cities. On an extensive scale, such as the metropolis, individual and social practices are significantly appropriated by the spatial-temporal configuration constituting metropolitan subjectivities. Istanbul serves as a compelling example. Diverse inhabitants move within spatially organized and temporally compressed metropolitan structure in their daily, often-routinized mobility. This prompts a central question: In a city with a population rivalling that of a small country—one that encompasses extraordinary demographic density and diversity—how can we better understand the practical meaning of Istanbul-constituted perception on socio-spatial togetherness?

Derived from such considerations *Spatial Encounters and Togetherness: Metrobuses of Istanbul* analyzes the perception and practice of socio-spatial togetherness in Istanbul. Developed from my doctoral thesis, this monograph draws on Henri Lefebvre's concept of social space and explores the constitutive effects of spatial encounters on the experience of living with diverse, plural, and unfamiliar others in Istanbul. To encounter, contact, and the practice of togetherness are inherently spatial, materializing through lived experiences within urban configuration. Hence, the focus on spatial encounters emerges from the everyday practices that characterize life in the metropolis. Everyday life, on the other hand, presupposes vast movement in the metropolis, just as movement as a socio-spatial practice is realized in the everyday. The metropolis significantly increased the distances that must be traversed by the inhabitants, who lead accelerated lives on the move; yet these seemingly ordinary mobilities profoundly influence our practical life spheres and shape concrete

experiences. Through both voluntary and involuntary mobilities, we often encounter the unexpected others. Thus, the spatial organization of everyday life establishes the socio-temporal context for such unexpected interactions in the city. The specific site for these encounters, and the case study addressed in this book, is Istanbul's renowned bus rapid transit system, the metrobus. In Istanbul, the metrobus represents the everyday aspects of urban mobility - the ordinary, routine, and obligatory movement designed for efficient transit over long distances. Hence, I approach the metrobus as an instrumental and conceptual representation of metropolitan mobility; however, it is one of the few remaining spaces of plural, diverse, and unexpected encounters in a 16 million Istanbul. Metrobuses, therefore, align with the conceptual representation of metropolitan transport but simultaneously serve as a vital space for interaction among diverse districts, fostering encounters among plural passengers. Located on the E5 highway along 44 stations, the metrobus almost cuts the city through a long, parallel line. The E5, on the other hand, has an important place for the Istanbulites' social life and transportation. It has a strategic location within the city for education, trade, finance, industry, health, and mobility. In this 52-km transit route which avoids traffic, the metrobus intersects with many different socio-economic areas of Istanbul. In this light, between 2019 and 2020, I conducted 29 semi-structured in-depth interviews with regular metrobus passengers using snowball sampling, which also included nine online interviews during the COVID-19 quarantine. Students between 19 and 23, white-collar workers ranging from 23 to 46, and a few blue-collar employees over their 40s have been among the interlocutors with diverse metrobus routes. Consequently, based on this field work, the book concentrated on the perceptions of Istanbulites and presented an inquiry into the meaning of metropolitan social organization experienced from below, through ordinariness, everyday practices and mobilities that could concretize diverse and unexpected encounters.

Furthermore, the book unveils the phenomenon of metropolitan subjectification, which reflects itself in daily practices, transit travels, and communal experiences—essentially capturing the essence of being an Istanbulite. Consequently, my overall argument is that the regular and obligated use of the metrobus deviates inhabitants from the essence of socio-spatial togetherness by constituting an abstracted practice entangled with spatial-temporal consumption in transit subjectification. Living Istanbul as a regular metro bus passenger erodes the spontaneity of public encounters in everyday life and dissolves the essence of togetherness.

I approached this question by considering two main aspects. First, following Henri Lefebvre's *The Production of Space*, I analyzed the metropolitan constitution of space, focusing on Istanbul as a case study. The rise of metropolitan areas transforms our socio-spatial experiences and introduces new modalities of subjectivation because the distances we must take, the crowds we must bear, and the things we must complete undertake a metropolitan dimension in utmost diversity. Even encountering takes a share from this dimension because encountering possibilities of differences equally erode. Along with changing perceptions and practices of size and scale, metropolitan areas generate complex and dense layers of socio-economic homogeneity and segregation because the built environment frames activities, people, and things in space. Istanbulites, too, often encounter and contact in the frame of calculative, automatized, and segregated patterns that the city obliges and usually encloses instead of living the spatial totality reflected in the social organization. Thus, examining togetherness requires scrutiny of the socio-spatial constitution appropriated with the metropolis. Second, I aimed to provide a socio-spatial contribution of the ordinary, of the mundane, to the question of togetherness. Rather than taking a broad approach, I examined our social patterns through the lens of the ordinary, day-to-day practices that make up our world and, most

importantly, from the perspective of inhabitants who experience and concretize them daily. Connected with the first, this approach brings forth my consideration of everyday life and mobility in Istanbul. Everyday life constitutes the realm of our spatial-temporal existences because how people perceive their spatial and temporal coexistence with others is actualized in the context of everyday with inevitable mobilities to navigate this everyday city life. Therefore, the inquiry of the city is the inquiry of socio-spatial togetherness since they are experienced through spatially organized everyday life and mobility.

After a theoretical elaboration of social space – the social and political essence of space as a locus of our organizations – and the neoliberal metropolitanization of Istanbul – Istanbul’s history of socio-economic and spatial structuring from modernization into a global metropolis – I provided three layers of fieldwork analysis. I examined and presented the everyday life and metrobus experiences of the interlocutors to reveal socio-spatial encounters and the perceptions of togetherness. Therefore, the everyday life chapter analyzed the symptomatic outcomes of daily practices of the interlocutors, and indirectly it presented the entangled relationship between living in Istanbul and being obliged to the metrobus. In addition to nostalgia, the chapter revealed premises of commodification, rationalization, and homogenization leading to everyday alienation. The inevitability of regulated mobility in the quotidian transformed space and time into obliged forms that must be calculated and consumed through the Istanbul-appropriated use of them. Hence, the daily practices of interlocutors showed growing symptoms of rationalization in a cyclical routine of mechanized movement. That is, they live the city as calculating beings, and concerning everyday life practices, their class differences are becoming erased. Living with the clock in utmost regulation and through kilometers-long distances of mobility are becoming parallel realities for both blue- and white-collar workers. As

a more concerning outcome, this frame of everydayness generated abstraction, leading to everyday alienation. Interviews showed how the rationalized and homogenized content of the everyday is abstracting potentially direct reactions in Istanbul realized with pervasive metropolitan spatial-temporal objectification.

As a result, inhabitants showed premises of everyday alienation that mostly remained blasé to their critical and contemplative considerations. In this light, the everyday in Istanbul, understood as the spatial-temporal ground of regulated mobility in crowds, distances, and density, generated an actual necessity for a means of efficient transport in speed–distance maximization. The metrobus has been, and remains, a precedent solution for this need. The second layer of analysis of the metrobus emphasized the factors making the metrobus a necessity while analyzing its socio-spatial essence in regularity. Regular metrobus passengers explained their reliance on its transit efficiency, particularly during rush hour, when most use it for commuting. Findings highlighted a leveling conduct unique to the “metrobus profile” and how regulars developed “tactics of strategies” to adapt to its fixated mobility. As a conceptual bus rapid transit, the metrobus offers little room for spontaneity, prompting users to construct behaviours that ease its rigid essence. Hence, as they became regulars, they constructed some intriguing conduct to ease its fixated essence of mobility. In this light, living in Istanbul on a regular sphere of organized activity, i.e., commuting, through its exemplary mode of mobility, enclosed inhabitants in a growing homogeneity. Their subjectivities are eroded under transit modes of calculations, consumption, and practices to sustain lives, i.e., the completion of commuting routes in blasé existences. The “use, consume, and leave” mentality is appropriated with the essence of the bus rapid transit. Interlocutors contrasted this with Istanbul’s ferries, which they saw as offering richer experiences while on the move. Ultimately, the metrobus symbolizes transit subjectification in Istanbul, producing

indifference and rationalized social interactions within the metropolis.

The concluding analysis of the book presented a particular discussion of the idea of togetherness through an overall analysis of everyday practices realized with the regular metrobus conduct. It evaluated daily encounters on the metrobus to examine whether interlocutors’ subjectivities changed regarding the unknown and the different they experience together. Predominantly, the interlocutors displayed a dissolving of the essence of togetherness. Their perceptions of others, shaped by their mechanized interactions, revealed three significant outcomes: differentiation, insecurity, and indifference. These encounters largely remained abstract, confined within the metrobus experience, and thus, did not overcome the apathetic, distant, and differentiated representations. Differentiation and insecurity were not directly created but rather reproduced through the everyday experiences influenced by the metrobus. In other words, despite the plural and diverse encounters offered by the metrobus, interlocutors did not overcome their differentiated perceptions; instead, they perpetuated them and generated increased insecurity toward strangers. These first two outcomes were primarily reproduced because experiences of encounter in Istanbul have become increasingly limited due to the growth of uneven transformation projects and class disparities that hinder spontaneous interactions in everyday life. While the metrobus facilitates diverse momentary encounters, its socio-spatial nature tends to confine passengers significantly. One could argue that the size, density, and spatial layout have become key factors influencing communal perceptions and behaviours. In this light, the concept of togetherness evolves into an abstract form of compelled interaction, with passengers struggling to forge meaningful connections. However, the third finding of indifference is reinforced by the metrobus conduct, in contrast to the first two. The discussions concerning the everyday alienation and transit

subjectification are reflected in the constitution of growing indifference. Living in Istanbul, and being obliged to use the metrobus, produced a significant level of apathetic and distanced modes among the interlocutors.

As the world is growingly metropolitanizing, the metropolis will continue to be crucial in comprehending the spatial constitution and subjectification in our neoliberal age. At the same time, the metropolitan phenomenon serves as a significant lens through which we can explore the evolving essence of encountering and being together with diverse others in everyday practices. In other words, the prevailing systemic tendencies associated with growing metropolitan areas prompt a vital question: If we are to embrace the metropolitan practice of living together, what insights can we gain from it? This book aimed to present a bottom-up approach to examine such considerations. Istanbulites, too, often live to sustain livelihood in regulated and routinized practices if they do not inhabit homogeneously segregated spaces for leisure and inhabitation. Istanbul, therefore, presents an essential example for an understanding of togetherness, illustrating the socio-political and economic dynamics that shape spatial formation and how it is lived by inhabitants in plurality and diversity, offering insights into the complexities of metropolitan subjectivation.

“An Overview of the Past Year”

Dr. Ozan Kuyumcuoğlu

Over the past year, I had the opportunity to attend two local conferences: The International Relations Congress organized by the International Relations Council and the Congress of the Turkish Political Science Association. At the International Relations Congress, I presented on the National Outlook Movement's perspective on foreign policy. In my presentation, I explored the discourses and slogans produced by the movement regarding Turkish foreign policy from 1970 to 2000, analysing the various international and domestic dynamics that influenced these ideas. At the Turkish Association of Political Sciences Congress, I highlighted the ideological continuity between the National Outlook Movement and the Justice and Development Party. I argued that this continuity is rooted not in Islamism, but in a nationalist perspective that underscores the centrality of Turks within the Islamic world.

Additionally, last year I contributed to the edition "The Republic at the End of Its First Century: Moments of Democratization, Ordinary People and Politics," released by Istanbul Bilgi University Publications with my chapter "Republic's Hundred Years Long Foreign Policy Towards the Middle East: Model Country, Balance Policy and Imperial Legacy". In this work, I examined key turning points in the Republic's century-long Middle East policy and analysed how local, regional, and international dynamics converged to shape Ankara's approach to the region.

Last year, I had the opportunity to participate in the 11th European Workshops on International Studies (EWIS) program. I took part in "Connectivity Projects in Global Politics: Engineering the Future by Mobilizing the Past" workshop. Alongside Jan Bachman from the Department of Global Studies at

the University of Gothenburg and Ahmed Ibrahim from Carleton College, we presented our work, "Geo-cultural Power Reconsidered: Perceptions of Turkey's Space-Making Ventures in Somalia." This presentation is a key output of our project, "Geopolitics at the Margins: Exploring Emergent Political Orders across the Red Sea Region," which we initiated in June 2023.

Our project investigates the emerging political narratives in and around the Red Sea, with a particular focus on the Horn of Africa. We analyse how regional actors, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, seek to expand their influence in the Horn of Africa through infrastructure development and aid initiatives. Recently, we have examined Turkey's activities, specifically those of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), the Yunus Emre Institute (YEI), and the Maarif Foundation (MF) in Somalia. Within the framework of this project, I prepared a brief report detailing how Turkish narratives align with infrastructural and humanitarian projects in the Horn of Africa. I would like to share a part of my report focuses on the activities of TIKA, YEE, and MF in Somalia from 2009 to 2017.

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's (TIKA) activities in Somalia increased steadily from 2009 to 2013. While 0.19% of TIKA's budget was allocated to Somalia in 2009, this proportion increased to 9.57% in 2013. In 2014, there was a significant decrease to 4.24% in the budget allocated to Somalia. Turkey started its infrastructure investments in Somalia in 2011. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan, accompanied by his family, business people, and celebrities, visited the country, which was suffering from drought in August 2011. At the same time, a major aid campaign for Somalia was launched in Turkey. The 2015 TIKA brochure highlights that this visit represented a significant shift that transformed the future of Somalia (TIKA Somalia, 2015: 7).

Another institution that carries out Turkey's

infrastructure, aid, and education activities in Somalia is the Yunus Emre Institute. Founded in 2009, the institute has opened branches in many countries, starting with the Balkans. In the opening speech in 2009, Prime Minister Erdoğan stated that the Yunus Emre Institute would play the same role for Turkey as institutions such as the British Council and Cervantes did for their countries by carrying out activities to promote Turkish-Islamic culture to the world. The most prominent activity of the Yunus Emre Institute is Turkish language education. According to Erdoğan, Turkish is a science, art, and literature language, which is a legacy left by the empire to different regions.

Therefore, he asserted that Turkey must popularize Turkish again. Furthermore, he stated that the imperial past has left behind not only Turkish culture but also culinary culture, music, and art from Yemen to Crimea, Beijing to Vienna (Yunus Emre Bulletin 2009: 3-4). Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, who had been the architecture of the Turkish foreign policy until 2016 also delivered a speech in the opening ceremony of the institute. He said that Turks have interacted with many different cultures throughout history and that Yunus Emre Institute would revive this common cultural heritage. By mentioning the traces left by the Turks in India and China (Yunus Emre Bulletin 2009: 6-7), he was not only referring to the Ottoman Empire but to the entire Turkish-Islamic culture and emphasized the founding and organizing role of the Turks in Islamic history. Davutoğlu's remarks on Somalia in his Yunus Emre Institute speech in 2013 reflect the above ideas. Davutoğlu stated that Somalia had been under Turkish rule for many years but had been neglected by Turkey during the Republican period. He argued that Somalia again felt "Turkish sovereignty," and Somalis began to perceive themselves as an extension of Turkey under the Justice and Development Party (JDP) government (Yunus Emre Bulletin, 2013: 14-15). The institute began operating in Somalia in 2017. Somalia was the fourth country to benefit the most from TIKA projects in 2014, with \$8.3 million. The

largest share of the budget, accounting for 67%, was allocated to the healthcare sector. Providing medicines and consumables for the 200-bed Turkish Hospital in Mogadishu, whose construction has been completed, is one of the leading activities in the health sector. Administrative and civil infrastructure and education activities ranked second and third with 20.05 percent and 5.71 percent of the budget, respectively. In 2014, the construction of a 25 km two-way asphalt road in Mogadishu began. 736 solar energy panels were installed along the road, and social facilities and a dining hall were built (TIKA Somalia, 2015: 13). As part of the Access to Clean Water in Somalia project, deep boreholes were drilled, and tanks and networks were installed at various points (TIKA World 2014). In the same year, clean drinking water was provided to 2000 people in the Foraweyn region (TIKA Activity, 2014: 179). The delivery of 50 computers to Hargeisa High School is an example of TIKA's investment in education (TIKA Activity 2014: 178). In addition, the provision of educational and clothing materials to children in Derbil and Ileys orphanages (TIKA Activity 2014: 179) can be evaluated in this context.

In 2015, Turkey began to pursue a security-oriented policy due to the problems stemming from the Arab Spring. During this period, the growing strength of PKK affiliated PYD in Syria widened Ankara's concerns. On the other hand, the West's support for PYD in Syria and its criticism of democracy and human rights in Turkey increased the distance between Ankara and the West. TIKA's critical language towards the West in 2015 annual report can be understood in this framework.

TIKA's 2015 annual report begins with President Tayyip Erdoğan's words, "By reaching out to all over the world, we, as Turkey, will give a helping hand as much as we can to whoever in need for assistance." In 2016, Binali Yıldırım, who became prime minister in 2016, said, "We gave a helping hand to those who asked our help, regardless of their language, religion or race...we will stand by them today and

tomorrow" (TIKA, 2015: 3). Before the report was written, Ahmet Davutoğlu, the leading political actor shaping Turkish foreign policy, was removed from office. Nevertheless, it can be said that Davutoğlu's Turkish-Islamic-oriented perspective continued to have an impact on the foreign policy of Turkey. Deputy Prime Minister Veysi Kaynak's remarks can be evaluated in this regard. He implied the protective role of Turkish-Islamic tradition by stating that Turkey stands by the oppressed people in different regions (TIKA, 2015:3). According to Kaynak, Turkey, as a "global actor," is working for global justice by drawing strength from its ancient values. In this framework, Turkey distinguishes itself from "unjust, imposing and utilitarian" aid activities, develops concrete projects in oppressed countries, including Somalia, by putting forward "Turkish-type development model based on humanitarian values" (TIKA Activity, 2015: 6). Kaynak's words demonstrates that Turkey adopted a protective and regulatory role in formulating its foreign policy. The "Turkish-type development model" is presented here as an alternative to the "unjust and imposing development" approach of the West, based on its colonial past. Serdar Çam, the then-director of TIKA, also wrote an article for the presentation that put forward the same perspective. Çam asserted that Turkey approached to its relations with the underdeveloped world with a focus on justice rather than realpolitik. He openly criticized the Western nations by referencing their colonial past. In his view, the problems of underdeveloped and developing countries have roots in the colonial order, the effects of which are still being felt (TIKA Activity Document, 2015:8).

To understand the implications of these words on Turkey's Somalia policy, it is crucial to examine the infrastructure and humanitarian aid activities in this country. In 2015, Somalia was Turkey's second largest aid recipient with 314 million dollars (TIKA Annual Report, 2015: 19). Among the least developed countries, Somalia received the most aid (TIKA Annual Report, 2015: 27). The construction of a civil aviation training center was one of the main

TIKA activities in Somalia in 2015 (TIKA Annual Report 2015: 94). Another activity was the training of Somali doctor candidates within the scope of the medical specialty training program organized by Istanbul Medeniyet University Faculty of Medicine. In 2016, there were no significant TIKA activities in Somalia. During this period, there was a substantial decrease in activities towards the African continent in general (TIKA Activity 2016: 19). The amount of aid sent to Somalia was limited to \$59 million. Despite this, Somalia maintained its position as the second largest aid recipient (TIKA Activity 2016: 19). The possible reason for this situation is the negotiations with African countries to liquidate Gülenist institutions in Africa after the coup attempt on July 15, 2016. In 2016, the activities of Gülenist schools in Somalia were banned. The management of these schools was transferred to the government-affiliated Maarif Foundation. According to 2022 data, 1200 students are studying in Maarif schools in Somalia (Maarif Bulletin, 2022: 18).

DAAD German Academic Exchange Service

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German Academic Exchange Service

As of September 2019, **Dr. Deniz Güneş Yardımcı** is the DAAD lecturer at the European Institute. Within the framework of the agreement between İstanbul Bilgi University and the German Academic Foreign Exchange Service (DAAD), she will advance the European Institute's relations with German academic institutions, advise on DAAD scholarship opportunities, and pursue original research and will lecture in the International Relations program.

Deniz Güneş Yardımcı is a sociologist, media- and film scholar specialized in Turkish-German relations with a focus on Turkish-German migration history, culture- and identity politics, and the cinematic representation of migration and diasporas. Before joining the European Institute, she worked as a visiting lecturer at the Humboldt University of Berlin and the University of Duisburg-Essen, and will continue to lecture at the international Berlin Perspectives Programme at Humboldt University of Berlin.

Yardımcı received her PhD at the Media Arts Department at Royal Holloway, University of London in 2017, where she studied with a College Reid Scholarship from the Department of Media Arts. Her dissertation takes a comparative approach to the representation of culture and identity of Turkish migrants and the Turkish diaspora in Germany in German, Turkish-German, and Turkish cinema. During her PhD, Yardımcı was a DAAD doctoral fellow at the European Institute for seven months in 2014.

After her double degree study at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz in Germany,

Yardımcı graduated from the Department of Sociology and the Department of Film/ Department of Mass Communication and received her German Diplom (equivalent to MA) in Sociology in 2009 and her German Magister (equivalent to MA) in Film Studies (with high honours) in 2010. During her studies, she worked as an editorial assistant in the news department of ZDF German Television and as a freelance journalist for Business Week (2006 - 2010).

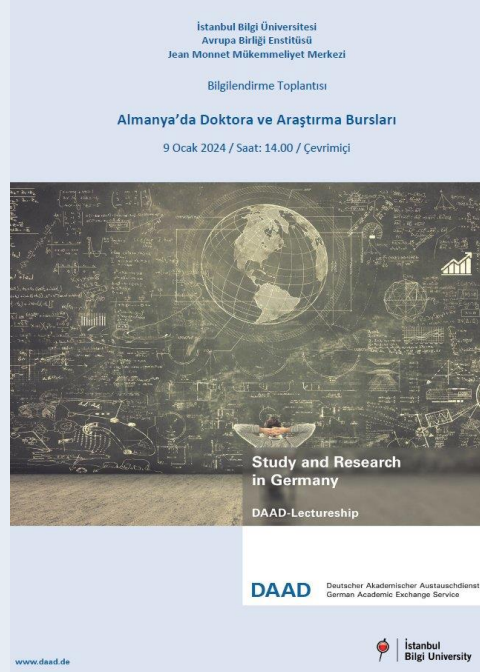
Between 2003 and 2019, Yardımcı taught various courses in Sociology and Film Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Royal Holloway, University of London, Humboldt University of Berlin, and the University of Duisburg-Essen. Furthermore, she was a research assistant at Regent's Centre for Transnational Studies at Regent's University London and worked as an English Language Tutor for Academic Purposes (EAP) at Royal Holloway, University of London in 2013.

Yardımcı's broader research interests include European Migration and Integration Policies, Turkish-German Migration, Migration and Media/Film, Film Sociology, Transnational Cinema, Social Inequality, Marginal Groups, Postcolonial Theories and Qualitative Research Methods. Currently, she is completing a German as Foreign Language (DAF) teacher qualification at the Goethe Institute and writing her book on the cinematic representation of Turkish-German migration history. Yardımcı's present research focuses on contemporary Turkish-German Hip-Hop culture and the cinematic representation of the Syrian refugee crisis.

For more informations about the DAAD, please click [here](#).

9 Ocak 2024
14.00
Çevrimiçi

DAAD Bilgilendirme Toplantısı: "Almanya'da Doktora ve Araştırma Bursları"



19 Aralık 2024
14:00
İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi, Santralistanbul, E1-301

DAAD Bilgilendirme Toplantısı: "Almanya'da Yükseköğrenim, Araştırma ve DAAD Bursları"



Please click [here](#) for more information about DAAD scholarships.

GERMAN STUDIES UNIT



Established in 2008 as a part of the European Institute's various research units and in collaboration with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Studies Unit compliments the existing collaboration with the European University of Viadrina in Frankfurt-Oder, Germany.

The GSU is built around the idea of fostering Turkish-German relations within the context of the EU by promoting cultural interactions as well as exchange of knowledge and ideas. The key objective is to address recent social, political and cultural debates in German society and bring together researchers, students, policy-makers, stakeholders and the general public to discuss current trends and challenges in both countries and in Turkish-German relations

The GSU has expanded its activities and offers a platform for an interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge, expertise, and experience also beyond

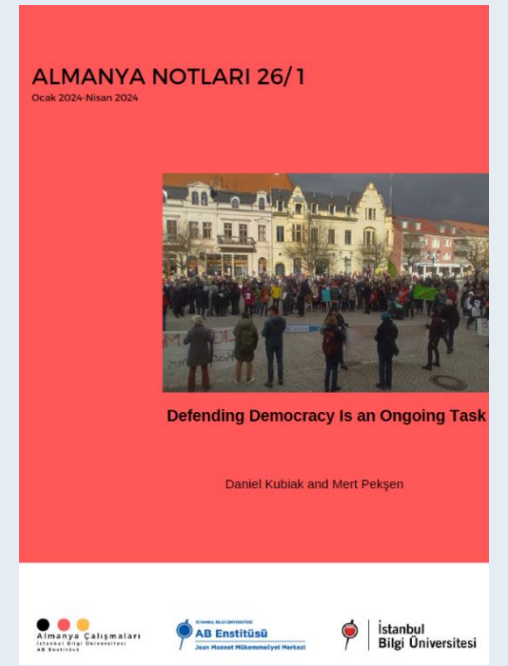
academia. The GSUs activities include:

- Articles and op-ed articles in English, Turkish and German
- Outreach activities in form of conferences, workshops and events
- German Studies Seminar Series
- Yearly German Studies Colloquium for graduate students
- Yearly Study Visits for a group of students to Germany
- Information events on study and research scholarships in Germany

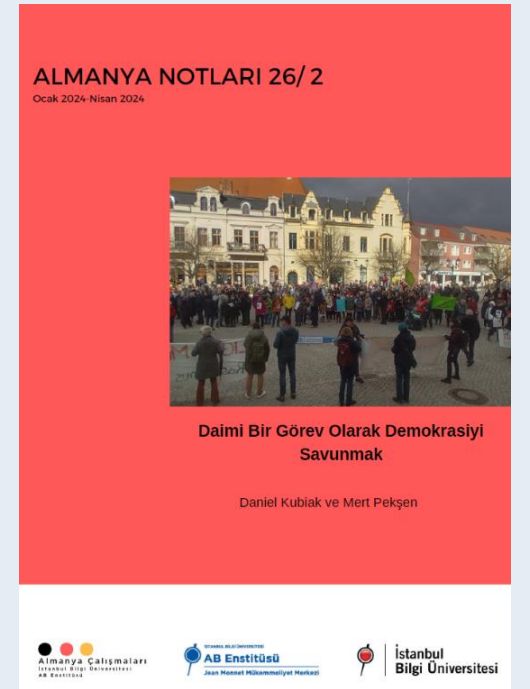
As of January 2020, the GSU has restarted its bi-monthly online publication Germany Brief. The well-established initiative Germany Brief continues to update its readers about recent debates in German society. The latest contributions by Dr. Deniz Güneş Yardımcı, Lalla Amina Drhimeur Melanie Weißenberg, Dr. Constantin Schäfer and Dr. Yaşar Aydın focus on current discussions dealing with the rise of right-wing extremism and migration policy in Germany.



"European Union-Turkey Relations: Impasse and Ways Out" Interview with Dr. Yaşar Aydın



"Defending Democracy Is an Ongoing Task" by Daniel Kubiak and Mert Pekşen



"Daimi Bir Görev Olarak Demokrasiyi Savunmak", Daniel Kubiak and Mert Pekşen

Click [here](#) to access all issues of the Germany Notes Series.

DAAD - TÜBİTAK PROJECT



Distant Neighbors: Exploring Political Narratives and Visual Culture in Turkish-German Relations

Explore Narratives in a Nutshell

This joint project by the European Institute at Istanbul Bilgi University and the Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research at the University Duisburg-Essen entitled 'Distant Neighbors: Exploring Political Narratives and Visual Culture in Turkish-German Relations' aims to explore the development of Turkish- German relations through a detailed empirical analysis of competing and/or shared political narratives in the German and Turkish context in order to show how they have shaped the contemporary perception of befriended, but rather 'distant neighbors'.

The project that will be conducted between November 2022 and October 2024, is based on previous works and preliminary empirical studies. We use the starting thesis that the various political narratives on the Turkish-German relationship differ between elite and everyday discourses in both countries. Whereas the elite discourses in both countries and their political decision- makers

mainly operate with narratives that (re-)produce a distant relationship in terms of pragmatic cooperation and interest-based politics, the everyday discourses and their cultural protagonists (film makers, musicians, artists) share many political narratives and emphasize transnational and culturally hybrid identities in both countries.

The interest in studying both elite and everyday forms of narration derives from the tentative observation that international (i.e. official) relations between Germany and Turkey haven often been strained, while transnational (i.e. society-level) relations may have been much friendlier at the same time. Our loosely comparative study of both arenas will allow us to show 1) how storytelling differs between the elite and public/societal level and 2) whether identities that emerge in these stories may differ between the official and everyday discourse.

Team

- Deniz Güneş Yardımcı – Principal Investigator
- Frank Gadinger – Principal Investigator
- Katja Freistein – Senior Researcher
- Christine Unrau – Senior Researcher
- Mustafa Gökcan Kösen – Researcher
- Serkan Topal – Researcher

Awarding body

2531 TÜBİTAK- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Bilateral Cooperation Programme

Project duration: 24 months

Contact us

E-mail: explorenarratives@outlook.com
 Website: <https://explorenarratives.com>

News and Events

5 April, 2024

Workshop: "The Power of Narratives and Visual Culture in Transnational Cooperation: Exploring Turkish-German Relations in the Everyday"

After [the first workshop](#) on July 19, 2023, at the University of Duisburg-Essen, the second workshop of the DAAD-TÜBİTAK funded bilateral project titled '[Distant Neighbours: Exploring Political Narratives and Visual Culture in Turkish-German Relations](#)' took place on April 5, 2024 at the European Institute, Istanbul Bilgi University.

Working Paper No.16
 "Exploring Cooperative Practices in the Everyday: The Power of Narratives, Visual Culture, and Transnational Identity in Turkish-German Relations" by Deniz Güneş Yardımcı and Frank Gadinger



Click [here](#) to explore the Working Paper.

Working Paper No. 17
 'Orchestration of Civil Society?' Turkish-German Cooperation in the Field of Classical Orchestral Music" by Serkan Topal



Click [here](#) to explore the Working Paper.

Working Paper No. 18
 "Emotions and Narratives: A Brief Literature Discussion" by Mustafa Gökcan Kösen



Click [here](#) to explore the Working Paper.

2nd DAAD-TÜBITAK Project Workshop Report

"The Power of Narratives and Visual Culture in Transnational Cooperation: Exploring Turkish- German Relations in the Everyday"

Dr. Deniz Güneş Yardımcı



After the first workshop on July 19, 2023, at the University of Duisburg-Essen, the second workshop of the DAAD-TÜBITAK funded bilateral project titled 'Distant Neighbours: Exploring Political Narratives and Visual Culture in Turkish-German Relations' took place on April 5, 2024 at the European Institute, Istanbul Bilgi University.

The authors' workshop brought together scholars, researchers, and experts from various academic disciplines to once again delve into the multifaceted dynamics of the relationship between Turkey and Germany. Organized by the European Institute at Istanbul Bilgi University and the Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research at the University of Duisburg-Essen, this workshop aimed to expand the discourse beyond traditional political analysis that focus on political elites to explore the role of narratives and visual culture in transnational Turkish-German spheres by encompassing a diverse range of cultural and political actors, including civil society movements, youth cultures, filmmakers, novelists, musicians, and artists. The idea is that these actors, operating in loose transnational networks influence political discourses and contribute to a more nuanced understanding of Turkish-German relations.

The interdisciplinary workshop brought together young and experienced researchers from different academic backgrounds such as political science, sociology, anthropology, media studies and film studies to engage with the everyday (visual) narratives of Turkish-German relation. Participants presented their work in progress, focusing on methodological approaches and empirical cases. The workshop featured three panels, each addressing different aspects of Turkish-German relations. Key themes included transnational social spaces, youth radicalization tendencies, visual representation of transnational communities, methodological and theoretical approaches on narrative and visual analysis, new migration movements from Turkey to Germany, and the role of arts in transnational and cosmopolite Turkish-German spheres.

Deniz Güneş Yardımcı and Frank Gadinger opened the workshop with a warm welcome speech introducing the scope and objectives of the DAAD-TÜBITAK project and emphasizing the importance of exploring transnational cooperations and cultural and artistic transnational spheres in Turkish-German relations. The director of the European Institute at Istanbul Bilgi University, Ayhan Kaya, also welcomed all participants of the workshop, underlining the value of research on transnational cooperations and everyday transnational social spaces in the context of Turkish-German relations.

The first panel, **Methodological Approaches on Political Narratives and Visuality**, opened with Frank Gadinger and Deniz Güneş Yardımcı giving insights into visual culture, narrative analysis and transnational social spheres, emphasizing their role in studying Turkish-German relations in political life and everyday culture. Katja Freistein, delved into methodological approaches of visual narrative analysis, exploring images and political storytelling of reimagined Turkish communities in Germany. The panel ended with Taylan Yıldız 's presentation on visualising third spaces of hybridity and diasporas.

In panel two on **Contemporary Political Narratives: Populism, Polarization, and Radicalization Tendencies** Ayhan Kaya discussed the potential role of expressive cultures in mitigating the effects of co-radicalization of nativist and self-identified Muslim youth groups, followed by Melis Öneren Özbek's analysis of populist discourses, integration policies, and football with a special focus on media discourses of Turkish-German football players. In his presentation, Mustafa Gökcan Kösen explored the role of emotions and narratives in approaching Turkish German relations.

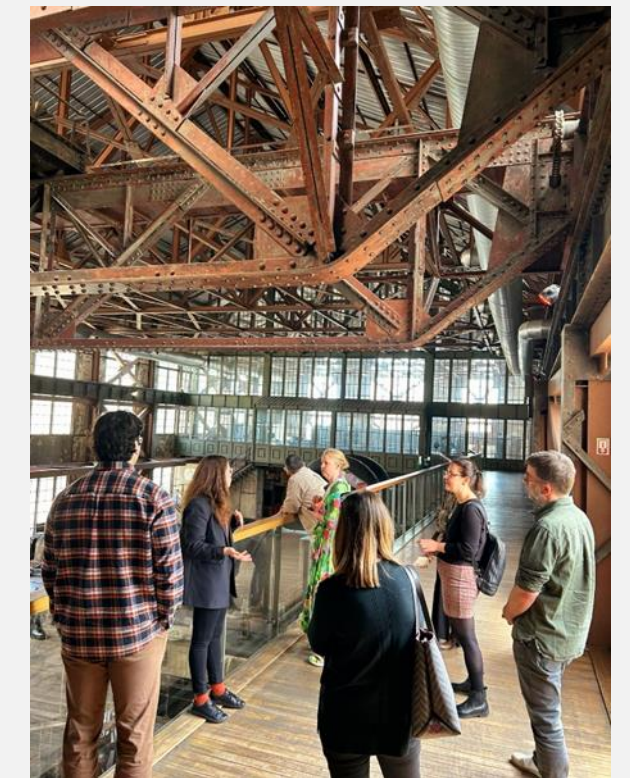
The workshop continued with a guided tour of the energy museum and archive of Silahtarağa Electricity Factory at Santral Campus of Istanbul Bilgi University. Guiding through the museum and archive, Başak Koşanay introduced us to various historical documents that illustrate early Turkish-German transnational cooperations in the Ottoman Empire.



The last panel **New Migration Movements, Transnational Belongings and Cultural Hybridity in Arts and Culture** started with Deniz Güneş Yardımcı exploring transnational aesthetics and narratives in Turkish-German cinema. Discussing Turkish-

German cooperation in the field of orchestral music, Serkan Topal examined classical music concerts as a means of mobilization for civil society.

The last two contributions investigated the new wave migration from Turkey to Germany. Ceren Kukul's paper explored transnational belonging in the city, concentrating on new wave Turkish migrants in Berlin. The workshop ended with İdil Atasoy examining identity struggles in the recent wave of artist migration between Istanbul and Berlin. The day concluded with a workshop dinner, offering participants an informal setting to continue discussions, give feedback, and strengthen collaborations.



The workshop provided a valuable platform for interdisciplinary exchange, fostering a deeper understanding of Turkish-German relations beyond conventional analyses of political elites. By exploring narratives and visual culture in social, cultural, and artistic transnational spaces, the workshop gave significant insights to the complex dynamics of transnational cooperation between Turkey and Germany. The fruitful discussions and diverse perspectives will be compiled into an edited volume, potentially part of the Routledge Global Cooperation Series. The organizers express gratitude to participants for their valuable

contributions, fostering an engaging and collaborative environment and to DAAD and TÜBITAK for making this workshop possible.

For further information, please visit the project website: <https://explorenarratives.com/>



WORKSHOP PROGRAM

10:00-10:15 Welcome and Opening

Frank Gadinger and Deniz Güneş Yardımcı

10:15-11:15 PANEL 1: Methodological Approaches on Political Narratives and Visuality

Chair: Mustafa Gökcan Kösen

Cooperation through Practices in the Everyday: The Power of Narratives, Visual Culture and Transnational Identity in Turkish-German Relations

Frank Gadinger/Deniz Güneş Yardımcı

Visual Narratives of Fantastic Pasts and Futures. German Strategies for Re-imagined Turkish

Communities

Katja Freistein

Visualizing Third Spaces: Between Diaspora and Cultural Hybridity

Taylan Yıldız

Plenary Discussion

11:15-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-12:30 PANEL 2: Contemporary Political Narratives: Populism, Polarization and Radicalization Tendencies

Chair: Deniz Güneş Yardımcı

The Potential Role of Expressive Cultures in Mitigating the Effects of Co-Radicalization of Nativist and Self-Identified Muslim Youth Groups in Europe

Ayhan Kaya

Populism, Integration, and Football: Exploring Media Discourses on Turkish-German Football Players

Melis Öneren Özbek

Emotions and Narratives: How to Approach Turkish-German Relations

Mustafa Gökcan Kösen

Plenary Discussion

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break @ Eggs & Bakes, Istanbul Bilgi University Santral Campus

13:30-14:30 Excursus: Guided Tour of the Energy Museum and the Archive of Silahtarağa Electricity Factory at Santral Campus

Early Turkish-German Transnational Cooperations in the Ottoman Empire: The Example of Silahtarağa Electricity Factory Guided Tour by Amed Gökçen

15:00-16:30 PANEL 3: New Migration Movements, Transnational Belongings and Cultural Hybridity in Arts and Culture

Chair: Frank Gadinger

Transnational Aesthetics, Transnational Narratives: Cultural Hybridity in Turkish German

Cinema

Deniz Güneş Yardımcı

'Orchestration of Civil Society?' German-Turkish Cooperation in the Field of Classical Orchestral Music

Serkan Topal

Transnational Belonging in the City: New Wave Turkish Migrants in Berlin

Ceren Kulkul

White Turks in Gurbet – Performing Transnational Identity: A Case Study of the Artistic Migration from Istanbul to Berlin

İdil Atasoy

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PROJECT TEAM

“Distant Neighbors: Exploring Political Narratives and Visual Culture in Turkish-German Relations”

Dr. Deniz Güneş Yardımcı

In November 2022, our research team embarked on a two-year project entitled 'Distant Neighbors: Exploring Political Narratives and Visual Culture in Turkish-German Relations' aimed at shifting the scholarly attention on Turkish-German relations from the narrow focus on political elites and decision-making processes on the diplomatic level of 'high politics' to other (often overlooked) spheres such as art, protest movements and transnational spaces. The joint research project between by the European Institute at Istanbul Bilgi University and the Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research at the University of Duisburg-Essen was funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBITAK). The group of scholars (Deniz Güneş Yardımcı, Frank Gadinger, Mustafa Gökcan Kösen, Katja Freistein, Christine Unrau, Serkan Topal and Taylan Yıldız) shared the research interest in developing conceptual and

methodological ideas on visual culture, narrative analysis and emotions in Turkish-German relations.

By drawing on European Union studies and foreign policy analysis many scholars often diagnose a growing distant and pragmatic relationship between Germany and Turkey due to an alienation in the European integration process and the purely strategic game between both countries around geopolitical concerns, the NATO partnership, the EU-Turkey deal on refugees, the Russian war in the Ukraine and the war in Gaza. Following this focus of analysis, it is less surprising that the relationship is often characterized as a transformation from a befriended to a rather pragmatic mode of cooperation in roles of 'distant neighbors' (the title of the research project), particular in the ritualized and polite, yet rather frosty meetings and communication between German and Turkish political leaders, for instance after President Erdoğan's election victory in May 2023, Sweden's NATO membership debates and the Russian-Ukrainian war. Our project aimed at challenging or at least supplementing this dominant narrative among contemporary prevailing scholarly debates on Turkish-German relations and public media discourses by broadening the empirical scope from political elites to the much larger variety of political and cultural actors (civil society movements, political activists, scientists, filmmakers, novelists, musicians, artists etc.) from both countries in their European and transnational context.

Various transnational initiatives such as the annual 'Film Festival Turkey Germany Nürnberg' for nearly three decades, the 'Turkish Film Festival Frankfurt' since 2000, the 'German-Turkish Co-Production Development Fund' by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (Istanbul Kültür Sanat Vakfı - IKSVA) that fosters collaborations between filmmakers from both countries, and 'Tarabya Cultural Academy' in Istanbul, run by the German Embassy in Ankara and curated by the Goethe-Institute, awarding annual fellowships to artists in the fields

of visual and performing arts, music, literature and film/media, and the initiative 'German-Turkish Youth Bridge' supported by Stiftung Mercator and the *German Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, and North Rhine-Westphalia's *Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration*, all aim to support transcultural exchange between Turkey and Germany. These examples show that the case of Turkish-German relations can be also told differently through a broader lens that considers joint initiatives, projects and collaborations which are embedded in practices of art, culture and everyday life.

Our main argument is that many of these cultural and political actors, operating in often very loose transnational networks, have developed and established practices and creative techniques in transnational cooperation and thereby overcome the nationalist-driven narratives of a pragmatic or even distant relationship in terms of strategic interests. In short, the state of affairs in German-Turkish relations is much more complex and, to some extent, much more promising than a focus on bilateral official relations would currently suggest. The main difference to the focus on political elites is that all the other spheres of political life in everyday culture (e.g. film, art, music, architecture, popular culture, science), which are often overlooked by social science scholars, were considered and provided the key sites for exploration in our project. The case of classical music concerts as controversial sites for mobilizing civil society, as Serkan Topal shows in his contribution by analyzing the role of pianist Fazil Say, demonstrates that supposedly apolitical activities like classical music can play a key role in negotiating political narratives around Turkish-German relations which transport the message of (re)building a bridge between both countries through a combination of activism and music. The fields of literature and cinema are other important sites, on which hybrid and transnational narratives are developed by novelists and filmmakers (see Deniz Günes Yardimci's contribution) who aim at

breaking with national clichés and tell more complex stories about transnational spaces and culturally hybrid identities. It is significant to remember that those exchanges have been mutually productive. While we often think about contemporary German-Turkish filmmakers (Fatih Akin) and novelists (Feridun Zaimoglu) in a narrow German perspective, it is often forgotten that many artists and scientists from Germany emigrated after 1933 to Turkey (e.g. Erich Auerbach, Paul Hindemith, Wilhelm Röpke), contributed to Turkey's new university and education system and also had the experience of being migrants. This later example shows that it is insightful to complement the current view on pragmatic relations and "Turkey deals" by a historical perspective on the complex and long-standing relations between Germany and Turkey. This relationship dates back as far as the establishment of both republics and has been reflected in various cultural forms such as arts. Think of the German Fountain gifted by the German Kaiser Wilhelm II to the Ottoman Empire in 1900 and the historic summer residence of the German ambassador in Tarabya Istanbul, a gift from the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II in 1880. Given both countries' growing ties in light of the 1960s labor migration, the social sphere has become an important place for understanding this relationship, and numerous studies have made Turkish immigrants and the Turkish diaspora in Germany their object of analysis. Yet only a limited number of those studies have taken the respective reflection in art, everyday culture and especially film into consideration.

Furthermore, instances of visual or music culture have received little attention in the exploration of the ever-intensifying Turkish-German relations. However, focusing on Turkish-German Hip-Hop Culture and Graffiti in Berlin, Ayhan Kaya (2007) in his article titled 'German-Turkish Transnational Space: A Separate Space of Their Own' argues that the German-Turkish diaspora not only 'shaped social, political, economic, and cultural spheres of

life in Turkey', but also became 'transmigrants who can practically and symbolically travel back and forth between their countries of destination and of origin (...). The habitats of meaning of German-Turkish transmigrants are shaped by social, cultural, economic, and political imperatives of both countries in a way that equips them with a rather more vibrant set of identities more cosmopolitan, more syncretic, more rhizomatic, and more transnational (498)'. Beyond their symbolic value for different generations of Turkish and German citizens, art and culture in many forms can be seen as an expression of different emotions that come to shape politics, such as frustration, uncertainty and hope, and stabilize fragile group identities through community building.

The outcomes of our two-year research project have shown, that in an era marked by multiple geopolitical and societal crises like wars in Europe and the Middle East, climate change, continuing migration movements, complex international geopolitical realignment processes, and growing societal polarization tendencies, finding solutions to these interwoven problems has made international cooperation more necessary also in the case of Turkish-German relations. Thus, we argue, that given transnational social spaces and transnational cooperations contribute significantly to the intensification of cooperative and supporting ties between Turkey and Germany.

The two authors' workshops that we organised at the University of Duisburg-Essen (19 July 2023) and at Istanbul Bilgi University (5 April 2024) brought together scholars from various disciplines – political science, sociology, media studies and cultural studies – for an exchange based on the participants' work in progress around various conceptual approaches and empirical cases in Turkish-German relations. The aim was to foster an interdisciplinary conversation on the role of narratives and visual culture in cases of transnational cooperation in the everyday. The workshops provided a valuable platform for interdisciplinary exchange, fostering a

deeper understanding of Turkish-German relations beyond conventional analyses of political elites. By exploring narratives and visual culture in social, cultural, and artistic transnational spaces, the presentations gave significant insights to the complex dynamics of transnational cooperation between Turkey and Germany. The fruitful discussions and diverse perspectives will be compiled into an edited volume entitled 'The Power of Narratives, Visual Culture and Transnational Identity: Exploring Turkish-German Relations in Political Life', potentially part of the Routledge Global Cooperation Series. The contributions in this book explore how everyday (visual) narratives and transnational artistic and cultural cooperations intersect with Turkish-German relations in high politics and can be regarded as powerful drivers of social change. We suggest that everyday transnational cooperations and transnational social spaces mirror an important and widely overlooked part of social reality and that they contribute positively to public discourses on Turkish-German relations having the capacity to shape these under certain conditions.

The project team express gratitude to the authors for their valuable contributions, fostering an engaging and collaborative environment and to DAAD and TÜBİTAK for making this project possible.

BİLGİ PRIME YOUTH PROJECT



“NATIVISM, ISLAMOPHOBISM AND ISLAMISM IN THE AGE OF POPULISM: CULTURALISATION AND RELIGIONISATION OF WHAT IS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IN EUROPE”

From: January 01, 2019 – To: December 31, 2023

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme grant agreement no. 785934.

Prof. Ayhan Kaya, faculty member of İstanbul Bilgi University's International Relations Department and Director of the European Union Institute has been awarded an “Advanced Grant” by the European Research Council (ERC), one of the most prestigious research institutions of Europe, for his project entitled “Nativism, Islamophobia and Islamism in the Age of Populism: Culturalisation and Religionisation of what is Social, Economic and Political in Europe”.

For the purpose of more fairly evaluating research work at different levels, ERC offers three types of grants: A “Starting Grant” for young researchers, a “Consolidator Grant” for experienced researchers, and an “Advanced Grant” for scientists who perform high-level research at a global level. Prof. Ayhan Kaya's project is the first social sciences project at a Turkish university to receive an “Advanced Grant” from ERC.

Research Summary:

The main research question of the study is: How and why do some European citizens generate a populist and Islamophobic discourse to express their discontent with the current social, economic, and political state of their national and European contexts, while some members of migrant-origin communities with Muslim background generate an essentialist and radical form of Islamist discourse within the same societies? The main premise of this study is that various segments of the European public (radicalizing young members of both native populations and migrant-origin populations with Muslim background), who have been alienated and swept away by the flows of globalization such as deindustrialization, mobility, migration, tourism, social-economic inequalities, international trade, and robotic production, are more inclined to respectively adopt two mainstream political discourses: Islamophobia (for native populations) and Islamism (for Muslim-migrant-origin populations). Both discourses have become pivotal along with the rise of the civilizational rhetoric since the early 1990s. On the one hand, the neo-liberal age seems to be leading to the nativisation of radicalism among some groups of host populations while, on the other hand, it is leading to the islamization of radicalism among some segments of deprived migrant-origin populations. The common denominator of these groups is that they are both downwardly mobile and inclined towards radicalization. Hence, this project aims to scrutinize social, economic, political, and psychological sources of the processes of radicalization among native European youth and Muslim-origin youth with migration background, who are both inclined to express their discontent through ethnicity, culture, religion, heritage, homogeneity, authenticity, past, gender, and patriarchy. The field research will be comprised of four migrant receiving countries: Germany, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, and two migrant sending countries: Turkey and Morocco.

Since the beginning of the project in 2019, we have prepared various reports including literature reviews on radicalisation, focusing on the various approaches to the concept, and literature reviews shedding light on the dynamics of the Moroccan diaspora. Our field researchers have also prepared city narratives providing in-depth reviews on the political, economic, and socio-cultural dynamics in Cologne, Aalst, Lyon, and Amsterdam after WWII.

About the European Research Council

The ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence.

The ERC complements other funding activities in Europe such as those of the national research funding agencies, and is a flagship component of Horizon 2020, the European Union's Research Framework Programme for 2014 to 2020. Being ‘investigator-driven’, or ‘bottom-up’, in nature, the ERC approach allows researchers to identify new opportunities and directions in any field of research, rather than being led by priorities set by politicians. This ensures that funds are channeled into new and promising areas of research with a greater degree of flexibility. ERC grants are awarded through open competition to projects headed by starting and established researchers, irrespective of their origins, who are working or moving to work in Europe. The sole criterion for selection is scientific excellence. The aim here is to recognise the best ideas, and confer status and visibility on the best brains in Europe, while also attracting talent from abroad. However, the ERC aims to do more than simply fund research. In the long term, it looks to substantially strengthen and shape the European research system. This is done through high quality peer review, the establishment of international benchmarks of success, and the provision of up-to-date information on who is succeeding and why. The hope is that these processes will help universities

and other research institutions gauge their performance and encourage them to develop better strategies to establish themselves as more effective global players. By challenging Europe's brightest minds, the ERC expects that its grants will help to bring about new and unpredictable scientific and technological discoveries - the kind that can form the basis of new industries, markets, and broader social innovations of the future. Ultimately, the ERC aims to make the European research base more prepared to respond to the needs of a knowledge-based society and provide Europe with the capabilities in frontier research necessary to meet global challenges.

The ERC aims to:

- Support the best of the best in Europe across all fields of science, scholarship and engineering
- Promote wholly investigator-driven, or ‘bottom-up’ frontier research
- Encourage the work of the established and next generation of independent top research leaders in Europe
- Reward innovative proposals by placing emphasis on the quality of the idea rather than the research area
- Raise the status and visibility of European frontier research and the very best researchers of today and tomorrow

What is ‘frontier research’ and what are its benefits?

Today the distinction between ‘basic’ and ‘applied’ research has become blurred, due to the fact that emerging areas of science and technology often cover substantial elements of both. As a result, the term ‘frontier research’ was coined for ERC activities since they will be directed towards fundamental advances at and beyond the ‘frontier’ of knowledge. The ERC aims to bring about a wide range of benefits in the following ways:

- By creating open and direct competition for funding between the very best researchers in Europe, the ERC will enhance aspirations

and achievements. It will enable the best ideas and talents to be recognised from a larger pool than exists at national level.

- The ERC's competitive funding will be able to channel funds into the most promising new fields, with a degree of agility not always possible in national funding schemes.
- The ERC aims to stimulate research organisations to invest more in the support of promising new talents - the next generation of research leaders in Europe
- On the economic side, the ERC will help nurture science-based industry and create a greater impetus for the establishment of research-based spin-offs.
- From a societal perspective, the ERC could provide a mechanism for investing rapidly in research targeted at new and emerging issues confronting society.

Please click [here](#) for further information of the European Research Council.

CONTACT BİLGİ PRIME Youth Project

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LEND THEM YOUR EARS

Developing an Inclusive Research Activity to Co-Create with our Participants

We designed our research project to understand how European youths, native or migrant-origin, respond to the flows of globalization resulting in de-industrialization, unemployment, depopulation, geographical mobility, social-economic deprivation, spatial deprivation, and nostalgic deprivation

Our participants rely on diverse and occasionally clashing repertoires to express their discontent with the current social, economic, political, and spatial conditions. So far, however, we observed that they do not necessarily speak their minds in mutually exclusive terms.

In our interviews, we frequently come across profound and nuanced expressions that, we believe, are worthy of being shared widely outside of our academic publications. The quotes presented in this section make us think, even though we do not always agree with their content, rhetoric, or the terminology on which they rely. While processing their arguments in various ways in our research, we aim to keep our interlocutors' voices as they want them to be heard as we believe we should be opening up conversations, not closing them down.

As Robert Young pointed out earlier in his seminal work, *White Mythologies* (London: Routledge, 2004: 5), it is not that *they* do not know how to speak, "but rather that the dominant would not

listen." In that spirit, we are very excited to introduce this new series where we share excerpts from our in-depth interviews. Listening and learning should be a staple of public debate. Therefore, we lend our ears to the often overlooked, ignored, unheard, or politically corrected voices. At the same time, this will serve as a platform for students, experts, and stakeholders who seek ways to make our societies more equal.

Lend Them Your Ears is one of the initiatives we started to share our research participants' unfiltered experiences... You can access [here](#) the complete presentation file of LTYE.

Acknowledgements

This document was prepared in the scope of the ongoing ERCAdG "Islam-ophob-ism" research project "Nativism, Islamophobia and Islamism in the Age of Populism: Culturalization and Religionization of What is Social, Economic and Political in Europe" funded by the European Research Council with Agreement Number 785934. Thanks are due to our field researchers Max-Valentin Robert, An Van Raemdonck, Melanie Weißenberg and Merel Zuurbier. Thanks are also due to Ayşenur Benevento and Didem Balatlıoğulları for beautifully designing the quote graphics we share in this document.

MATILDE PROJECT

Migration Impact Assessment to Enhance Integration and Local Development in European Rural and Mountain Areas



MATILDE has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 870831

From: February 1, 2020 To: January 31, 2023

What is MATILDE about?

MATILDE is a 3-year project funded by EU Horizon 2020 facility, focusing on the impact of migration on the local development of rural and mountain regions. The project develops and tests a transdisciplinary conceptual and methodological framework for a multidimensional assessment of the economic and social impacts of Third Country Nationals (TNCs).

What is the background?

Against the background of global trends such as urbanization and agglomeration, economic and forced migration flows are also moving outside urban areas. So far, this has largely been perceived as yet another burden for already marginalized territories.

The specific needs of rural and mountain regions have been scarcely considered at the time of formulating the governance of migration. If unaddressed, the sentiments of people in 'places

that don't matter' risk fuelling an authoritarian dynamic, rejecting diversity altogether.

Notwithstanding the prominence of urbanization as a global trend, migrations to rural and mountain areas can play an important role for European rural regions, among the other things, by contributing to revitalise social and economic local milieu, reducing territorial inequalities and reconfiguring urban-rural interconnections. Migration has a potential to trigger development in the medium and long run especially in remote areas, where it can operate as a counter-process to depopulation and economic decline. Migration can be a crucial element to attain balanced territorial development, as defined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. To avoid the existing risk that migration flows exert a negative impact on socio-economically and geographically fragile areas, place-based policies and adequate governance measure are needed.

What are the main objectives?

MATILDE aims to examine how migration impacts local development and territorial cohesion in European rural and mountain regions, as well as to improve integration and local development.

How will MATILDE proceed to achieve this?

- Develop Concepts and Methods to Assess the impact of migration in rural and mountain region
- Assess the Social and Economic Impact of Migration
- Local level Assessment of Migration Impact Through Action-Research in Rural and Mountain Regions
- Improve Migration Governance and Territorial Cohesion
- Develop New Narratives on Migration Impact Concepts and Methods to Assess the

Click here to learn more about [MATILDE objectives and expected results!](#)

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) The Impact of International Migration on Remote Places

MATILDE aims to examine the impact of migration on local development and territorial cohesion in European rural and mountain regions and to enhance local development through the integration of third country nationals. In this context, in addition to field research and published reports, MATILDE aims to spread the accumulation of knowledge acquired through the courses for which remote access has been provided to larger audiences. To that end, an online course portal open to the participation of everyone has been prepared.

MOOC on "Evaluating and enhancing the impact of international migration on rural and mountain areas" will offer a far-reaching training on the conceptual, methodological and policy-oriented results of **MATILDE**.

Considering the goals of MATILDE, MOOC aims to provide interdisciplinary knowledge on the social and economic impacts of migration, with a special focus on their interactions with territorial inequalities and spatial justice. It meets the needs for a regional approach in terms of the governance of migration processes by bringing it together with the experiences acquired from the research project.

Scope

Consisting of 10 courses that last for approximately 20 hours, MATILDE MOOC is open to the participation of **everyone**.

You can register in online courses free of charge and receive a Certificate of Attendance after the courses are completed.

The language of education is **English**.

Requirements

Students are expected to read the required texts, follow PPT slides, and listen to the videos depicting the content of respective lecture. Students who do not complete these tasks will not be able to have access the content of the next course.

Assessment

Participants will undertake a final exam in order to test their attendance and knowledge. Those who pass the assessment will be provided with a **Certificate of Participation**.

10 Course Programme (Total 19 hours 58 minutes)

1. Introduction to the course programme
2. Rural and mountain areas of Europe: territorial inequalities and spatial justice
3. Migration patterns and migrants' interactions with rural localities: conceptual thoughts towards a regional approach of migration impact assessment
4. Methodological and ethical aspects of research with migrants, and measuring the social impact
5. Measuring the economic impact: key concepts, dimensions and challenges
6. A Gender Perspective on the Economic and Social Impact of Migration
7. Communicative dialogical approach and best practices: MATILDE action research and participatory activities
8. Populism and citizenship in remote places
9. How can the post-Covid19 era foster a new attractiveness of internal regions?
10. Funds available

Platform

<https://matilde-migration.eu/online-course/>

CONTACT MATILDE Project

<https://matilde-migration.eu>

info@matilde-migration.eu

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [Linkedin](#)

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



The Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE)

The History of CIFE

The Centre International de Formation européenne (CIFE) was born out of a crisis of European integration. In 1954, when the European Defense Community had failed, our founder Alexandre Marc considered that states could not be relied upon to build a united, federal Europe. Rather, citizens had to be educated to become the vanguard of this project.

In its early years, CIFE's programmes focused on spreading the idea of a united Europe among citizens of all professions. Over the past three decades, our organisation has shifted its focus to interdisciplinary and itinerant master programmes for international students. Today, we offer seven different master's programmes and various short educational formats. In continuously expanding its field of activity, CIFE has been supported by an operating grant from the European Union.

This unparalleled assessment of service to a peaceful, prosperous and more just Europe owes much to CIFE's presidents: Grégoire Gafenco, Enzo Giacchero, Jean Rey, Lord George Thomson, Gaston Thorn, Émile Noel, Michel Albert, Jean-Claude Juncker, Philippe Maystadt and, today, Herman Van Rompuy.

It also owes much to those who have been Directors, Alexandre Marc then Ferdinand Kinsky and all their collaborators, expert as much as loyal, to their objective. It owes much finally to all those who have answered the call for the development of the EU and passed on throughout the continent the message that CIFE has taught them.

AZIZ NESIN PROFESSORSHIP

Aziz Nesin Guest Lectureship Experience in the European University Viadrina



Prof. Ayhan Kaya

Istanbul Bilgi University
Department of International Relations

Again, it has been my pleasure to be assigned as the Aziz Nesin Chair in European Studies Masters Program (MES) in June 2024. I have had the opportunity to meet a group of bright students as well as the academic staff of the university. I also had the opportunity to work with Prof. Timm Beichelt and Nico Hallmann on our Jean Monnet Network project, ValeUs. Ever since my first visit to Viadrina in 1996 as a PhD student doing interviews with some of the faculty members, it has always been a great experience to revisit the University. This time I visited the university as the Aziz Nesin Professor to give an intensive course on Populism, Diversity, and Islam in Europe. Thanks to the members of the Faculty and the administrative team who welcomed me wholeheartedly...

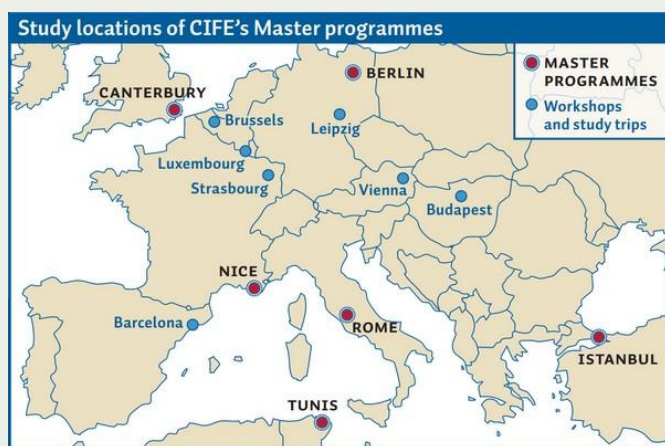
Interview: "Guest lecturer Prof. Dr. Ayhan Kaya talks about his connection with Viadrina"

The partnership between **Istanbul Bilgi University** and **CIFE** has been in place for over a decade. Each year, students from the [Master in Advanced European & International Studies \(MAEIS\) European Integration & Global Studies](#) and [Master in Advanced European & International Studies \(MAEIS\) - Mediterranean Studies](#) programmes have the opportunity to spend two months at our university. During this time, they engage in a comprehensive academic exchange that fosters cross-cultural collaboration and enriches their educational experience.

Click [here](#) to access the **2023-24 Annual Report for the Master in Advanced European & International Studies (MAEIS) - European Integration & Global Studies** offering detailed insights into the programme's progress and milestones.

Click [here](#) to access the **2023-24 Annual Report for the Master in Advanced European and International Studies - Mediterranean Studies**, offering detailed insights into the programme's progress and milestones.

For further information about the CIFE, please visit the website: <https://www.cife.eu/>



FROM OUR STUDENTS

Experiences from My Research Internship at Bilgi University 2023/24

Greta Bonnecke



A shop in "little Syria" that I visited frequently

Merhaba, I am Greta, a 27-year-old German Student in the master's program *European Urban Studies* who spent an exchange semester last winter term in Istanbul. I conducted a so-called 'Guided Research Project' with Prof. Dr. Ayhan Kaya at the department of International Relations at the Bilgi University. The idea of this project is to get in touch with independent research on a topic of one's own interest, while being supervised both by a supervisor from my home university (which is the Bauhaus-University Weimar in Germany) and a supervisor at the host institution. My topic was the arrival process of Syrian refugees in Fatih, Istanbul, and to explore the meaning of local structures as well as formal and informal institutions for this arrival process. To research this subject, I conducted a few interviews with refugees in Fatih and did observations in streets, shops, restaurants cafés.

Thanks to the research project, I learned how to create my own research design, conduct empirical research, question my approaches and deal with difficulties. Language and the contact to people in the field were the main hurdles for my research. Therefore, I took part in daily Turkish classes and could bring my Turkish to another level. This



I always tried to reflect my role as a researcher.

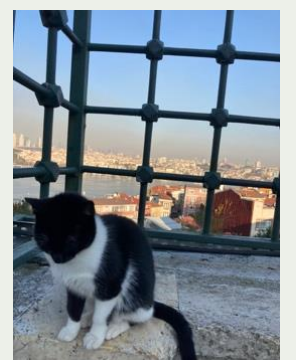
also helped me become integrated and finding my place in the city. Also, this type of research fostered my self-discipline and perseverance, as I conducted the research mostly on my own. I believe the research on this topic is very important for very different kinds of actors, such as people engaged in civil society, neighborhood management, and local politics. This is why I chose a related topic for my current master's thesis which I conduct in Hamburg, Germany.



The focus of my master's thesis: The community center and housing project in Hamburg

For this, I do empirical research on a housing project with migrants which includes a community center for people to meet and exchange. My research deals with the question of what kind of social capital is created in that center and how migrants can benefit from the existing networks beyond the housing area. It is even possible to find some similar results as in Fatih: For example, the arrival process differs very much for men and women, the language plays a significant factor, and the bureaucratic hurdles allow easy access to immediate resources such as (usually precarious) jobs, but long-term resources such as education are more difficult to obtain. Also, incorporating one's own culture into the neighborhood environment is an important step for a good arrival.

I enjoyed my time in Istanbul a lot. Not only was I able to see a lot of the city (despite the harsh winter), but I also learned many interesting things about the Turkish culture, met a lot of nice people from all over the world and fell in love of course with the famous cats of Istanbul.



BİLGİ MA in European Studies

The MA Program, launched in 2000 and run by the Social Sciences Institute, is designed to provide a thorough knowledge of the European Union, its historic development, its institutions, systems and policies. Turkey's longstanding EU integration process, which started in 1963, continued with the Customs Union (1996) that made Turkey part of the European Single Market. Within the framework of the program, Turkey's EU accession period is analyzed and researched with a focus on recent developments. The Program, concentrating on themes such as enlargement and the societal transformations it brings to the countries involved (peace, stability, democratization, regional cooperation, human rights, rule of law, etc.) and European Neighborhood Policy, also offers a wider perspective of European Studies with emphasis on issues such as migration, environmental issues, and intercultural dialogue.

The programs are restructuring and there will be no recruitment to the programs this year.

Viadrina Double Degree MA Programme



As one of the core countries of European integration since the early days of the European Coal and Steel Community, Germany with its political, social and economic structure deserves special attention in studies regarding the European Union. To this end, the European Institute of İstanbul Bilgi University has developed close relations with many universities and institutes in Germany. The academic cooperation with the European University Viadrina is an exemplary relationship, which started as a two-way exchange of students and academics, leading finally to an enhanced collaboration agreement between the two universities funded by the German Foreign Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Graduates not only gain an insight into life in two very different European cities, but also prepare themselves for a rapidly changing world of work across the European continent. The program is run by the Social Sciences Institute.

With 30% of foreign students from over 70 countries and an extensive network of partner universities, European University Viadrina is one of the most international universities worldwide. The study courses and university degrees are internationally acknowledged. Its atmosphere is personal and warm, and with excellent student

support and guidance European University Viadrina is able to offer outstanding study conditions. Viadrina is located at the German-Polish border, only one hour by train from Germany's capital, Berlin.

The University's proximity to Poland and to Eastern Europe is clearly a distinctive feature of the degree program. Students are able to both learn about the expansion of Europe to the east whilst actively experiencing life on both sides of the German-Polish border. In addition, extensive supervision is offered, along with small seminar groups and outstanding technical facilities. Should Frankfurt be too small, then there is always Berlin, only an hour away by train.

The programs are restructuring and there will be no recruitment to the programs this year.

For further information, please visit the website:

<http://eustudies.bilgi.edu.tr/>

PODCAST

"Zorunlu bir göç hikâyesi: Mübadele"
by Fulya Canşen

The population exchange between Turkey and Greece, also known as the *Mübadele*, remains one of the most significant yet underexplored chapters in modern history. **Fulya Canşen**, through her Tefrika24 podcast series, offers an in-depth, empathetic exploration of this complex period in a 4-episode series titled "**Zorunlu bir göç hikâyesi: Mübadele**".

The series weaves together personal narratives, historical analysis, and cultural reflections to shed light on the emotional and social upheavals experienced by those who were forced to leave their homes and rebuild their lives elsewhere.

The episodes of the podcast series are all in Turkish.

Episodes

Birinci Bölüm: "Mustafa Kemal çağırdı, geldik"



[Dinlemek için buraya tıklayın.](#)

İkinci Bölüm: "Tarih yanlış yazılıyor"



[Dinlemek için buraya tıklayın.](#)

Üçüncü Bölüm: "Emanet çeyiz"



[Dinlemek için buraya tıklayın.](#)

Dördüncü Bölüm: "Tarihe açılan kapı"



[Dinlemek için buraya tıklayın.](#)

BOOK

İlk Yüzyılı Biterken Cumhuriyet:
Demokratikleşme Momentleri, Sıradan
İnsanlar ve Siyaset

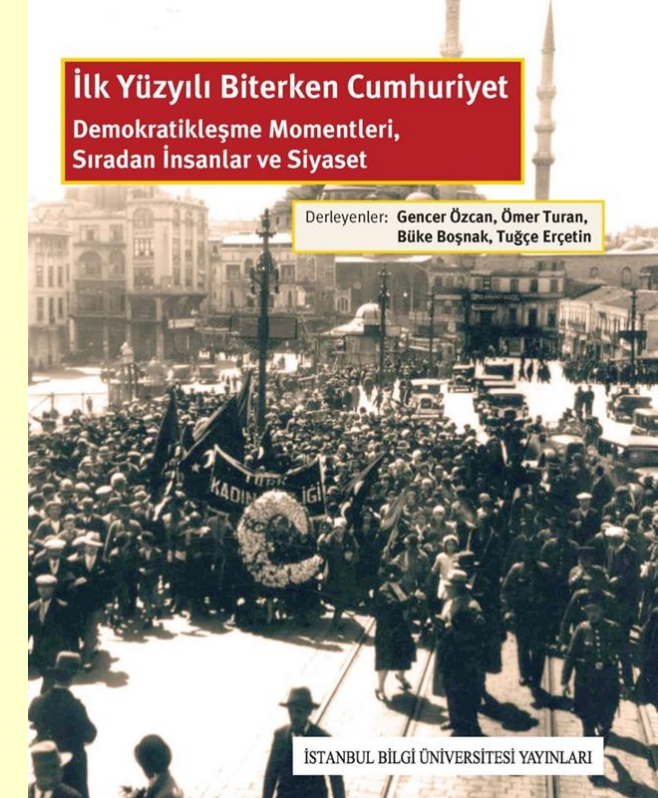
Derleyen: Gencer Özcan, Ömer Turan, Büke Boşnak,
Tuğçe Erçetin

This comprehensive edited volume provides a detailed assessment of the 100-year period from 1923 to 2023 in Turkey, with a particular focus on the experiences of ordinary people. It offers a broad perspective on various aspects of Turkish society, including politics, economy, literature, and the modernization process, through contributions from scholars across a range of disciplines. The book covers a wide array of topics, such as political slogans, the women's movement, the Kurds and religious minorities, and the effects of neoliberalism—each crucial for understanding the Republic's century-long journey.

The volume originates from a conference organized by the Department of International Relations at Istanbul Bilgi University to commemorate the Republic's 100th anniversary. It includes contributions from speakers who participated in the conference. Organized into 43 chapters, the book explores various topics, including the early Republican era, Turkish politics, secularism, citizenship, and urban dynamics. Collectively, these chapters provide a comprehensive examination of Turkey's social and political landscape.

This book is published as [open access](#).

ISBN / SKU: ISBN: 978-605-399-655-2, E-ISBN: 978-605-399-656-9



İlk Yüzyılı Biterken Cumhuriyet:
Demokratikleşme Momentleri,
Sıradan İnsanlar ve Siyaset

Derleyenler: Gencer Özcan, Ömer Turan,
Büke Boşnak, Tuğçe Erçetin

İSTANBUL BİLGİ ÜNİVERSİTESİ YAYINLARI

Cumhuriyet'in kurulduğu 1923'ten 2023'e uzanan 100 yıllık dönem hakkında bir bilanço, bir döküm ya da genel bir değerlendirme yapmak nasıl mümkün olabilir? Bu hacimli derleme kitabı, temelde iste bu soruya bir yanıt verme çabası olarak görülmeli. Kitapta bir araya gelen çalışmalar, Türkiye'de Cumhuriyet'in 100. yılına, sıradan insanlara odaklanan bir çerçeveye öncelik vererek yaklaşıyor. Bazı çalışmalar 100 yıllık dönemin tamamını değerlendirmeyi, bazılar ise sadece belirli bir dönemi yakından incelemeyi tercih ediyor. Kitabın bütünü, okurlara tarihten siyaset bilimine, sosyolojiden mimariğe, edebiyat çalışmalarından ekonomiye farklı disiplinlerden gelen akademisyenlerin çalışmalarını seçmen davranış, demokrasi, modernleşme, siyaset mücadeleleri ve yurttaşlık deneyimleri gibi konular hakkında detaylı bir perspektif sunuyor. Siyasi sloganların uzun tarihi, Medeni Kanun'un çevirisi, Ankara'nın iman, Dersim'deki askerî operasyonlar, ideolojiler, popülizm, kadın hareketi, Kürler, gayrimüslimler, Aleviler, laiklik, AB reformları, kentsel dinamikler, sermaye ve üniversitelerde neoliberalleşme karşımıza çıkan odaklar arasında.

Bu kitap, İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Uluslararası İlişkiler Bölümü tarafından Cumhuriyet'in 100. yılı için Nisan 2023'te düzenlenen üç günlük konferansla yola koyuldu. Bu konferans, Cumhuriyet'in 100. yılı için düzenlenen en kapsamlı akademik etkinliklerden biri olmuştu. Elinizdeki derleme, bu konferansa konuşmacı ya da moderatör olarak katkı sunmuş akademisyenlerin çalışmalarını okurlara sunuyor. İlk Yüzyılı Biterken Cumhuriyet: Demokratikleşme Momentleri, Sıradan İnsanlar ve Siyaset bir yanıyla bir konferans kitabı. Fakat diğer bir yanıyla bu kapsamlı çalışma bundan çok daha fazlası. Dikkatli okurlar, kitapta yer alan önemli sayıda bölümün konferans tebliğlerine oranla çok daha hacimli olduğunu fark edeceklerdir. Kitapta "Erken Cumhuriyet'e Bakışlar", "Türkiye Siyasetinde Fikirler ve Davranışlar", "Demokratikleşme Momentleri", "Laiklik", "Yurttaşlık", "Kentsel Mekan", "Ekonomi ve Kurumlar" ve "İlk Yüzyılı Nasıl Başladı ve Nasıl Bitiyor?" başlıklı sekiz kısımda, 43 bölüm yer alıyor.

İlk Yüzyılı Biterken Cumhuriyet: Demokratikleşme Momentleri, Sıradan İnsanlar ve Siyaset Türkiye'de eleştirel sosyal bilimlerin, Cumhuriyet'in 100. yılının önemine uygun düşen, geniş çereve ve titiz bir yorumlama çabası.

EMRE ALTÖRK YEŞİM ARAT EVREN AYSEV UMUT AZAK FATMAĞÜL BERKAY BÜLENT BİLMEZ
BÜKE BOŞNAK CEMİL BOYRAZ AYŞEGÜL BOZAN ALİ CENGİZKAN CUMA ÇİÇEK AHMET DEMİREL
TUĞÇE ERÇETİN EMRE ERDOĞAN FIRAT GENÇ EMRE GÖNEN ÇİMEN GÖNAY-ERKOL EVREN HOŞGÖR
ERİN KALAYCIOĞLU İSMAIL KARA ASİM KARADÖMÜRÜOĞLU AYHAN KAYA ELMAS KOÇKUN
EROL KÖROĞLU OZAN KUYUMCUOĞLU NURAY MERT YAĞMUR NUHRAZ ÖZGE ONURSAL-BEŞGÜL
AYŞE ÖZEL GENCER ÖZCAN İNAN RÜMA PINAR SATAN BAŞAK TUĞ MEHMET ALİ TUĞTAN İLTER TURAN
ÖMER TURAN PINAR UYAN SEMERÇİ EROL ÜLKER EYLEM ÜMIT ATILGAN U. CEREN ÜNLÜ KAREL VALANSI
TUTKU VARDAGLI DENİZ GÜNEŞ YARDIMCI NURHAN YENTÜRK ARUS YILMAZ

KAPAK FOTOĞRAFI: ZAFER MİTİNLİ, 1970 YILINDA KADINLAR BELEDİYE SEÇİMLERİNE KATILMA HAREKİTİNİN TANIRILMADIKLINI ARDINDAN, TÜRK KADINLAR BİRLİĞİ TARAFINDAN İSTANBUL'DA DÜZENLENEN KUTLAMA MİTİNGİNDE BİR FOTOĞRAF. (YAPIL KREDİ TARİH ARŞİVİ, SELAHATTİN GİZ KOLEKSİYONU)



www.bilgiyay.com



Ayhan Kaya

News and Awards

Prof. Ayhan Kaya was elected as a member to the British Academy in July 2024.

2024-2025 Sabbatical Year at Humboldt University Berlin, Berlin Institute of Migration and Integration (BIM)

Publications

Kaya, Ayhan (2024). "Commentary: Deconstructing Migration Studies and Identity Studies: The Need for an Alternative Scientific Lens", *International Migration*, Volume 62, Issue 3: 124-130, <https://doi.org/10.1111/imig.13271>

Kaya, Ayhan and Cristiano Bee (2024). "Introduction: social movements and radicalisation in Europe", *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/14782804.2024.2332311

Kaya, Ayhan, Andrea Membretti and Anna Krasteva (2024). "Endogenous and Imported Populism vs Local Citizenship in Marginalised and Remote Places of Europe", Emma Bell and Filippo Barbera (eds.). *Democratic Populism in the Margins: Countering anti-immigration populism through democratic praxis*. University of Bristol Press.

Kaya, Ayhan (2024), "From 'Guest-Workers' to 'Muslims': Representations of Turkish-Origin Migrants in Europe," in Ayça Arkılıç and Banu Şenay (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Turkey's Diasporas*. London: Routledge.

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(eds.), *Forced Migration in Turkey: Refugee Perspectives, Organizational Assistance, and Political Embedding*. London: Routledge: 225-246

Kaya, Ayhan (2024). "Avrupa'daki Türkiyeliler ve Türkiye'nin Dönüşen Diaspora Siyaseti: Göçmenlerin Araçsallaştırılması", in İlk Yüzyılı Biterken Cumhuriyet: Demokratikleşme Momentleri, Sıradan İnsanlar ve Siyaset, Gencer Özcan, Ömer Turan, Büke Boşnak and Tuğçe Erçetin (eds.). İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları, 2024.



Kaya, Ayhan and M. Koca (2024). "Co-Radicalization": A Scientific Lens Proposal to Understand the Social Movements in Turkey", *Türkiye Ortadoğu Araştırmaları Dergisi*, Volume: 11 Issue: 1: 1-16.

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Kaya, Ayhan (2024). "Sekülerizm ve İslamofobizm", *Yeniarayis*, 8 May, ValeUs Project <https://yeniarayis.com/ayhankaya/sekulerizm-ve-islamofobizm/>

Kaya, A., E. Erdoğan, P. Uyan-Semerci, and Ö. Cihan (2024). "An Overview of the Secondary Literature on Emotions, Grievances and Democratic

Governance," *State of the Art Report II*, WP1 PLEDGE Project, <https://www.pledgeproject.eu/>

Kaya, A., E. Erdoğan, P. Uyan-Semerci, and Ö. Cihan (2024). "An Overview of the Secondary Literature on Emotions, Grievances and Democratic Governance," *State of the Art Report I*, WP1 PLEDGE Project, <https://www.pledgeproject.eu/>

Ongoing Scientific Projects:

"PLEDGE: Politics of Grievance and Democratic Governance," Horizon Europe Project, 2024-2027, led by Helsinki University.

"ValEUs: Foreign policy issues: Values and Democracy," ERASMUS-JMO-2023-NETWORKS-HEI-NON-EU-VAL-DEM — Jean Monnet Policy Debate, led by European University Viadrina, 2024-2027.

Keynote Speeches

Keynote Speech on "The Politics of Hospitality and Precarity", 22nd Nordic Migration Research Conference, "The politics of mobility and precarity – and the alternatives", University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway, 13-16 August 2024, <https://www.uib.no/en/imer/164773/politics-mobility-and-precariety-%E2%80%93-and-alternatives>

"Crossing Boundaries: Migration Processes, Democratic Governance, and the Challenges of Climate Change", *Guest Lecture*, Humboldt University, Berlin, 17 December 2024.

"Finding Refuge in Istanbul From the Vikings onwards," *Paper* presented at the Conference on "From Miklagard to Istanbul: Moving the Senses", Netherlands Institute in Istanbul, ANAMED, 25 October 2024, Istanbul

"Finding Refuge in Istanbul From the Vikings onwards: Syrian Refugees in Istanbul", *Paper* presented at the Workshop on From Miklagard to

Istanbul: Moving the Senses", Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, 24 October 2024.

"The Politics of Identity in Europe: A Critique of Civilisational Paradigm" *Talk* given at the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence on Diversity (DIVEU)'s International Academy on Diversity, Yaşar University, Izmir, Turkey, Online, 30 July 2024.

"Nativist and Islamist Radicalisms in Europe: Co-Radicalisation of youth", *Lecture at Humboldt University*, Berlin, 7 June 2024.

"Nativist and Islamist Radicalisms in Europe: Co-Radicalisation of Young Europeans", ValEUs Public Lecture Series, University of Amsterdam, SPUI 25, Amsterdam 31 May 2024.

"Nativist and Islamist Radicalisms in Europe: Focusing on Similarities", *IKG Forum Series on Nativist and Islamist Radicalism: Anger and Anxiety*, Bielefeld University, 10 April 2024.

"The Potential Role of Expressive Cultures in Mitigating the Effects of Co-Radicalization of Nativist and Self-Identified Muslim Youth Groups in Europe," *Workshop II on The Power of Narratives and Visual Culture in Transnational Cooperation: Exploring Turkish-German Relations in the Everyday*, İstanbul Bilgi University and Duisburg-Essen University, İstanbul, 5 April 2024.

"Dünya Nereye Gidiyor," *Talk* in the Panel organised at the İstanbul Brand Week, 7 November 2024, Haliç Congress Centre, İstanbul https://brandweekistanbul.com/kisi/ayhan-kaya?speakers_id=66cf1e63c64fd911a519ab99

"Türkiye Göç Tarihi", SGDD/ASAM Göç Akademisi, 26.08.2024, İstanbul, Online.

"Günümüz Avrupası'nda Sosyal Hareketler: Popülizm, Nativizm ve İslamizm," *Yeditepe Üniversitesi Avrupa Çalışmaları Enstitüsü*, İstanbul, 9 May 2024.

“ERC Sosyal Bilimler Deneyim Paylaşımı”, ISLAM-OPHOB-ISM - Nativism, Islamophobia and Islamism in the Age of Populism: Culturalisation and Religionisation of what is Social, Economic and Political in Europe, ERC-2017-ADG, Panel: SH3 - The Social World and its Diversity”, Kadir Has University, 17 April 2024.
<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/785934>

“Avrupa’da Radikalleşme Biçimleri”, *Online Certificate Program on Migration organised by ICMPD and Ankara University*, 25 April 2024.

“Avrupa’da Radikalleşme Biçimleri”, *Online Certificate Program on Migration organised by ICMPD and Ankara University*, 29 February 2024.

Özge Onursal-Beşgül

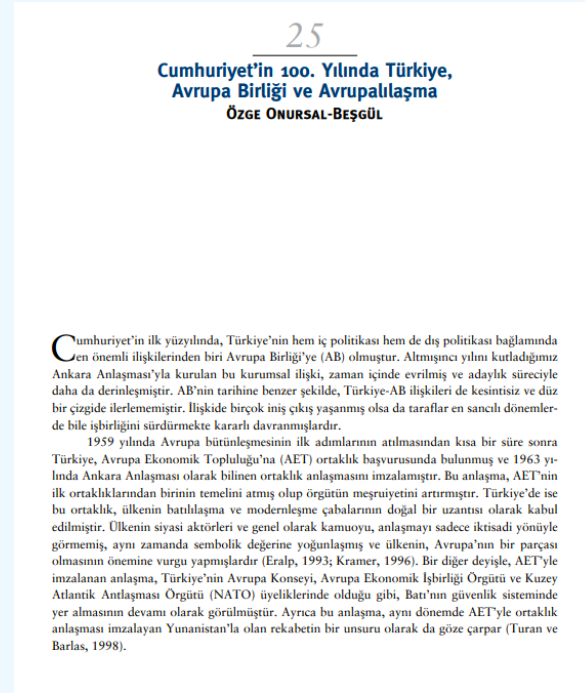
News and Awards

Özge Onursal-Beşgül has been awarded the title of Associate Professor in European Union Studies by the Inter-Universities Council, under the scientific field of Social, Humanities, and Administrative Sciences / European Union.

As of August 2024, Özge Onursal-Beşgül is a member of Cost Action CA22121 Working Group 1, Research Genealogy: bringing together Higher Education and Political Science Studies, Cost Action: Rising nationalisms, Shifting Geopolitics and the Future of European Higher Education/Research Openness.
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22121/>

Articles

“Cumhuriyetin 100. Yılında Türkiye, AB ve Avrupalılaşıma” in İlk Yüzyılı Biterken Cumhuriyet: Demokratikleşme Momentleri, Sıradan İnsanlar ve Siyaset, Gencer Özcan, Ömer Turan, Büke Boşnak and Tuğçe Erçetin (eds.). İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları, 2024.



“Social Inclusion of Refugee Youth in Higher Education: The Role of International Organizations” in Migration, Identity and Politics in Turkey from the Ottoman Empire to Today, Gökçe Bayındır Goularas, Işıl Zeynep Turkan İpek, Pınar Çağlayan, and Edanur Önel (eds.). Lexington Books, 2024.

“How Euroscepticism is shaping Turkish higher education” co-authored with A. Kaya in LSE Higher Education Blog, April 2024.
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/highereducation/2024/04/19/how-euroscepticism-is-shaping-turkish-he/>

“Higher Education During Times of Crisis in Türkiye: Introduction to the Special Issue” co-authored with Y. Gürsoy in LSE Higher Education Blog, April 2024.
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/highereducation/2024/04/19/higher-education-during-times-of-crisis-in-turkiye/>

Conferences

“Refugee Youth in Higher Education: The Impact of EU Education Policies on Türkiye”, European Agenda Conferences- II: “Migration That Binds Us” Revisiting The EU-Türkiye Partnership, Bursa Uludağ University, Bursa, 24- 25 October 2024.

“Turkey-EU Relations: De-Europeanisation As Contestation?”, First Annual ValEUs Conference: The Contestation of European Values from Afar, Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan, 13-15 September 2024.

Invited Seminars/Conferences

“35 Years of Jean Monnet Actions” Anniversary Conference: Change the EU, Change Your World, One Lecture at a Time, invited participant, Brussels, Belgium, 9-10 October 2024.

“Turkey-EU Relations: De-Europeanisation As Contestation?”, paper presented in WS 32 Crises and Contestation – Conceptual Boundary Work for a Future Yet to Come, the 11th European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS), Istanbul, Turkey, 3-5 July 2024.

Working Groups

August 2024 to Oct. 2027

Member of Cost Action CA22121 Working Group 1, Research genealogy: bringing together higher education and political science studies, Cost Action: Rising nationalisms, shifting geopolitics and the future of European higher education/research openness.

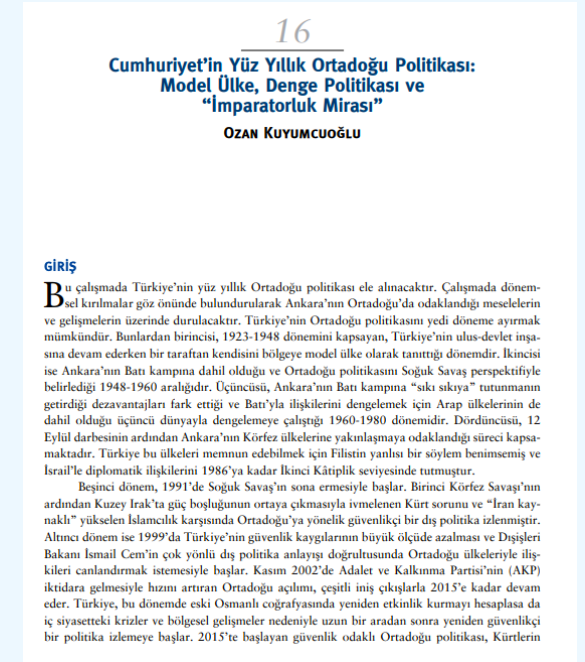
July 2022 to today

Member of a study group on the European Constitutional process, based on the Chatham House model in collaboration with the Dimitris-Tsatsos-Institute for European Constitutional Sciences of the Fernuniversität in Hagen.
<https://constitutionforeuropenetwork.eu>

Ozan Kuyumcuoğlu

Articles

“Cumhuriyetin Yüz Yıllık Ortadoğu Politikası: Model Ülke, Denge Politikası, ve ‘İmparatorluk Mirası’” in İlk Yüzyılı Biterken Cumhuriyet: Demokratikleşme Momentleri, Sıradan İnsanlar ve Siyaset, Gencer Özcan, Ömer Turan, Büke Boşnak and Tuğçe Erçetin (eds.). İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları, 2024.



Conferences

“İslamcılığın Dış Politikaya Bakışında Sloganlar ve Slogan Temelli Dil”, UİK Kongre, Ordu, 23-26 May 2024.

“Millî Görüşten Ak Parti’ye Dış Politikada Millet-i Hakime Anlatısı”, Siyasi İlimler Türk Derneği Kongresi, İstanbul, 28-29 September 2024.

Invited Seminars/Conferences

Jan Bachman, Ahmed Ibrahim, Ozan Kuyumcuoğlu, “Geocultural Power Reconsidered: Perceptions of Turkey's Space-Making Ventures in Somalia” paper presented in WS10 Connectivity Projects in Global Politics: Engineering Futures by Mobilizing the Past, the 11th European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS), Istanbul, Turkey, 3-5 July 2024.

Deniz Güneş Yardımcı

Publications

Yardımcı, D. G. (2024). "Göç ve kültürel etkileşimleri: Türkiye'den Almanya'ya göçün sinemada temsili" in İlk Yüzyılı Biterken Cumhuriyet: Demokratikleşme Momentleri, Sıradan İnsanlar ve Siyaset, Gencer Özcan, Ömer Turan, Büke Boşnak and Tuğçe Erçetin (eds.). İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları, 2024.



Yardımcı, D. G., & Gadinger, F. (2024). Exploring cooperative practices in the everyday: The power of narratives, visual culture, and transnational identity in Turkish-German relations (Working paper). European Institute, İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi.

Conferences

Moderator, Panel on 'Göç, Azınlıklar, Kentsel Hafıza' at VI. Göç Çalışmaları Lisansüstü Öğrenci Konferansı at İstanbul Bilgi University, İstanbul, Turkey, 30 November 2024

Orientalismus in der filmischen Darstellung des Nils in Hollywoodfilmen

DAAD Conference – German Academic Exchange Service Conference on 'Flüsse und Zivilisationen:

Eine interdisziplinäre Annäherung an den Ufern des Nils', Aswan, Egypt, 12 November - 15 November 2024

The Power of Arts in Transnational Dialogues: Exploring Cinematic Perspectives on Turkish-German Relations

ESA – European Sociological Association, Annual Conference, Porto, Portugal, 27 August - 30 August 2024

Creating Empathy for Migrants and Refugees: Contemporary Migration Movements in Interactive Films

NECS – European Network for Cinema and Media Studies, Annual Conference, Izmir, Turkey, 27 June - 29 June 2024

Diasporic Cinema, Accented (Counter)Archives and Memory

RFN – Radical Film Conference, Annual Conference, Madrid, Spain, 19 June - 22 June 2024

Cooperation through Practices in the Everyday: The Power of Narratives, Visual Culture and Transnational Identity in Turkish-German Relations Conference 'The Power of Narratives and Visual Culture in Transnational Cooperation: Exploring Turkish-German Relations', İstanbul, Turkey, 5 April 2024

DAAD-TÜBİTAK Project Working Papers:

Working Paper No. 16: Exploring Cooperative Practices in the Everyday: The Power of Narratives, Visual Culture and Transnational Identity in Turkish-German Relations

In this working paper, the principal investigators of the DAAD-TÜBİTAK co-funded project 'Distant Neighbors: Exploring Political Narratives and Visual Culture in Turkish-German Relations', Frank Gadinger from the University of Münster and Deniz Güneş Yardımcı from İstanbul Bilgi University, introduce the theoretical and methodological

framework and objectives of the project. The paper discusses the significant role of narratives and visual culture in building group identities, (de-)legitimizing narrow political realities, and regaining voice in political discourses.

[Click here to access the publication](#)

Working Paper No. 17: Orchestration of Civil Society? Turkish-German Cooperation in the Field of Classical Orchestral Music

This paper by Serkan Topal, a researcher at the DAAD-TÜBİTAK co-funded project 'Distant Neighbors: Exploring Political Narratives and Visual Culture in Turkish-German Relations' from the University Duisburg-Essen, explores Turkish-German orchestral collaborations as cultural and political bridges. It highlights how these partnerships foster cross-cultural understanding and integration through an analysis of concert programs, media, and audience responses.

[Click here to access the publication](#)

Working Paper No. 18: Emotions and Narratives: A Brief Literature Discussion

This paper by Mustafa Gökcan Kösen, a researcher in the DAAD-TÜBİTAK co-funded project 'Distant Neighbors: Exploring Political Narratives and Visual Culture in Turkish-German Relations' from İstanbul Bilgi University, examines the role of emotions and narratives in international relations. It offers a brief overview of how emotions and narratives influence each other and explores their interplay in the field of international relations.

[Click here to access the publication](#)

Germany Briefs

Germany Brief 25: "European Union-Turkey Relations: Impasse and Ways Out", Interview with Dr. Yaşar Aydın

[Click here to access the publication](#)

Germany Brief 26/1: "Defending Democracy Is an Ongoing Task", Daniel Kubiak and Mert Pekşen

[Click here to access the publication](#)

Germany Brief 26/2: "Daimi Bir Görev Olarak Demokrasiyi Savunmak", Daniel Kubiak and Mert Pekşen

[Click here to access the publication](#)

Germany Brief 27: "Almanya'da Çöken Bir Üçlü Koalisyonun Anatomisi", Fulya Canşen

[Click here to access the publication](#)

SHORT NEWS

- Professor Ayhan Kaya is taking a sabbatical leave to take up an academic position at Humboldt University Berlin, Berlin Institute of Migration.
- We are delighted to announce that our Founding Director, Prof. Ayhan Kaya, has been elected as an International Fellow of the British Academy!
- The ValEUs Research & Education Network on Contestations to EU Foreign Policy has launched.
- We have successfully held the meeting to officially transfer the ANEST Secretariat to Kocaeli University. Wishing a productive and successful term ahead!
- We are pleased to inform you that the "Results in Brief" article of our ERC research is now published by CORDIS in six languages!
- Dr. Özlem Cihan, researcher of the PLEDGE Project, has published her book titled "Spatial Encounters and Togetherness in the Metropolis: The Metrobuses of İstanbul." This book is based on her doctoral dissertation.

Erkan Saka

Publications

Azimli, S. O., & Saka, E. (2024). "Automated Journalism in Turkish Media before the Rise of Generative AI." In *Revolutionizing Communication: The Role of Artificial Intelligence*. CRC Press.

[Link to the chapter](#)

Saka, E. (2023). "Metaverse and Diversity." In *The Future of Digital Communication: The Metaverse* (pp. 73–89). CRC Press.

[Link to the book](#)

Azer Kılıç

Publications

Kılıç, A. (2024), "Universal basic income as a response to automation? Attitudes of human translators facing neural machine translation," *Critical Sociology* (early view). <https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205241279262>

Kılıç, A. (2024), "Medical markets for imagined futures: the framing of egg freezing on fertility clinic websites in Turkey," *BioSocieties*, 19(3), 402-423.

Book Chapter

Kılıç, A. (2024), "Egg-freezing technology at the intersection of social inequalities and institutional constraints." Başak Akkan vd. (ed.), *Overlapping inequalities in the welfare state*. Cham: Springer, 249-60.

Project Reports

Kılıç, A. (2024), Yapay zekâ ve otomasyon teknolojileri bağlamında çalışmanın geleceği meselesi: Güncel deneyimleri ve gelecek tahayyülleri ile çevirmenler örneği. TÜBİTAK, Ankara.

Conferences

Kılıç, A. "The future of work as imagined by human translators facing machine translation," European Sociological Association Annual Conference, University of Porto, Porto, 27-30 August 2024.

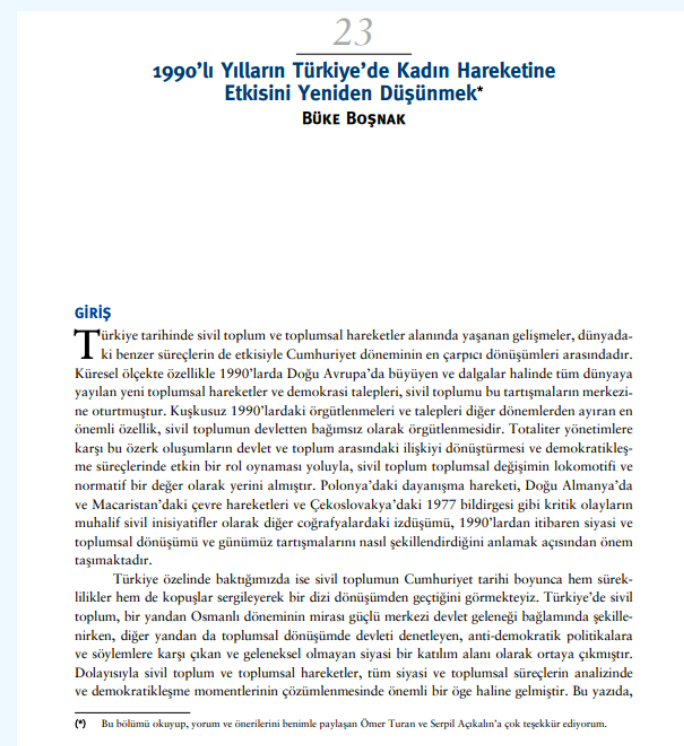
Kılıç, A. "Technological change and social policy preferences: Approaches from Turkey in light of OECD findings." III. National Political Science Conference, Yeditepe University, Istanbul, September 2024.

Kılıç, A. "Fears and Dreams of AI: The Case of Translators Facing Machine Translation." International Conference of the Faculty of Culture and Social Sciences: Cultural Change Induced by Communication and Global Social Practices, Turkish-German University, 28-30 November 2024.

Büke Boşnak

Publications

Boşnak, B. (2024). "Reconsidering the Impact of the 1990s Women's Movement in Turkey" in Özcan, G., Turan, Ö., Boşnak, B. & Erçetin, T. (2024). *First Century End of the Republic: Democratic Moments, Ordinary People, and Politics*. Istanbul: Istanbul Bilgi University Press, pp. 507-522.



Giriş

Türkiye tarihinde sivil toplum ve toplumsal hareketler alanında yaşanan gelişmeler, dünyadaki benzer süreçlerin de etkisiyle Cumhuriyet döneminin en çarpıcı dönüşümleri arasındadır. Küresel ölçekte özellikle 1990'larda Doğu Avrupa'da büyüyen ve dalgalar halinde tüm dünyaya yayılan yeni toplumsal hareketler ve demokrasi talepleri, sivil toplumu bu tartışmaların merkezine oturtmuştur. Kuşkusuz 1990'lardaki örgütlenmeleri ve talepleri diğer dönemlerden ayıran en önemli özellik, sivil toplumun devletten bağımsız olarak örgütlenmesidir. Totaliter yönetimlere karşı bu özerk oluşumların devlet ve toplum arasındaki ilişkiyi dönüştürmesi ve demokratikleşme süreçlerinde etkin bir rol oynaması yoluyla, sivil toplum toplumsal değişimin lokomotifini ve normatif bir değer olarak yerini almıştır. Polonya'daki dayanışma hareketi, Doğu Almanya'da ve Macaristan'daki çevre hareketleri ve Çekoslovakya'daki 1977 bildirgesi gibi kritik olayların muhalif sivil inisiyatifler olarak diğer coğrafyalardaki izdüşümü, 1990'lardan itibaren siyasi ve toplumsal dönüşümü ve günümüz tartışmalarını nasıl şekillendirdiğini anlamak açısından önem taşımaktadır.

Türkiye özelinde baktığımızda ise sivil toplumun Cumhuriyet tarihi boyunca hem süreklilik hem de kopuşlar sergileyerek bir dizi dönüşümden geçtiğini görmekteyiz. Türkiye'de sivil toplum, bir yandan Osmanlı döneminin mirası güçlü merkezi devlet geleneği bağlamında şekillenirken, diğer yandan da toplumsal dönüşümde devleti denetleyen, anti-demokratik politikalara ve söylemlere karşı çıkan ve geleneksel olmayan siyasi bir katılım alanı olarak ortaya çıkmıştır. Dolayısıyla sivil toplum ve toplumsal hareketler, tüm siyasi ve toplumsal süreçlerin analizinde ve demokratikleşme momentlerinin çözümlemesinde önemli bir öge haline gelmiştir. Bu yazıda,

(*) Bu bölümü okuyup, yorum ve önerilerini benimle paylaşan Ömer Turan ve Serpil Akpınar'a çok teşekkür ediyorum.

Özcan, G., Turan, Ö., Boşnak, B. & Erçetin, T. (2024). *First Century End of the Republic: Democratic Moments, Ordinary People, and Politics*. Istanbul: Istanbul Bilgi University Press.

Conferences

Boşnak, B. (2024). "Women's Coalitions in Turkey: The Case of Women's Platform for Equality." SU Gender 2nd International Gender Studies in Turkey Conference, Istanbul, 7 December 2024.

Boşnak, B. (2024). "Varieties of Anti-gender Mobilisations in Turkey." 16th International Conference of the ISTR Antwerp, University of Antwerp, 17 July 2024.

Boşnak, B. (2024). "Intersectional Alliances in Turkey." European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPG), Ghent University, 9 July 2024.

Project

2024. "Feminist Responses to Anti-gender Mobilization in Turkey: The Case of the Istanbul Convention" 125,416.55 TL, Istanbul Bilgi University Scientific Research Project (BAP).

Interview

Interview with Mühdan Sağlam, *gazeteduvar*, "Republic's 101st Year: Democracy, Secularism, Constitution, Equal Citizenship", 29 October 2024.

[Read the interview](#)

İSTANBUL BİLGİ UNIVERSITY

'Non scholae, sed vitae discimus'

(learning not for school but for life)



Adopting the principle of 'Non scholae, sed vitae discimus' (learning not for school but for life), İstanbul Bilgi University took its place within the Turkish system of higher education as a civil corporation after the application made by the Bilgi Education and Culture Foundation on 7 June 1996 and the subsequent approval by the Turkish Grand National Assembly as per the Law number 4142.

Over time İstanbul Bilgi University has grown to encompass 3 campuses that cover nearly a total of 210,000 m², namely Kuştepe, Dolapdere and santralistanbul, where it continues to serve its students and the academic world in Turkey.

Having broken many new grounds in Turkey within 23 years, İstanbul Bilgi University had a long-term partnership between 2006-2019 with Laureate Education, one of the largest international education networks in the world, with the aim of increasing the quality of education and research and becoming a university that can compete globally. In 2019, Can Holding joined the supporters of Bilgi Culture and Education Foundation.

The university currently has more than 20,000 students and more than 60,000 alumni, over 1,000 academicians; 8 faculties, 3 institutes, 3 vocational schools, and 150+ programs that provide education to its associate, undergraduate and graduate students.

[Click here to visit the official website.](#)

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Faculties

Faculty of Applied Sciences

- Aviation Management
- Banking and Finance *
- Gastronomy and Culinary Arts
- International Retail Management *
- Logistics Management
- Sports Management
- Textile and Fashion Design
- Tourism Management

Faculty of Architecture

- Architecture
- Industrial Design
- Interior Design

Faculty of Business

- Business Administration
- Economics

Faculty of Communication

- Arts and Cultural Management
- Communication Design and Management
- Digital Game Design
- Film
- Media

Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences

- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science*
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- Energy Systems Engineering
- Genetics and Bioengineering
- Industrial Engineering

- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Mechatronics Engineering

Faculty of Health Sciences

- Child Development
- Health Management *
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy *
- Perfusion *
- Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation

Faculty of Law

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

- Comparative Literature
- English Language and Literature
- English Language Teacher Education*
- History
- International Relations
- Music
- Psychology
- Sociology

Vocational Schools

School of Advanced Vocational Studies

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architecture and Urban Planning
- Computer Technology
- Construction
- Design
- Finance-Banking and Insurance
- Foreign Trade
- Hotel, Restaurant and Catering Services
- Management and Organization
- Marketing and Advertising
- Motor Vehicles and Transportation Technologies
- Transportation Services

- Visual, Auditory Techniques and Media Productions

Vocational School of Health Services

- Child Care and Youth Services
- Dentistry Services
- Medical Services and Techniques
- Property Protection and Security
- Social Services and Consultancy
- Therapy and Rehabilitation

Vocational School of Justice

Institutes

- Institute of Graduate Programs
- European Institute
- Institute of Information and Technology Law

Master Programs

- Accounting and Auditing *
- Architectural Design
- Bioengineering
- Business Law
- Clinical Psychology *
- Cultural Management
- Cultural Studies
- Computer Engineering
- Economics *
- Electrical-Electronics Engineering
- English Language and Literature
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Technology
- European Studies *
- Film and Television
- Financial Economics
- History
- History, Theory and Criticism in Architecture
- Human Resource Management *
- Human Rights Law

- Information and Technology Law *
- International Finance *
- International Political Economy *
- International Relations
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Marketing
- Marketing (Turkish) *
- Marketing Communication / Marka Okulu
- MBA
- Media and Communication Systems
- Nutrition and Dietetics *
- Organizational Psychology
- Philosophy and Social Thought *
- Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation
- Public Relations and Corporate Communication *
- Social Projects and NGO Management
- Trauma and Disaster Mental Health *
- Turkish-German Business Law (İstanbul Bilgi University-Cologne University)

Online Master Programs

- Banking and Finance Online
- e-MBA Turkish
- e-MBA English
- Human Resources Management Online
- Management Information Systems Online

Doctoral Programs

- Business Administration
- Communication
- Economics *
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- Political Science
- Private Law
- Public Law

Research Centres

- Center for Atatürk Studies
- Center for Civil Society Studies
 - Child Studies Unit
 - NGO Training and Research Center
 - Social Incubation Center
 - Youth Studies Unit
- Center for Conflict Resolution Studies
- Center for Environment, Energy and Sustainability Studies
- Center for Financial Studies
- Center for Migration Research
- Center for Sociology and Education Studies
- Center for Work Ethics Studies
- Comparative Labor and Social Security Law Research Center
- Competition Law and Policy Research Center
- Cultural Policy and Management Research Center
- Distance Learning Center

Higher Education Studies Research Center

- Human Rights Law Research Center
- Intellectual Property Law Research Center
- Marine Law Research Center
- Murat Sertel Center for Advanced Economic Studies
- Research Center on International Trade and Arbitration
- Turkish Language Teaching and Research Center

Institutes/Graduate Schools

- Institute of Graduate Programs
- European Institute
- Institute of Information and Technology Law

* No new students will be accepted to the program.



**İstanbul
Bilgi University**