LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been my first year as ARIT president, and it has been a pleasure to meet and collaborate with so many supporters of the Institute as the year has progressed. ARIT has continued to launch a wide variety of innovative programs in the humanities and social sciences even as the funds for such programming have continued to diminish, as you will see from the reports of branch directors Dr. Tony Greenwood in İstanbul and Dr. Elif Denel in Ankara.

Our most important change occurred at ARIT-Istanbul, where we formed a new partnership with ANAMED, Koç University’s Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, which is situated on İstiklal Caddesi in the heart of İstanbul. This new collaboration has enabled us to move the ARIT-Istanbul office and library from Arnavutköy to the ANAMED building, and we have also rented an adjacent apartment where the library of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions and our rare book collection are being housed. Also located in the ANAMED complex is the Netherlands Institute in Turkey, and in close proximity are the German and French Archaeological Institutes as well as SALT and the Istanbul Research Institute, among many others.

These are significant changes to the Institute, and they should enable us to arrive at our annual meeting with a balanced budget. In the process, we have created a much more powerful research center, capable of developing stronger collaborative programs with the other research institutes in the area.

We are indebted to Koç University for their generosity in agreeing to welcome us into their community, and we thank, in particular, Mr. Ömer Koç, Prof. Dr. Ümran İnan (Koç University president), Dr. Chris Roosevelt (ANAMED’s director and former ARIT board member), and Ms. Tuba Akbaytürk (Director of Koç University’s Suna Kıraç Library system). These changes have been especially taxing for Tony and his staff in Istanbul, and our greatest debt of gratitude goes to them.

ARIT Ankara director Dr. Elif Denel organized The Hanfmann-Mellink Conference speakers, Protection of Cultural Heritage in Emergency Situations.
ARIT has just moved, again, for the fourth time since its founding in 1964. Over the years the ARIT offices have looked out over the Marmara Sea, over the Bosphorus from Beşiktaş and from Arnavutköy, and now we’ve moved to the city center, Galatasaray, and a view over the Golden Horn. From my desk as I write this I can see the water of the Golden Horn turning red as the sun sets over the old city somewhere just to the right of the Fatih Mosque.

There has been discussion of the pros and cons of moving in the past, with some arguing we’d be better off in the city center; but by last winter it was clear to all that the days of discussion were over, that the rent was simply too high for us to stay where we were in Arnavutköy; indeed, both a move and a downsizing were the only way to stabilize finances. Deciding how and what to do took most of the spring and summer.

Perhaps the hardest part of this process was to accept that we could not afford to run a hostel any longer. Over the years the hostel has often been cited as an important part of the Institute’s program, providing an opportunity for young students to stay in Ankara and learn about the region’s rich cultural heritage. But with the rise in rental costs, it became clear that we could not continue to operate the hostel and still maintain our other programs.

Symposium last April in memory of Professor Crawford H. Greenewalt, Jr., the former director of the Sardis excavations and a great friend of ARIT. Hosted by Ankara University, the symposium highlighted new advances in archaeological research, and fourteen Hanfmann/Mellink fellows presented conference papers in the course of the two-day event.

The Hanfmann and Mellink fellowships are unique in enabling Turkish researchers in ancient art, archaeology, and history to carry out independent advanced research at centers outside of Turkey. Most Hanfmann and Mellink researchers return to Turkish universities to teach, sharing the benefits of their research and study abroad with their students and colleagues, and it has developed into one of our most successful programs.

Working in tandem with the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA), ARIT-Ankara director Dr. Elif Denel organized an international cultural heritage conference in Ankara in June, to promote strategic planning for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Emergency Situations. The conference had the support of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism as well as the U.S. Embassy, and the seven lectures are accessible at http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ARIT/CH2017.html.

In the fall of 2017, ARIT also co-sponsored a conference entitled Refugees and Migration in Historical Perspective, with five lectures that considered the lives of refugees and immigrants in the eastern Mediterranean region today. The program was cosponsored by the American Research Institute in Turkey and the Middle East Center, Penn University, and was hosted by The Center at Camden County College. We have recently submitted a proposal to the Ministry proposing a cultural heritage education program for the children of Syrian refugees in Turkey, which will also entail teacher training. In other words, we are trying to focus on proactive programs designed to ameliorate the complex social and cultural issues that dominate discussion in so many countries, especially the U.S. and Turkey.

It is an honor to have been associated with all of these projects, and ARIT is particularly grateful to the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, the International Council of Museums, and the British Institute at Ankara, for inviting us to collaborate with them in the protection of cultural heritage in the region. Once again we take pleasure in expressing our thanks to the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs, the U.S. Department of Education, the Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and the Friends of ARIT in Istanbul, Ankara, and North America. None of our accomplishments would have been possible without your encouragement and generous support.

C. Brian Rose

The view from Kallavi Sokak.
as one of the most important services ARIT offers, and the one that provides the best opportunities for friendships and interchange with other scholars; to give this up was indeed a drastic step. But the sad fact is that, at least in the recent past, the hostel has no longer been paying for itself, and younger scholars seem less and less inclined to use it. In the age of easy internet rental services, it appears that it no longer serves the critical function it once did.

Minimizing our rental costs meant also cutting down on space for the library, and perhaps cutting it down in size, another heart-wrenching prospect given all the energy and the generous donations that had gone into building it up over 50+ years.

The solution finally accepted, announced by President Brian Rose in mid-summer, was to enter into a partnership with the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), where our library would be housed free of charge in their building, joining two other outside collections that are also housed there, making it available to the widest possible scholarly public, while limiting the drain on our currently strained budget. We knew ANAMED itself was strapped for space, so we were especially grateful for their efforts to make this possible for us.

In the fall, we moved most of our Byzantine and Ottoman monograph collection to ANAMED, where we have space for about 10,000 volumes, as well as a small office. That collection is now available for use and, we hope, will soon be hooked up to their search engine. This is where the official ARIT office will be from now on.

Unfortunately, there was no space there for some of our collection, notably the American Board Library and most of our serials. So in October I found a small and reasonable apartment very close to ANAMED, just a few minutes walk away, close enough to function as an annex, and moved our American Board collection there, along with some of our rarer serials and books. We could not bring all of our serials, however, and I have sent some to ARIT-Ankara, and donated others to various university libraries where they will be appreciated and can be accessed easily, notably ANAMED itself, Koç University, Boğaziçi University, Bahçeşehir University, and ISAM.

Our main office, in ANAMED, will now be home for the ARIT assistant, Gülden Güneri, and for the Director. The new apartment, just across from ANAMED, at 30 Kallavi Street, will be open more limited hours for researchers interested in the American Board collection, and will provide offices for our librarian and AB consultant Brian Johnson, and for the Friends of ARIT assistant, Tülin Kember.

In many ways the move means a new start, an opportunity to interact more closely with other research partners in the city, and through a larger network to enrich the opportunities we make
available for our own fellows and for American scholars in general. While I regret the loss of the hostel, I am hopeful this will be more than counterbalanced by the new possibilities for synergy that the new arrangement will provide. To give one quick example: by moving to ANAMED, we are now being accepted into the Biblio Pera Portal, which provides a single search engine for all the collections of the major research libraries in the city center. This should be an invaluable tool for visiting scholars.

We are still settling in, and much remains to be worked out, but I look forward to welcoming our fellows and friends to our new premises and to an active and productive spring.

Looking at the larger picture, it has been a difficult year in some ways. The number of US scholars in Turkey is down, and use of our facilities was down. Exchange programs with U.S. institutions have been cut, some scholars have had funding for travel to Turkey cut, and security concerns have cancelled the plans of others. For those who did come, however, research conditions (outside of the southeast) were not significantly changed from years past. We ran a very successful and well-received summer language program at Boğaziçi University, for the 32nd year in a row, and individual grantees, with one or two exceptions, had no trouble (other than the occasional bureaucratic ones) in carrying out their research. Our programs, fellowships and lectures continue unabated.

A listing of some of these activities is to be found below, and in other parts of this newsletter:

**ARIT-Istanbul Lectures (in chronological order)**

- Ms. Artemis Papatheodorou (Ph.D. Candidate in Oriental Studies, St. Antony’s College, Oxford), “Unearthing Ottoman Policies on Archaeology [1869-1921]”
- Prof. Kimberly Hart (Social Cultural Anthropology, SUNY Buffalo), “Street Animals, the City, and the State”
- Prof. Carolyn Goffman (Senior Instructor, Department of English, DePaul University), “Our Mohammedan Girls: Selling the American College to America, 1890-1923”
- Prof. Melis Hafez (History Dept., Virginia Commonwealth University, ARIT-NEH Research Fellow), “Laziness as a Social Disease in Late Ottoman Society”
- Mr. Jeffrey Wall (Master of Professional Studies in International Agriculture and Rural Development, Ph.D. Candidate, Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, ARIT Fellow), “Geography and Ethnobotany of Chestnut Livelihood Practices in Turkey”
- Mr. Henry Shapiro (Ph.D. Candidate, Princeton University Department of History, ARIT Fellow), “Eremia K'ëomurchean and the Origins of the Armeno-Turkish Translation Movement in Seventeenth Century Istanbul”
- Dr. Matthew Harpster (Senior Fellow in Residence, ANAMED, Koç University), “The Kyrenia Shipwreck Collection Restoration Program”
- Prof. Faiz Ahmed (Dept. of History, Brown University, ARIT-NEH Fellow), “Afghanistan and the Ottomans: Sufis, Scholars, and Statemakers in InterIslamic Exchange”
- Mr. Jonathan McCollum (Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of History, UCLA, ARIT Fellow), “The Cost of War: Allies, Arms, and Humanitarianism in the Italo-Turkish War, 1911-1912”
- Ms. Madoka Morita (Ph.D. Candidate, University of Tokyo, Junior Fellow, Koç University, ANAMED), “Neighborhood and Marriage Contract in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul”
Dr. Ashihan Akışık-Karakullukçu (Adjunct lecturer, Bahçeşehir University and Işık University), “From ‘bounteous flux of matter’ to Hellenic City: Late Byzantine Literary Representations of Constantinople”


Turkish Dernek Fellowships for Doctoral Research, 2016 and 2017

Four candidates in each year 2016 and 2017 won awards in the competition. Fields of study varied with a mix of historical and archaeological topics. The fellows and their projects are listed below (2016 fellows on page 15, and 2017 fellows on page 13).

Ilse Böhlund Hanfmann, George M.A. Hanfmann, and Machteld J. Mellink Fellowships, 2016-2017

The fellowships for academic year 2016-2017 were shared among four winners, whose periods of funding varied between three and nine months. The scholars conducted research at a wide range of institutions in different countries, including the U.S., Italy, Greece, France, and the U.K. They are listed below on page 15.

Istanbul Friends of ARIT News

Although the conditions for travel and tourism have been less than propitious over the last year and a half, the Friends have not let that stop them from roaming throughout the region. The number of Friends activities since our last newsletter is too large to be given in the full detail that it deserves, but even the brief listing below will provide some idea of the rich variety of trips on which we embarked.

2016 Tours
- A full week tour of Jordan, including Amman, Jerash, the desert castles, Madaba, Petra, and Wadi Rum
- A five day tour of south-central Anatolia, with Prof. Çiğdem Maner of Koç University, including Beyşehir, İrviz, Konya, Çatalhöyük, Pisidian Antioch, Eğirdir, Adada, and Sagalassos
- A weeklong tour of Iran, including Isfahan, Shiraz, and Mashad
- A three day tour of Safranbolu and Amasra, with Erkut Aldeniz

2016 Day Trips
- Byzantine and post-Byzantine monuments in the Golden Horn area, with Prof. Ivana Jevtic of Koç University
- The Black Sea Castles at the mouth of the Bosphorus, with Dr. Tony Greenwood
- The Protestant Cemetery in Feriköy, with Dr. Brian Johnson
- Haydarpaşa and the Crimean Cemetery, with Gencer Emiroğlu
- Underground İstanbul, with Dr. Ferudun Özgümüş

Social events
- Annual Dinner at the Classic Automobile club
- Open House

2017 Tours
- Egypt, a week long tour of Pharaonic Egypt and Islamic Cairo, led by Dr. Brian Johnson
- Kaş and the Lycian coast, led by Prof. Julian Bennett of Bilkent University. It included visits to Tlos, Xanthos, Patara and a full day boat trip to Kekova, the Church of St. Nicholas, and the new museum in the port of Andriake
- Byzantine Kosovo and Macedonia, led by Prof. Ivana Jevtic of Koç University, and including the Gracanica and Decani monasteries, the Patriarchate of
Pec, Prizren, and Ohrid
❖ A weekend at Tarsus, with the director of excavations, Prof. Ash Özyar of Bosphorus University, and including a visit to Karatepe
❖ Gordian, Midas City, and the Phrygian Highlands, led by Gordian Excavations Director Prof. Brian Rose, and Prof. Elspeth Dusinberre
❖ A week-long tour of Uzbekistan, including Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand, and Tashkent
❖ Maritime İstanbul, with Gencer Emiroğlu
❖ Eyüp and Üsküdar, with Erkut Al--deniz
❖ Underground İstanbul, with Dr. Ferudun Özgümüş

The profits from all FARIT tours and social activities go to ARIT fellowship programs. With some help from Ankara FARIT in 2016, Istanbul FARIT has kept the Dernek Fellowship program alive for the last two years. In each year they funded four fellowships for Ph.D. research by Turkish doctoral students at Turkish universities (see page 5 above).

Over this period they have also funded the research of two Turkish fellows at North American universities:
❖ Mr. Orcun Okan, Turkey (Ph.D. Candidate, History, Columbia University), Coping with Transitions: The Connected Construction of Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq (1918-1928)
❖ Mr. Mehmet F. Tatari (Anthropology, University of California, Davis), Farmer Organizing in Northeastern Turkey: Making Cheese and Reimagining Borders

ARIT is grateful to the members of the FARIT Steering Committee, who have unwaveringly maintained their support for ARIT’s needs and goals over many long years, in some cases decades. Without their support our fellowship program and our presence in İstanbul would be much diminished.

Antony Greenwood
Director

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First meeting of the FARIT Steering Committee in the new location (members present, from left to right: Beate Becher, Lucienne Thys-Şenocak, Yaprak Uras, Tony Greenwood, Sinan Ceylan, Aylin McCarthy).
This summer, with funding from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fulbright-Hays Program, we were able to take sixteen Fellows to Boğaziçi University for the intensive and rewarding Turkish Language and Culture Program. As always, the staff at TLCP was fantastic, creating new opportunities for us such as the garden party with displays of handicrafts, home cooking, folk dancing, and a presentation about an educational NGO that works in Eastern Turkey.

The staff at ARIT-Istanbul hosted our orientation and programming for what would be the last time at the lovely Arnavutköy location. ARIT-Istanbul Director Tony Greenwood led us once again for the adventure up and across the Bosphorus.

An additional treat this summer was a visit to Health Lowry in his Bahçeşehir University office. Tony and I got to hear some priceless stories of the history of ARIT. As we enter the next phase of ARIT-Istanbul, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Tony Bey and all the staff at ARIT-Istanbul for their invaluable service to our organization, and in particular for all that they have done to support our Summer Fellows.

Sylvia Wing Önder
Program Director

Tony Greenwood and Heath Lowry.

ARIT SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVANCED TURKISH LANGUAGE STUDY

Application deadline
February 23, 2018

http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ARIT/ARITSummerLanguageProgram.html
ARIT-ANKARA BRANCH NEWS

Ankara Branch News

Ankara ARIT is looking towards increasing collaborative projects focusing especially on cultural heritage protection and preservation, a topic of timely significance considering the recent natural and human generated devastations in the regions neighboring Turkey. To that end, ARIT-Ankara continued collaborating through 2016 and 2017 with the U.S. Embassy and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism on cultural heritage projects. One of these was the preparation of a brochure produced in tandem with the Ministry’s Illicit Antiquities Trade Department, focused on promoting the protection and preservation of regional cultural heritage. The final design is to be produced by the Ministry and distributed among refugees at camps, museums near the southeast border of the country, border crossings, and customs offices.

Symposia

Another collaborative project brought ARIT together with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the U.S. Embassy, and the British Institute at Ankara (BlAA). This was the organization of an international symposium, Protection of Cultural Heritage in Emergency Situations, held at the Erimtan Museum in Ankara on June 15-16, 2017 (see photograph on page 1). The symposium addressed strategies for protecting museums and heritage sites in cases of natural, social or political disaster. International experts were brought together with specialists from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, museums, research institutes, and universities. Directors and staff from museums in different parts of Turkey, especially the southeast, were among those who attended the event. The program began with two keynote speeches:

Prof. Peter Stone (UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace, and Head of the School of Arts and Cultures, Newcastle University), Prof. Stone addressed priorities in times of conflict in his lecture, “Protecting Cultural Property in Conflict: Critical Responsibility or Unnecessary Distraction?”

Melik Ayaz (Deputy Director of the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums at the Republic of Turkey’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism), Mr. Ayaz delineated the current concepts, policies, and programs of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism toward heritage related issues.

The subsequent speakers addressed different aspects of emergencies and emergency response procedures for protecting cultural heritage in various parts of the world, but with a significant focus on Turkey’s neighbors:

Prof. C. Brian Rose (James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology at Penn University, Curator-in-Charge of the Mediterranean Section at the Penn Museum, Director of Gordion Excavations, President of ARIT), “Cultural Heritage Protection Training for Soldiers”

Dr. Lamia Al-Gailani-Werr (Research Associate, Near and Middle East Section, School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, SOAS [School of Oriental and African Studies], University of London), “Four Wars and the Museums in Iraq”

Dr. Aparna Tandon (Project Manager, Collections Unit at the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property [ICCROM]), “Culture Cannot Wait: Integrating First Aid for Cultural Heritage into National Emergency Management Systems and International Humanitarian Response”

France Desmarais (Director of Programs and Partnerships, The International Council of Museums [ICOM]), “Protecting Cultural Heritage at Risk: The Role of the World Museum”

Dr. Shaker Al-Shbib (Post-Doctoral Fellow at University Paris Nanterre, Consultant at the Smithsonian Institution), “Emergency Measures Taken to Protect Museums in Syria During the Conflict: Aleppo, Idlib, and Masrat Al-Nu‘man Museums”

Önder İpek (Director of Çorum Museum), “Emergency Action Plans and Education Programs for the Protection of Cultural Heritage at Çorum Museums (Çorum-Alacahöyük-Boğazköy)”

Zeynep Boz (Illicit Antiquities Trade Department, General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism), “Recent Developments and Discussions on Preservation of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property”

Abstracts and audio presentations are accessible at the ARIT website: http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ARIT/CH2017.html

Prof. Crawford H. Greenewalt, Emeritus Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of California, Berkeley, and former director of Sardis Excavations, passed away in 2012. Only after his death did it become apparent that he had anonymously supported the Hanfmann and Mellink Fellowships ever since he established the program in 2002. Professor Greenewalt will always be remembered as a renowned hoca of Anatolian archaeology, and to honor his invaluable contributions to scholarship in Turkey, ARIT collaborated with Ankara University’s Classical Archaeology Program to organize a day-long symposium, The Hanfmann-Mellink Symposium for the Memory of Prof. Crawford H. Greenewalt / Prof. Crawford H. Greenewalt Anısına Hanfmann-Mellink Semposyumu. Of the 63 fellows who have conducted research projects prior to 2016, fourteen of them shared their work with the audience in a series of lectures (see http://aritankara.org/inc/docs/2017.04.05.HanfmannMellinkProgram.pdf). We are grateful to all these participating scholars, whose presentations ranged across all periods of Turkey’s archaeology and history, and to Prof. Emeritus Coşkun Özgünel, who shared his wit and knowledge with all the participants as respondent, and to the Department of Archaeology for hosting an event so full of information as well as feeling. We are eagerly looking forward to a second symposium of Hanfmann and Mellink fellowship recipients, which will be
hosted by İstanbul University’s Archaeology Department in the spring of 2018.

W. D. E. Coulson and Toni M. Cross Aegean Exchange Fellowships, 2016 and 2017

There were four Aegean Exchange Fellows during 2016 and 2017, three from Turkey and one from Greece. The winners are listed on pages 12 and 14. The Turkish scholars spent time in Athens and used the resources of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens during the summer months. The Greek fellow affiliated with ARIT in Istanbul.

Ilse Böhlund Hanfmann, George M.A. Hanfmann, and Machteld J. Mellink Fellowships, 2017-2018

The Fellowships for academic year 2017-2018 were shared among seven winners, listed on page 13, with research being conducted at a wide range of institutions in different countries, including the U.S., England, France, Russia, and Germany, and with tenures varying between three and six months.

Toni M. Cross Library

Over 80 users visited the Toni M. Cross Library 263 times between the fall of 2016 and fall 2017. Of the visitors, 36 were undergraduate students, 26 were M.A. and Ph.D. students, and 19 were professionals, including Ph.D. holders with academic positions. They came from a variety of international backgrounds, including the U.S., Turkey, Australia, Georgia, Belgium, India, Lebanon and Iran. Turkish students and scholars had affiliations with Ankara University, Bilkent University, TED University, TOBB University, Gazi University, and the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. In addition, scholars and specialists from the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA), the U.S. Embassy, the Fulbright Commission, and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations visited the library for resources. Other visitors had affiliations with Mustafa Kemal University in Hatay, Selçuk University in Konya, Bilis Eren University, Dumlupinar University at Kütahya, and Koç University in Istanbul. In addition to independent scholars of Turkish and foreign backgrounds, visitors had international affiliations with the American University of Beirut in Lebanon, University College London and Suffolk University in England, the University of Montpellier in France, and Penn University, the University of Texas at Austin, New York University, the University of Louisville, and the University of Chicago in the U.S.

Our librarian, Özlem Eser, accessioned a total of 316 books and offprints as well as 142 journal and newsletter issues into Ankara ARIT’s growing library collections. Of these, 284 items were exchanged and gifted by individuals or institutions. Ankara ARIT’s library exchange program continued with the Republic of Turkey’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the General Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Museums. As part of this program, Ankara ARIT sent 129 books and 72 issues of twelve journal titles as a donation to the Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University. Ankara ARIT also sent 99 books and offprints to Ankara University’s Mustafa V. Koç Deniz Arkeolojisi Uygulama ve Araştırma Merkezi (ANKÜSAM). A substantial part of this donation consisted of duplicates from the Machteld J. Mellink donation.

The first part of a donation by Dr. H. Craig Melchert arrived in Ankara in February 2017. We also received about 2,500 items from the Yıldız Ötüken Archive in March 2017. Prof. Ötüken taught in the Art History Department at Hacettepe University in Ankara for many years, where she also served as the Department Chair before her retirement ten years ago, and she directed the St. Nicholas Church Excavations at Myra/Demre in Antalya. We are grateful to the family of Prof. Ötüken for this generous and very important donation.

We especially thank the following individuals and organizations for the donations they made to the Toni M. Cross Library collections: Semih Güneri, Bahadır Duman, Cengiz İşık, Christopher Lightfoot, Vicdan Kittelson, Elif Denel, Ellen L. Kohler, Fahri Dikkaya, H. Craig Melchert, Hatçe Baltacıoğlu, John Marston, Matthew Harpster, Namık Erkal, Necdet Bezmern, Özge Demirel, Özgen Acar, Serra Durugonül and Mersin University, Timothy Harrison, Yıldız Ötüken, Bahrı Altunkaya and the Governorship of Burdur; Alevi Araştırmaları Enstitüsü, British School at Athens, Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Gaziantep Zeugma Museum, Göç İdaresi Genel Müdürlüğü, Kömürçüoğlu Mermer, Nilüfer Municipality at Bursa, Parrot Press, Römisch-Germanischen
Lectures

Lectures are held both at the Toni M. Cross Library at ARIT-Ankara and at the Reşat Aktan Hall of the Turkish American Association (TAA). We are grateful to the TAA, especially Dilek Dengizek Ersanal, the Executive Director, and Sera Erdamar Özköse, for their generous help in providing space and resources for the ARIT-TAA collaborative annual lecture series *Art and Archaeology in Turkey*. These lectures focus not only on Turkey but also on the broader geographical and historical developments.

The following lectures were held in the Toni M. Cross Library at Ankara ARIT between the fall of 2016 and fall 2017:

- Wei-Sheng Lin (Center for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Birmingham, Junior Fellow at Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations), “The Geography of Economic Activities in Thirteenth- and Fourteenth-Century Cilicia”
- Prof. Vasfi Şahoğlu (Director of AN-KÜSAM, Faculty of Languages and History-Geography, Department of Archaeology, Ankara University), “Ankara University Mustafa V. Koç Research Center for Maritime Archaeology (AN-KÜSAM) and its Contributions to Maritime Archaeology in Turkey”
- Dr. Andrew Vaughn (Executive Director of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Administrative Director of ASOR’s Cultural Heritage Initiative), “The Unifying Power of Cultural Heritage”; and, as discussant, Prof. Dr. Timothy Harrison (Department of Near Eastern and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, and Director of Tayinat Höyük Excavations).
- Dr. Joseph Yackley (Second Secretary, U.S. Embassy, Ankara), “BANKRUPT: Financial Diplomacy in the Nineteenth Century Middle East”
- Prof. Ian Rutherford (Department of Classics, University of Reading, England, and Fellow at Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations), “Religious Interactions between Hittites and Greeks: Contact, Borrowing, Comparison”
- Dr. Fahri Dikkaya (TED University, Ankara), “Ways to found a State: Historical Archaeology of Early Ottomans and the Origins of the Ottoman State”
- Dr. Luca Zavagno (Department of History, Bilkent University, Ankara), “Cyprus and her Sisters: The Islands of the Byzantine Empire between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages”
- In addition to our English language talks, ARIT-Ankara has now launched lectures in Turkish, the first of which was by Emeritus Prof. Dr. Coşkun Özgünel (Ankara University) on the Apollo Smintheus Temple and the Iliad, “Apollo Smintheus Tapınağı ve Homeros’un İlyada Destanı Üzerine Bir Soyleşi (Troas/Çanakkale)”

The 37th Annual Lecture Series in *Art and Archaeology in Turkey* was held at the TAA in the spring and early summer of 2017. The following speakers gave lectures:

- Dr. Elif Koparal (Dept. of Archaeology, Hitit University at Çorum; Director of Kla zomenai Survey Project/ KLASP) “Legacies and New Results in Ionian Archaeology: Sampling the Urla-Çeşme Peninsula”
- Dr. Çiğdem Maner (Dept. of Archaeology and History of Art, Koç University, and Director of Konya Ereğli Yüzey Araştırmaları/KEYAR), “Inside the Frontiers of Tarhuntassa and Hatti: The South-eastern Corner of Konya Region from the Early Bronze to Iron Ages”
- Dr. Carmelo Di Nicuolo (Research Associate at the Italian Archaeological School at Athens, Post-Doctoral Researcher at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), “Heracles at the Hot Springs”

Finally, we are grateful to Ambassador John Bass and Holly Holzer Bass for their continued support of ARIT and for hosting yet again the Annual ARIT Dinner at the Ambassador’s Residence in June, prior to their departure from Turkey in the fall of 2017. Prof. Brian Rose (President of ARIT and Director of the Gordion Excavations), delivered a lecture, “The Golden Age of King Midas: Recent Excavations at Gordion” at this well attended event.

ARIT Ankara Director Dr. Elif Denel and Professor Vasfi Şahoğlu.

ARIT Ankara Friends visiting Kırşehir.
The Ankara Friends of ARIT launched the fall season with a get-together at the Residence of the Deputy Chief of Mission, Philip Kosnett, on the invitation of Alison Kosnett, who is a member of the Friends Steering Committee. Mr. Kosnett is currently serving as the Chargé d’Affaires after the departure of Ambassador John Bass early in the fall. Mr. and Mrs. Kosnett are both avid supporters of ARIT, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share information on the Friends of ARIT with the new embassy members and their families. A few days later, we held a very well attended Open House Party at the Emin Hekimgil Art Gallery in the Turkish American Association. Baybars Alpaslan, who is the Director of Star Tourism and the newest member of the Steering Committee, sponsored all the food for the event.

The Ankara friends sponsored several weekend trips in the fall of 2016. Following the trip to Tbilisi and environs with Dr. Irene Giviashvili, a scholar of medieval architecture, the Friends organized a trip to Kastamonu with Dr. Fahri Dikkaya, who is a specialist in Ottoman archaeology. The director of the Pompeiopolis excavations, Dr. Latife Summerer, also gave us a tour and provided information on the ongoing archaeological research at the site. The Friends organized a day-trip also with Dr. Dikkaya in the spring, to Çankırı, where participants met with specialists on the local history and tradition of Ahilik (Turkish Islamic guilds) and visited Ottoman sites, in addition to the Hittite temple ruins where the famous İnandık Vase was discovered.

Ankara ARIT is grateful to the Friends of ARIT-Ankara, who support not only the growth of the Toni M. Cross Library, but also our lecture series. The Steering Committee recently lost its Honorary President, Holly Holzer Bass, along with Joseph Yackley, who recently moved to Istanbul. Nevertheless, the Friends continue to organize events to support ARIT, especially ARIT’s library and fellowships, with the ongoing support of Alison Kosnett, Shauna Tufan, Shirley Epir, Marlene Elwell, Charles Gates, Irene Giviashvili, Ron Tickler, and Baybars Alpaslan, who is the most recent member of our Steering Committee.

Elif Denel
Director
erupted in the 15th and 16th centuries, as several waves of popular rebellions that gripped the empire in the early nineteenth century. Reform and political centralization that political institutions shaped their discourses and how local educational, religious and cultural institutions shaped their discourses of nation and national purpose.

ARIT U.S. Department of State, Educational, and Cultural Affairs Fellows

ARIT ECA Fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

Professor H. Erdem Çıpa (History and Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan), Popular Uprisings in Pre-Modern Ottoman Lands. Professor Çıpa investigates several waves of popular rebellions that erupted in the 15th and 16th centuries, as an expression of popular resentment among Ottoman subjects in the face of increased bureaucratization, centralization, and orthodoxy.

Ms. Gwendolyn Collaco (Art History, Harvard University), From Single Figures to Geographies of Beauties: Ottoman Costume Albums of Bazaar Artists and their Cultural Translations, 17th-18th Centuries. Ms. Collaco explores the use of Ottoman costume albums from the 17th-18th centuries, considering their local and foreign uses, alongside later translations into European turquerie.

Dr. Aimee Genell (History, Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley), International Law and the Legal Legacy of the Ottoman Empire in the Eastern Mediterranean, 1876-1930. Dr. Genell is working on a history of international law in the Eastern Mediterranean from the late 19th century through the 1930s, tracing the social lives, education, writings and legal opinions of a group of late Ottoman international lawyers across the imperial-national divide.

Mr. Michael B. Sims (History, University of Washington), Without a Purpose, Misfortune Will Befall Our Land: Discourses of Nation in Late Ottoman Kurdistan. Mr. Sims uses sources in Ottoman Turkish, Arabic, Kurdish, Syriac and Neo-Aramaic to examine how the different groups—Ottoman, Syriac Christian, Kurdish, and Yezidi—engaged a transforming socio-political landscape, and how local educational, religious and political institutions shaped their discourses of nation and national purpose.

ARIT Fellows in Intensive Turkish Language, Summer 2017

The U.S. Department of Education, Georgetown University Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, the American Association of Teachers of Turkish Languages, and ARIT, provide support for participants in the Boğaziçi University Summer Program in Intensive Advanced Turkish Language.

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George M. A. Hanfmann, Ilse Böhlund Hanfmann, and Machteld J. Mellink Fellows

The Hanfmann and Mellink Fellowships are supported by the Merops Foundation in honor of George M. A. and Ilse B. Hanfmann, and Machteld J. Mellink.

George M. A. Hanfmann Fellows
❖ Mr. Durmuş Ersun (Classical Archaeology, Ankara University), The Anatolian Development of Sculptures in Toga. Mr. Ersun will conduct research and study on Classical sculpture at the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin.
❖ Ms. Özgün Kasar, Archaeology (Muğla University), Metalwork from Dascyleum. Ms. Kasar will work in the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the Bochum Bergbau Museum in Germany, studying background and comparanda for the metalwork from the Persian satrapal site.
❖ Dr. Mustafa Nuri Tatbul (Settlement Archaeology, Middle East Technical University), Changing Dynamics in the Middle Byzantine Komana Pontica, Central Black Sea. Dr. Tatbul will conduct his research at Dumbarton Oaks, studying the changes and interactions between Byzantine and Turkic communities during the penetration of Turkic tribes into Anatolia.

Ilse B. Hanfmann Fellows
❖ Ms. Fatma Coşkuner (Archaeology and Art History, Koç University), Ivan Konstantinowich Aivazovsky (1817-1900). Art and Material Culture in the Construction of National and Social Identity. Ms. Coşkuner will work in the Yerevan National Museum, Armenia, the Louvre in Paris, and museums in Russia, researching the Russian-Armenian painter of seascapes, some with orientalist themes.
❖ Ms. Gizem Dörter (Archaeology, Koç University), The Unpublished and Unregistered Late-Medieval/Ottoman Period Fortress of the Upper Bosphorus: The Upper Rumeli Kasan Fortress. Ms. Dörter will conduct research in museums and libraries in France, Greece, Italy, Russia, and the U.K., aiming to document the Rumeli Kavağı on the upper Bosphorus.

Machteld J. Mellink Fellows
❖ Dr. Gonca Dardeniz (Archaeology, Koç University), Crossing Cultural and Technological Borders in the Near East: Vitreous Materials, Pyrotechnical Installations, and Integrated Technologies during the 2nd and Early 1st Millennium B.C. Dr. Dardeniz will carry out her study at the University of Liverpool, continuing her research into the technology and interconnections of the vitreous craft production.
❖ Dr. Hıseyin Yaman (Archaeology, Çanakkale University), Tenedos in Aegean Cultural Interactions: The Necropolis Finds. Dr. Yaman will carry out his research at the German Archaeological Instute in Berlin.

ARIT Turkish Fellows

ARIT Turkish Fellowships are funded by the Friends of ARIT and the American Research Institute in Turkey.
❖ Ms. Özgün Kasar Kılc (Çanakkale 18 March University, Archaeology), Early Bronze Age Settlement Patterns in the Middle Porsuk Basin: Social, Economic and Cultural Processes. Ms. Kılc analyses the evidence for settlement patterns in the Early Bronze Age of central Turkey.
❖ Ms. Türkan Banu Güler (Ancient History, Ankara University), The Use of Foreign Adjudicators in the Aegean Region in the Hellenistic Period. Ms. Güler is studying ancient Greek legal practices, with a focus on international participation.
❖ Ms. Aşşegül Damla Gürkan-Anar (Art History, Boğaziçi University), Istanbul and Isfahan in the Early 17th Centuries: the Masjed-Shah and the Sultan Ahmed Complexes. Ms. Gürkan-Anar studies the architectural and religious cultures of the early modern Islamicate lands, with a special focus on the Ottomans and the Safavids.
❖ Ms. Çiğdem Oğuz (Modern Turkish History, Boğaziçi University), Social, Political and Intellectual Responses to the ‘Morality Crisis’ on the Ottoman Home Front during the First World War. Ms. Oğuz carried out archival research on issues of public morality in the late Ottoman regime.

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ARIT fellowships 2016-2017

ARIT-NEH Fellows

ARIT-NEH Fellowships are funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

- Professor Faiz Ahmed (Modern Middle East History, Brown University, America in the Ottoman Gaze: The Sublime Porte, the United States, and Early Muslim Communities in North America, c. 1730-1923). Professor Ahmed worked on a study of the ties between the Ottoman Empire and the U.S. in late Ottoman times.
- Dr. Zeynep Korkman (Gender and Women's Studies, The University of Arizona, Gendered Fortunes: Feelings, Labors, and Publics of Divination in Post-secular Turkey). Dr. Korkman is developing an ethnographic account of the livelihoods forged by and the desires and anxieties motivating the youth, women, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals in contemporary Turkey, with a focus on divination.

ARIT U.S. Department of State, Educational, and Cultural Affairs Fellows

ARIT ECA Fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

- Mr. Matthew Ghazarian (Ottoman History, Columbia University, Famine in a Time of Uncertainty: Food Aid and Sectarianism in Turkey, 1856-1893). Mr. Ghazarian investigated the material roots of a culture of sectarianism in Anatolia by studying the relationship between food aid and sectarianism during the period 1856-1893, focusing on the effects of the 1873-1883 Anatolian famines.
- Mr. Joseph Lombardo (Comparative Politics, The New School for Social Research, In the Kingdom of Dams: The Politics of Scale and the Keban Project, 1962-1973). Mr. Lombardo collected oral interviews and documentation for his study of the making of scale and water governance in Eastern Turkey through the lens of technical experts.
- Professor John Marston (Archaeology, Boston University, Empire and Environment in Late Bronze and Iron Age Anatolia). Professor Marston analysed botanical samples from three sites in Turkey to study agricultural systems in place across Anatolia during the Bronze and Iron Ages.
- Mr. Jonathan McColllum (History, University of California at Los Angeles, Ottomanism at War: Citizenship, Nationalism, and Minorities in the Ottoman Empire, 1911-1912). Mr. McColllum studies the Italo-Turkish War to understand how international support affected the evolving constitutional Ottoman regime.
- Mr. Jeffrey Wall (Ethnobotany, Cornell University, Folk Valuation of Chestnut Diversity in Turkey: An Inquiry into the Maintenance of Diversity of an Historically Valuable Tree Species). In the context of increasing chestnut blight in Turkey and Europe, Mr. Wall investigated the folk values for and knowledge of chestnut traits, cultivars and unique populations across Turkey.

Istanbul Friends of ARIT Fellow

Fellowship funded by the Friends of ARIT, Istanbul.

- Mr. Orcun Okan (Ph.D. Candidate, History, Columbia University, Coping with Transitions: The Connected Construction of Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq (1918-1928)). Using diverse archival sources, Mr. Okan examines the establishment of Republican Turkey and the League of Nations Mandates in present-day Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq following the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the transition as experienced by inhabitants of the region.

W. D. E. Coulson and Toni M. Cross Aegean Exchange Fellows

ARIT and ASCSA Aegean Exchange Fellowships are funded by the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and cosponsored by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

From Turkey:

- Dr. Fahri Dikkaya (TED University, Ankara), Ottoman Pottery between Local and Imperial Tastes. Dr. Dikkaya studied survey results of the Ottoman period from fieldwork by such scholars as John Bintliff, Jack Davis, and Ioannis Lolos in the Peloponnese and central Greece.

From Greece:

- Dr. Stella Souvatzi (School of Humanities, Hellenic Open University), Neolithic Sites in Greece and Turkey and the Politics of Space and Identity. Dr. Souvatzi continued her study of contemporary constructions of identity and self-image in prehistoric Greece and Turkey.

ARIT Fellows in Intensive Turkish Language, Summer 2016

The U.S. Department of Education, Georgetown University Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, the American Association of Teachers of Turkish Languages, and ARIT, provide support for participants in the Boğaziçi University Summer Program in Advanced Turkish Language.

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The Hanfmann and Mellink Fellowships are supported by the Merops Foundation in honor of George M. A. and Ilse B. Hanfmann, and Machteld J. Mellink.

George M. A. Hanfmann Fellow
  ✤ Dr. Sultan Deniz Kıcıker (History, Ankara University), *The Structure of the Ionian Koinon in the Archaic and Classical Periods*. Ms. Kıcıker conducted her research in the Department of History at the University of California, Berkeley, developing her analysis of the Ionian League.

Ilse B. Hanfmann Fellow
  ✤ Ms. İpek Dağlı Dinçer (Classical Archaeology and History of Art, Koç University and İstanbul University), *Cults and Religious Life in Pamphylia from the Archaic to the Late Antique Period*. Ms. Dinçer conducted research and study at Oxford University, the École Normale Supérieure, Paris, and in Athens at the École Français d’Athènes, developing her study of the cults and religious customs of Pamphylia in southern Asia Minor.

Machteld J. Mellink Fellows
  ✤ Mr. Orkun Hamza Kaycı (Prehistory, İstanbul University), *Prehistoric Cilicia: New Research and Relations with Surrounding Regions*. Mr. Kaycı worked with colleagues at Salento University in Lecce and at La Sapienza in Rome as he develops a new understanding of Cilician prehistory.
  ✤ Ms. Yasemin Özarslan (Archaeology and History of Art, Koç University), *Landscape Organization and Social Interaction in Iron Age Anatolia: Three Case Studies from Phrygia*. Ms. Özarslan carried out her research and study in the U.K. at Durham University and at the University of Edinburgh. Her study emphasizes the role of visibility and movement in complex human-landscape interactions and seeks innovative ways of combining, representing, and modeling these two concepts in GIS using archaeological data.

ARIT Turkish Fellows

ARIT Turkish Fellowships are funded by the Friends of ARIT and the American Research Institute in Turkey.

  ✤ Mr. Özan Eren (Sociology, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University), *The Field of Protest Music in Turkey: the Case of the ‘Kardeş Türküler’*. Mr. Eren studied the popular folk music group, Kardeş Türküler, who develop traditional and new performances in the context of ongoing political pressures.
  ✤ Ms. Sinem Erdoğan İşkorkutan (History, Boğaziçi University), *Festivity and Representation in the Early Eighteenth Century: The Imperial Festival of 1720 and its Illustrated Surnames (Imperial Festival Books)*. Ms. İşkorkutan focused on the imperial circumcision festival that was held in Istanbul during the reign of Ahmed III and its representation in illustrated festival books that bring to light hitherto unknown material, social, financial, and semiotic aspects behind the planning of an imperial festival.
  ✤ Mr. Hakan Mutlu (Anthropology, Ankara University), *A Comparison of the Humerus and Femur Variations in East Roman and Byzantine Milas-Belentepe and Anatolian Societies*. Mr. Mutlu analysed the human skeletal remains from the site to understand their historical implications through the Roman and Byzantine periods.
  ✤ Mr. Umut Parlıtı (Archaeology, Erzurum Atatürk University), *Burial Customs and Tomb Types of the East Anatolia Region in the 3rd Millennium B.C.* Mr. Parlıtı studied the tomb types and grave goods of prehistoric eastern Anatolia.

ARIT-NEH Endowment Challenge Matching Fund

ARIT continues to raise matching funds for its National Endowment for the Humanities Endowment Challenge Grant. This grant enhances the ARIT library facilities and collections in Istanbul and Ankara and develops a permanent fund to support library operations. You can help ARIT make the match and win the grant funds that are so important to our future.

To make a contribution, please use the form on the back page of this newsletter. You also may contribute online via a secure server from the ARIT website:

http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ARIT/NEHEC.html

NEH has already awarded us $450,000. If ARIT raises an additional $150,000, we will receive $100,000 more from NEH, thereby meeting our Endowment Challenge Grant total goal of $2.2 million.
NORTH AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ARIT
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ARIT thanks all those who supported our centers and activities and contributed to the NEH Endowment Challenge Matching Fund over the past year, through November 2017. Your support ensures our future work.

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REPORTS ON ARIT FELLOWSHIPS

Professor John Marston, Department of Archaeology, Boston University

ARIT-CAORC Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow
Empire and Environment in Late Bronze and Iron Age Anatolia

During the summer 2016, with support of an ARIT fellowship, I was able to travel to Turkey to take part in three excavations and gather primary data for my research project. The three sites are Kaymakçı, a Middle to Late Bronze Age citadel in the Gediz River Valley (Manisa province); Gordion, a Bronze Age to Medieval urban center on the northwestern Anatolian Plateau (Ankara province); and Kerkenes, an Iron Age city apparently founded by the Phrygian state in the eastern highlands of the Anatolian Plateau (Yozgat province). At each, I supervised the collection of botanical samples, consisting of archaeological sediments from excavated contexts that are then processed on-site with water flotation in order to retrieve charred seeds and wood charcoal from the samples. These botanical remains are then available for analysis on-site or at a research facility. I was able to spend two months in the field, despite the political turmoil of that summer, and (with the help of student assistants) collect and process over 1000 samples across these three projects.

The purpose of the collection of these samples is to identify agricultural systems in place across Anatolia during the Bronze and Iron Ages, and how they vary across time and space. I focus on these two periods as they see the first expansion of indigenous empires (Hittite and Phrygian) across Anatolia and end with the conquest of the region by the Achaemenid Empire, centered outside Anatolia. Exploring the economic implications of these imperial transitions allows us to identify how local communities responded to and adapted to the political economy of empire. Agricultural practices are a manifestation of political economy and the primary cause of pre-modern environmental change, so a focus on agriculture provides critical insights into connections between economy and environment.

This research formed a central component of my book project, entitled Empire and Environment in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean, which explores these themes across Anatolia and the Levant. Late Bronze and Iron Age Anatolia form an ideal central case study for this project, as the Hittite and Phrygian states provide a regional perspective on agriculture in central and western Anatolia that considers environmental and climatic differences within unified economic and political imperial frameworks. The data gathered during fieldwork in 2016, together with evidence from prior excavation seasons and published data from other contemporary sites in Anatolia (including Kaman Kalehöyük and Çadır Höyük), allowed me to identify agricultural practices and establish evidence for environmental stability or change across this region.
No results are yet available from samples recovered in 2016, as the political situation in Turkey prevented export of archaeological samples that year. Samples excavated, processed, and exported in prior years, however, show promising patterns that will be elaborated with future data. To date, based on data from Kerkenes and Gordion, I have argued that there was a central agricultural strategy of the Iron Age Phrygian state, but that strategy was adapted to local environmental opportunities and constraints across the Anatolian Plateau. In contrast, preliminary data from Kaymakçı appear to show a pattern of autonomy and distinction from both central Anatolian Hittite strategies and coastal Mediterranean agricultural systems (such as that of Troy).

By integrating these results with evidence from animal bone analysis and environmental reconstruction (from wood charcoal and wild seed analyses), it is possible to identify the interplay between agricultural systems and local environments, as is presented in my research from Gordion published in 2017 by Penn University Press, *Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Change at Ancient Gordion*.

**Professor Faiz Ahmed, Department of History, Brown University**

ARIT NEH Fellow 2016-2017

*America in the Ottoman Gaze: The Sublime Porte, the United States, and Early Muslim Communities in North America, c. 1730-1923*

My fellowship with ARIT-NEH in 2016 was devoted to researching my next book. Provisionally titled *Ottoman Americana, 1776-1923*, this book project explores the social, economic, and cultural ties between the Ottoman Empire and the United States—as seen through the lives and writings of Ottoman consuls, entrepreneurs, migrant workers, and other kith and kin networks stretching from the Middle East to North America. Based on archival work in Istanbul and Ankara, and drawing from unpublished letters, manuscripts, and government records primarily in Ottoman Turkish, Arabic, and French, my research in Turkey pursued two overarching questions.

First, it sought to interpret the Ottoman “gaze” on North America from the late eighteenth century to the dissolution of the empire in 1923. Focusing on correspondence between Istanbul and consular stations in the US, I centered agency on Ottoman officials and migrants themselves, aiming to study Ottoman-US exchanges based on Ottoman sources and perspectives. Second, my research examined the largely unstudied question of ties between early Muslim communities in North America and the Sublime Porte during this period. From its inception the research therefore aims to contribute to two growing fields of scholarship: Ottoman foreign relations and the social history of Islam in America.

While in Istanbul I delivered invited lectures at Istanbul University and ARIT on questions of Islamic law and modernity and the Ottoman Empire’s relations with Central Asia and the Indian Ocean world.
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