



ARIT NEWSLETTER

American Research Institute in Turkey



DECEMBER 2023

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! In this, my first letter as ARIT president, I'd like to thank Past President Brian Rose for his six years of service in that office, and for his ongoing work with ARIT. ARIT weathered some difficult times and prospered under his leadership.

This past summer I visited both the Istanbul and Ankara Branch offices, both of which had recently moved to large, new, beautiful spaces. Photographs of both accompany the Branch Directors' reports. Both can accommodate gatherings of students and researchers and serve as hubs for interaction between foreign and local scholars as we emerge from the isolation imposed by the pandemic. Both also enjoy expanded library space and convenient locations, the Istanbul Branch in Galata near the wharf, and the Ankara Branch in the same building as the British Institute. Be sure to visit when you go to Türkiye, and don't forget to attend the hybrid lecture series that both centers organize.

Researchers, ARIT Fellows, and students in the Boğaziçi University Summer Language Program had a more normal experience in Türkiye this past year, and the visa problems of last year are gradually improving. However, the devastating earthquakes in the southeast last February hit some archaeological sites in the region hard, disrupting work and destroying evidence of the past still underground, in storage depots, and in museums. In addition to the loss of life and livelihood, ARIT's sympathy extends to archaeologists who lost work and time to the devastation.

In better news, we all can be grateful for two recent major gifts to ARIT. Byzantinist Robert Ousterhout, who sadly passed away this year, left a generous bequest to ARIT. Thanks are due to the Merops Foundation for funds for the Hanfmann/Mellink fellowships and the Ankara Branch library, to the Joukowsky Family Foundation for a generous gift of unrestricted funds, and to the US Embassy in Ankara for their support of both ARIT centers. ARIT is also grateful for all the alumni, friends, and former Fellows who donate year by year.

Besides the grants that support our Fellowships, ARIT is grateful for funds from the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme to digitize *The Messenger* and other materials from the Istanbul American Board Library; that project is now complete. The remaining materials from the American Board Archives we digitize as resources permit; this year thanks go to Friends of ARIT and the student interns who worked on digitization. The interns were also crucial to the completion of another project, the recording of the tombs at the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery, while the US Mission to Türkiye assisted with the conservation of tombstones and the restoration of a memorial plaque. In Ankara, the Consulate provided support to produce the Red List for Türkiye in cooperation with the International Council of Museums and the Ministry of Culture.

Finally, I draw attention to ARIT's new fellowship fund in honor of the late Dr. İhsan Çetin, husband of former Ankara Director Toni Cross, who helped ARIT in many ways and who passed away this year. The fund will support the research of Turkish students and scholars at institutions within Türkiye who will carry out research within the country. A further description and a chance to donate to the Çetin/Cross fund can be found later in this Newsletter.

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ARIT-ISTANBUL NEWS

As we close the year 2023, we are delighted to announce the completion of the cataloguing and digitization of ARIT's collection of periodicals and books produced and distributed by the publication department of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM). This work was made possible through a generous grant administered by the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) at the British Library, with funding provided by Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin.

The project "Preparing *The Messenger* to go online: digitally preserving *Avedaper* and other rare publications of an Istanbul missionary press," started in July 2021, thanks to the hard work of the project team composed of Brian Johnson, Selin Hogopian, and Sevil Üzrek. The digital data has just been sent to the British Library to be posted on their website. It will also be made available online by our local partner SALT Research. You can find more information on this project at <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP1355>. We will circulate an announcement once the collection becomes available on these two platforms.

This year we continued the cataloguing of the ABCFM Archives housed at SALT Research thanks to the time and effort that our FARIT member Mary Berkmen put in along with several ARIT interns from Boğaziçi University (BU). Ebrar Başığit, Akarsu Demirkol, Enes Sayın, and Emre Arlı worked under the supervision of both Brian and Mary.



Figure 1. Brian Johnson with our Hillsdale interns.



Figure 2. Brian and Selin at ARIT Annex Office

We were also happy to resume having student interns from Hillsdale College, Michigan, for in-person summer internships. In May, Brian and I met in Istanbul with Richard Gamble, Charles Yost, other Hillsdale faculty, and three students, as they were finally able to arrange a country trip to Türkiye. Our Hillsdale summer interns—Adam Bentley, Joseph Perez, Sebastian Breeland, and Ciaran Smith—started their internship after the tour and worked on several projects, including recording at the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery, reorganizing ARIT's American Board Library, and cataloguing the cemetery's archives as well as ARIT's American Board archives. During their final week, they had a walking tour of the city with Brian (Figure 1). It is always a pleasure to host this group of dedicated students in Istanbul, and our collaboration has proven to be a mutually beneficial and rewarding experience. We are already planning next year's program with Dr. Yost, who told us that there is a lot of interest and enthusiasm from their students for an internship experience in Türkiye.

In June, we welcomed our Summer Turkish Language Fellows to Istanbul. As in the past, we had our welcome dinner at our neighboring restaurant Fıccın, in Beyoğlu. A change from last year was to host the Turkish testing and orientation session at our new Annex Office in Karaköy.

In April, we moved into a more spacious office suite in the same building, Fransız Geçidi İş Merkezi (Figure 2). We are now located on the 4th floor (No. 39) and have a view of the Topkapı Palace (Figure 3). Our new office allows us to host larger groups for meetings and gatherings. The orientation program was our first event in the new space, which worked very well (Figure 4).



Figure 3. View from the new ARIT Annex Office

After the testing session, we had a walk along the Bosphorus, and, on the same afternoon, some of our fellows attended an open house at the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery, where ARIT, together with other member institutes of the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative, presented its work at the cemetery to local academic, diplomatic, and community circles (Figure 5).

Our colleagues at Boğaziçi University resumed the tradition of offering a wide range of activities for the language students, which the program's leader Sylvia Önder describes in the following pages. In August, we bid farewell to this year's cohort and thanked the BU faculty and assistants with a dinner at the Harvard Cafe.

In Istanbul, we continued our hybrid lectures (in-person at ANAMED and online over zoom) in coordination with ARIT Ankara. The joint lecture series

on maritime archaeology also resumed in collaboration with the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) and The Koç University Mustafa V. Koç Maritime Archaeology Research Center (KUDAR). (See below for the full list of 2023 programs). We had a wide range of topics, as you can see in the list; however, the earthquake disasters on February 6th and its aftermath in the east and southeastern part of the country shook us to the core. Therefore, in February and March, we postponed our events to later dates in observance of the mourning in Türkiye, a decision made in consensus with other research centers in the city. Our Ankara director Elif Denel shares information on how the earthquake impacted Antakya and her excavation site in the following pages, and I would like to extend our heartfelt condolences once again to Türkiye.



Figure 4. Turkish Summer School Orientation with Dr. Sylvia Önder



Figure 5. Brian presenting at the Cemetery Chapel

Due to the earthquake disasters, we extended the application deadline of for the Hanfmann-Mellink fellowships until the end of March. The jury awarded seven fellowships this year. Some of the projects deal with the earthquake-impacted areas, which Elif describes in more detail in her report. Through the Türk Amerikan İlmî Araştırmalar Derneği, we awarded five fellowships. The award list can be found below.

The work on the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery continues to be as busy as ever. This summer, thanks to the hard work of our interns, the recording of the cemetery's tombs was completed. Our ARIT administrative assistant, Selin, contributed to the project's finalization with her recording efforts in the cemetery's Armenian section.

The U.S. took over the presidency of the cemetery's Diplomatic Governing Board from Hungary in Fall 2022, and ARIT Istanbul has worked closely with Board President Kirsten E. Thompson and Seda Arslan from the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul in the past year. The work involves helping to finalize and ratify the cemetery's new set of regulations, find and implement a cemetery management software system, and catalogue and digitize the cemetery's archives.

In addition, ARIT Istanbul has overseen the conservation of ten endangered historic tombstones in the cemetery's U.S. section (Figure 6), as well as the replacement of the Robert College memorial plaque. This project was funded by a generous grant of \$25,000 from the U.S. Mission to Türkiye. The conservation work is almost complete, and we are celebrating this important project at the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative's second holiday season reception, on December 15th.

The documentation, research, and restoration activities on the cemetery never cease. They can be followed from *The Ledger*, the biannual online bulletin, accessible at the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative website (<https://www.ferikoycemetery.org/>).

I would like to reiterate our heartfelt thanks to all the scholars and colleagues who took the time from their busy schedules to give lectures and serve on our fellowship committees; to all staff members at ANAMED; to all FARIT members and program participants for their support, with a special mention of the FARIT Steering Committee members: Nedret Butler, Ali Ertenu, Anthony Greenwood, Başak Kızıldemir, Aylin McCarthy, Alan Mellaart, Neslihan Tonbul, and Yaprak Archibald Uras.

The year 2023 has been a difficult one for Türkiye and for the ARIT community as we mourn the loss of lives in the earthquake disasters as well as those of our dear colleagues, friends, and supporters Robert Ousterhout, Cornell Fleischer, and our Dernek President Zafer Toprak. We end this year with the hope that the year 2024 will be a restorative one for all of us. Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Zeynep Simavi
ARIT Istanbul Director



Figure 6. Jan Gavrilo and team at the conservation work

2023 ARIT LECTURES

(In chronological order.) You may view recorded events on ARIT's YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@americanresearchinstitutei3409>

Dr. Mantha Zarmakoupi (University of Pennsylvania) “The Maritime Infrastructure and Network of the Delian Emporium” in collaboration with the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) and the Koç University Mustafa V. Koç Maritime Archaeology Research Center (KUDAR) (online)

Dr. Paul Salay (Coe College) “If it isn't broke: Regional Shipbuilding Traditions and Maritime Networks in the Ancient Mediterranean” in collaboration with INA and KUDAR (online)

Dr. Melis Hafez (Virginia Commonwealth University) “Inventing Laziness: the Culture of Productivity in Late Ottoman Society” (in person and online)

Dr. Amanda Phillips (University of Virginia), “The Studenica Silk (ca. 1400): Object and Interpretation,” in collaboration with the American Institute for South-east European Studies/AISEES (online)

Ms. Merve Özkılıç (Istanbul Technical University), “Materialization of Turkish History Thesis: The Exhibition of 1937 Congress of Turkish Historical Society” (in person and online)

Dr. Georgia Holly (University of Edinburgh), “Linking Nature and Culture for Sustainable Livelihoods: Establishing a Marine Protected Area around Mozambique Island” in collaboration with INA and KUDAR (online)

Ms. Pat Yale, “Following Miss Bell: Travels Around cccc in the Footsteps of Gertrude Bell” (in person and online)

Dr. Panagiotis Kontolaimos (Athens School of Fine Arts), “Another Way of Seeing Things’: The Ottoman View over Greek Lands in European Context” (in person and online)

Dr. Emre Kuruçayırılı (Boğaziçi University), “Insight into Production and Maritime Trade of Metals 3200 Years Ago: New Studies on the Cape Gelidonya Shipwreck” in collaboration with INA and KUDAR (online)

Dr. Zeynep Simavi (ARIT Istanbul), “Ottoman Art in America: A Century Long Artistic Relations between Türkiye and the United States” Given in honor of the 100th anniversary of Republic of Türkiye (in person and online)

Dr. Nuray Ocaklı (Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University) “The Silk Industry of Late Medieval Kastoria: Orthodox Christian Craftswomen, Romaniote Jews, and Cuman/Kipchak Tribes” (in person and online)



ARIT ISTANBUL
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and LIBRARY

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ARIT ISTANBUL ANNEX

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Kenan Sharpe speaking on Anatolian Rock

ARIT-ANKARA NEWS

We are thrilled to share the news that Ankara ARIT's long search for a new location ended in 2023. We secured a duplex on Atatürk Boulevard, near our previous office in Çankaya, moved in before the end of the spring, and completed renovations in the fall. We partially closed off the two terraces on the upper floor to house the ever-growing volumes of the Toni M. Cross Library, which connects with an internal staircase to the lower floor, where offices, a conference room, and work and storage spaces are located (Figures 1a, 1b). We extend our thanks to Lale Özgenel for her assistance during renovations. We also thank the Merops Foundation, Vicdan Kittleson, Matthew Harpster, and Serim Denel for their financial support and in-kind donations through this massive task of building our new facilities.



ARIT at Atatürk Bulvarı 154/13, Çankaya, Ankara

Our librarian, Özlem Eser, has spent endless hours coordinating and organizing over 20,000 volumes and journals of the Toni M. Cross Library with the help of Selim Tosun, who is an advanced undergraduate in the Archaeology Program of Ankara University (Fig. figure 2). While the Library will open officially in 2024, students and scholars have been using its resources for the past few months by appointment. In addition to the arduous work of packing, unpacking, and organizing the library collection, Özlem recorded 250 books, 62 of which were gifts, and 133 items of 60 journal titles since the Fall of 2022 to the collection of the Ankara ARIT Library.



Figure 1b. Toni M. Cross Library

A great benefit of moving to the new location is our proximity to the British Institute in Ankara, located on the lower floors of our building. Library users can now benefit from the collections of both Institutes on a single visit. Having ARIT and the BIAA in the same building has already contributed to increased communication and collaboration between the two foreign Institutes with comparable missions in Ankara. In fact, we just hosted the BIAA at our facilities on a small get-together in celebration of the holiday season and the new year (Figure 3).

We are also grateful for the ongoing support of the Ankara Friends of ARIT and the members of the Steering Committee, Shirley Epir, Ron Tickfer, Jennie Lane, Shauna Tufan, Marlene Elwell, Marco Sims, Baybars Alpaslan, Pınar Akdeniz, Burcu Yıldırım, Zeynep Simavi, Elif Denel, Scott Oudkirk and Charles Gates, who



Figure 2. Ozlem Eser and Selim Tosun

rejoined the Steering Committee just recently from Paris. They never ceased their help and guidance not only through Ankara ARIT's grand move but also in the continued endeavors to organize events and lectures.

Ankara ARIT continued to provide logistic support for American excavations in the ever-changing dynamics in Türkiye. Most recently, Çadır Höyük in the spring and Tell Tayinat in the Fall of 2023 joined the long list of American teams that conduct archaeological research in Türkiye: Gordion, Sardis, Kaymakçı, Notion, Aphrodisias, Antiochia ad Cragum, Kerkenes, Phoenix, and Zincirli.

We extend our gratitude to the specialists in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the U.S. Embassy in Ankara for their guidance through all levels of the procedures in Türkiye and the U.S. that enable continued collaboration between scholars, specialists and students in each of these archaeological projects, who come from not just the U.S. or Türkiye, but also from many other countries. It is through the varied approaches and methodologies that international team members bring that research progresses. Their projects help keep Anatolian archaeology at the forefront of archaeological research as a discipline.

2023 has been a difficult year with ups and downs. On February 6 and February 20, Türkiye experienced a series of earthquakes of over 7 in magnitude that were centered at Kahramanmaraş, Pazarcık and Elbistan and Hatay, respectively. These earthquakes not only caused great destruction in Syria but also devastated a vast region in Türkiye from Diyarbakır, Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, to Gaziantep, Antakya, and İskenderun. Records indicate that more than 50,000 people lost their lives in Türkiye alone. Many villages, small towns, and neighborhoods of large cities were damaged.

Tragically, the old city of Antakya was destroyed almost entirely, leaving behind only the memories of unique neighborhoods with 19th and early 20th century architecture that had managed to survive into the 21st century. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism's response to damage assessment and protection at museums and archaeological sites in regions affected



Figure 3. ARIT and BIAA staff gather to greet the new year

by the earthquake was immediate. The support and the camaraderie among archaeologists and specialists greatly contributed to the humanitarian efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake. All provided valuable help in the efforts to recover the archaeological material in the highly damaged excavation houses of such sites as Tell Tayinat in Antakya (Figure 4). In Gaziantep, both İslahiye, where Zincirli Höyük stands and Fevzipaşa, where the Zincirli excavation house is located, suffered greatly from the earthquakes. Even so, members of both Tayinat and Zincirli teams were at their sites during the summer of 2023 to conduct assessment and recovery work and to ensure the future of site management and research in such drastically changed social, economic, and environmental areas.



Figure 4. Recovering and organizing excavation finds in Antakya



Figure 5. Project Director Brian Rose celebrating Gordion as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

The fantastic news that Gordion in Polatlı near Ankara was added to UNESCO's World Heritage Site List along with the Wooden Hypostyle Medieval Mosques of Anatolia brightened the fall of 2023 and provided great morale boost (Figure 5). The Great Mosque of Sivrihisar, Ahi Şerafettin (Aslanhane) Mosque in Ankara, Eşrefoğlu Mosque in Beyşehir, Konya, and Mahmut Bey Mosque in Kasabaköyü, Kastamonu were introduced collectively into the World Heritage Site List. After Aphrodisias, Gordion is the second site in Türkiye to be added to the List, where an American team has conducted long-term excavations. We congratulate the former ARIT President and current Director of Gordion Excavations, Brian Rose, for this wonderful outcome of the long process of preparing the application. We are now looking forward to the introduction of Sardis

and the Lydian Tumuli of Bin Tepeler in Manisa into UNESCO's World Heritage Site List in 2024. Although we are sure they do not need it, we wish 'iyi şanslar,' the best of luck, for the Director of Sardis Excavations, Nick Cahill, and his team.

ARIT worked closely with the US Embassy in Ankara to secure funds for the preparation of ICOM's (International Council of Museums) Emergency Red List of Cultural Objects at Risk for Türkiye. These lists provide practical tools for individuals, organizations, officials, and authorities to identify archaeological and historical objects in danger of exploitation and illegal trade. In 2017 ARIT collaborated with the Embassy and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism for the Turkish translation of ICOM's Red List for Iraq. In October, ARIT signed a protocol with representatives of ICOM's central headquarters in Paris and ICOM's National Committee for Türkiye at an event organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism at the Antalya Archaeology Museum (Figure 6). We are looking forward to the completion of this project in the next few months, which will serve as a valuable educational and training tool for the prevention of illegal antiquities trade.

We wish for a fabulous 2024 and invite you all in the new year to visit Ankara ARIT at the new office and library space.

Elif Denel
ARIT Ankara Director



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Figure 6. Elif and representatives from ICOM and Ministry of Culture signing the protocol

Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) meeting in Dakar, Senegal, October 2023

In October, ARIT staff traveled to Senegal to participate in a meeting of the CAORC family of overseas research centers. The group had not met since 2018, and the participants rejoiced in reconnecting and sharing their experiences and challenges in operating research centers in many of the 28 CAORC countries. We gathered in Dakar, meeting for several days.

In the meeting, representatives from the US Department of State discussed agency priorities and programs for the coming year. A consular officer of the US mission in Dakar introduced the country of Senegal, its resources and interest for travel and study.

Each center presented the work and conditions in their country. CAORC provided information about grant administration and the use of technology to improve efficiency and outreach. Center staff discussed pandemic and post-pandemic innovations and outreach. Both staff and specialists presented CAORC's faculty development travel program, as well as a new global South initiative among the ORCs. Shared concerns included cultural heritage preservation, efforts to document and promote



Presentation of the plaque honoring Dr. Mary Ellen Lane.

endangered languages and cultures, protecting academic freedoms, and fundraising and advancement.

The West African Research Center in Dakar and its director Dr. Ousman Sene hosted the meeting. Dr. Sene and staff offered cultural excursions and presentations. Most participants also traveled to Toubacouta on the Saloum River delta to enjoy the culture and environment of the coastal mangrove zone and continue with informal exchanges.

During the meeting CAORC and WARC dedicated a conference room to Dr. Mary Ellen Lane, the founding director of CAORC. Pictured are WARC director Dr. Ousman Sene (WARC president), Dr. Abdou Salam Sall (Rector of Cheikh Anta Diop University), Jennifer Yanco (former WARC director), Dr. Eileen Julien (first director of WARC), Ruth Anne Stevens-Klitz, (US Consulate), Dr. Ismael Montana (WARA president)

As always, ARIT is grateful to the US Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs and to CAORC for the support and opportunities they provide.



Elif, Zeynep, and Nancy at the Ambassador's reception

ARIT TURKISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM 2023



ARIT-BU Fellows getting oriented with Zeynep Simavi

In the lead-up to the Summer of 2023, we were closely following the aftermath of the devastation wrought by the February earthquakes in the South East and potential tensions surrounding the May 14 elections and run-off. Despite these concerns, and with continued funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad, we were able to support a cohort of 11 ARIT-BU Fellows: 8 PhD students, 1 MA student, and 2 undergraduates. Their fields ranged from our usual applicant fields of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Ottoman History, Ethnomusicology, Islamic Studies, and Political Science to the less common fields of Spanish Linguistics, Anthropology, and Comparative Literature.

On June 17th and 18th, we met for orientation in Istanbul, sharing a lovely Circassian meal with ARIT Branch Director Zeynep Simavi (this year, the vegetarians came out way ahead for a change – each being presented with an earthenware pot brimming with sautéed chanterelle mushrooms). The next day saw the inevitable barrage of pre-program testing at the lovely new ARIT office in Karaköy, now a destination neighborhood due to the opening of the very sophisticated Galataport. As always, the ARIT Istanbul staff remained helpful throughout the summer.

While many ARIT Fellows arrange their own weekend trips around Türkiye and the region, this year, we organized a three-day trip to Mudurnu in the mountains near Bolu right at the start of this year's program, coming as it did at the end of the religious month of Ramadan with a week-long Bayram holiday. For two nights, we stayed in the traditional wooden houses of Mudurnu, including the konak of Terra Mudurnu, where our host and guide Ege Yıldırım provided tours focused on historic and cultural preservation, a cheese-making demonstration, a walk through fields of organic Anatolian wheat, and a visit to the Pertev Naili Boratav Museum.

The Boğaziçi Turkish Language and Culture Program was directed this summer by Kadir Gökgöz and Ceyda Arslan Kechriotis, with help from capable graduate student administrator Özge Bakay, and carried out by a host of capable faculty and TAs. The intensive 8-week program, as always, included lectures, excursions, and plenty of homework and testing. The BU program wrapped up with the much-awaited and much-remembered evening Bosphorus Boat Tour.

In the post-program evaluation, one student wrote: "I found the instructors here to be amongst the most qualified, highest-caliber, and enthusiastic that I've found. That they come from linguistics and literature backgrounds was very helpful and beneficial. Of the

different Turkish programs I have attended, I have definitely learned the most here. Being in Istanbul certainly helps (as well as being at the country's top research university!), but this is also a large testament to the teachers who not only know Turkish grammar backwards and forwards, but also know how to explain it to foreigners (and, particularly, English speakers). The cultural excursions that TLCP and ARIT organized also were wonderful, enriching, and edifying. And fun!!”

One unexpected result of prolonged Turkish economic woes was that the ARIT-BU Fellowships went further than ever before – with the students’ US dollars becoming worth more over the course of a single day in many cases. A hands-on workshop about

Turkish carpet and kilim weaving traditions even led to some sales. As usual, many books were purchased and shipped back to the US.

After the final slew of tests and evaluations, the 2023 ARIT-BU Fellows headed off in all directions. We have recently learned that our application for the Summer of 2024 has been approved by the US Department of Education – so be sure to spread the news. Applications open in February of 2024.

ARIT Summer Fellowships for Advanced
Turkish Language Study

Deadline early February 2024

<https://aritweb.org/fellowships/arit-summer-fellowships-turkish/>



Breakfast at Terra Mudurnu, a beautifully restored konak in Mudurnu, a town in the Black Sea region

ARIT FELLOWSHIPS 2022-2023

ARIT National Endowment for the Humanities Fellows:

Dr. Ayfer Karakaya-Stump, Turkish and Ottoman History, William and Mary, *Alevi-Bektashi Digital Archive Regional Pilot Project*. Dr. Karakaya-Stump is creating a web-based digital archive of the endangered heritage of the Alevi-Bektashi communities in Anatolia and the Balkans. Her project uses electronic copies of textual materials, images of material culture and audio-visual recordings. Her study will evaluate and improve the project's infrastructure and processes for future planning.

Dr. Catherine Scott, Archaeology, Koç Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, *Accessing Anatolian Archaeology: Planning an Online Digital and Spatial Database for the Kaymakçı Archaeological Project*. Dr. Scott's project focuses on the data from two excavation areas at Kaymakci to determine best practices for data preparation and presentation, including consideration of logistical and ethical issues in the publication of digital archaeological data.

ARIT US Department of State - ECA - CAORC Fellows:

Dr. Osama Eshera, Islamic Studies, History of Philosophy and Science, McGill University, *The Transmission of Avicenna's Najat from the Ayyubid Court to Ottoman Lands: MS Istanbul, Murad Molla 1410*. Dr. Eshera undertakes a detailed codicological and paleographic analysis of the *Najat* codex, a manuscript of the philosophical treatise by Avicenna. He undertakes to publish it as a digital facsimile and introduce its scribe, Ibn al-Sa'ati, as a glossator of the *Najat*.

Mr. Aram Ghoogasian, Near Eastern Studies, History, Princeton University, *The Second Printing Revolution: How the Industrialization of Print Transformed a Diasporic Culture*. Mr. Ghoogasian studies European and Near Eastern Armenian print culture to evaluate the transregional effects of the twin printing revolutions and illuminate the course of the development of print media for the Armenian culture.

Dr. Vladimir Hamed-Troyansky, Global Studies, Middle Eastern History, University of California Santa Barbara, *Global Hijra: Muslim Refugee Migration since 1850*. Dr. Hamed-Troyansky is writing a transnational history of Muslim refugee migration between 1850 and 2020. He examines the displacement of Muslim communities in the Middle East, the Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and South Asia, considering how the refugee migration affects state- and nation-building as well as the experience of displaced Muslim communities.

Ms. Sarah Molina, History of Art and Architecture, Harvard University, *The Poetics of Space: How Safavid Carpets Shaped the Early Modern Islamic World (1539-1671)*. Ms. Molina examines how Safavid carpets directed an experience of space in the early modern Islamic world. She explores how these textiles played a role in both the everyday and specialized, ceremonial experience of palaces, gardens, mosques, and shrines in Safavid Iran. She further investigates now how Persian carpets served as important commercial imports and diplomatic gifts for furnishing imperial spaces abroad.

Dr. Brian Silverstein, Cultural Anthropology, University of Arizona, *The Production and Economization of Quality in Turkish Olive Oil*. Currently olive oil producers in Türkiye seek to capture value in the commodity chain and improve their income through qualification. Dr. Silverstein will study the effort to standardize the production of quality and experience of taste and smell. He will further examine the need and process for the economization of the special products.

Ms. Audrey Wozniak, Ethnomusicology, Harvard University, *A Discipline for the Nation: Turkish Classical Music Choirs in History and Practice*. Turkish classical music claims a history of over 1,000 years in the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. The entry of the koro (choir) as an ensemble format and pedagogical institution in the early twentieth century, however, marked a radical reimagination of the musical tradition. Ms. Wozniak investigates the experiences of musicians in thousands of state and amateur koros using ethnographic and archival methods.

ARIT Fellows:

Evan and Leman Fotos Fellow:

Ms. Ruşen Bingül, Cultural Anthropology, Emory University, *Negotiating Kurdishness: Gender, Justice, and Dispute Resolution in Southeastern Turkey*. In Türkiye's southeast, many Kurds look not to the state courts but to alternative judicial bodies (AJBs) such as religious leaders, kin groups, civil organizations, and renowned local figures/families to settle disputes. This practice may put them at odds with the Turkish state. Through participant observations and semi-structured interviews, Ms. Bingül will examine currently operational AJBs.

John Freely Fellow:

Dr. Maria Choleva, Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies, *Making an Artisan for the Potter's Wheel in the Prehistoric Aegean*. Dr. Choleva investigates the socio-cultural origins of a major technological innovation in the pottery production of prehistoric Aegean, the potter's wheel, by tracing the ways of appropriating this tool in both Greek mainland and western Anatolia during the late 3rd millennium BCE. She focuses on the pot-forming techniques of Liman Tepe, a major fortified settlement in the coastal western Türkiye, using an innovative interdisciplinary approach

Friends of ARIT Fellow:

Ms. Çağla Ay, Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, *Rethinking the Agrarian Question through Multispecies Lens: The Case of Finike Oranges*. Ms. Ay investigates the discrepancies and inequalities at the intersection of science, capital, and agriculture. She does so through a multi-sited ethnography that moves across orange groves, citrus laboratories, and archival records in Türkiye. She focuses on the Finike orange, a species that has a Geographical Indication but a mixed heritage.

Toni M. Cross – William D. E. Coulson Aegean Exchange Fellows:

Turkey:

Dr. Görkem Kökdemir, Ankara University, Classical Archaeology, *Cult of Zeus Sosipolis in Magnesia on the Meander and the Architecture of Hellenistic Temples*. Dr. Kökdemir is expanding his studies of the architecture and

cult at Magnesia on the Meander with this focus on the temple of Zeus Sosipolis.

Dr. Nuray Ocaklı, History, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, *Cultural Heritages of Kastoria and their Endowment Properties: Monastery of St. Anargyron, Monastery of Panagia Mavriotissa, Monastery of St. Nicholas Ispilio, Zaharia Church, and the Other Churches*. Dr. Ocaklı uses Ottoman archival resources to help reconstruct the cultural and architectural heritage of the Greek city of Kastoria.

Greece:

Ms. Paraskevi Dandali, History, University of Crete, *Janissaries in Salonica (18th-early 19th Centuries)*. Ms. Dandali conducts comparative research on the Janissaries, the elite infantry deployed close to the sultan, in Greece and in Türkiye.

Mr. Thanasis Sotiriou, History, University of Crete, *Production, Consumption, and Trade of Wine in Byzantine Central Anatolia*. Mr. Sotiriou studies the production, consumption, and trade of wine in central Anatolia during the Byzantine period. He engages in excavation, ethnographic and landscape studies, and library research to carry out his project research.

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George M. A. Hanfmann Fellows:

Ms. Feyza Dalođlu, Architectural History, Middle East Technical University, *A Port Town from Scratch: The Interwoven Urban Landscape of Late 19th Century Iskenderun*. Ms. Feyza Dalođlu is visiting archives in Berlin, Paris, and London to enhance her research in Ottoman archives in Türkiye.

Dr. Hazar Kaba, Department of Archaeology, Sinop University, *At the Periphery or Within? Contextualising the Late Classical-Early Hellenistic Houses of Sinope within Greek Domestic Architecture*. Dr. Kaba is carrying out research at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He will travel to sites in Greece with domestic architecture of the period for his research on the Hellenistic houses of Sinop.

Ilse Bohlund Hanfmann Fellows:

Mr. Kemal Koçaklı, Eurasia Institute of Earth Sciences, Istanbul Technical University, *Modeling the Soil Erosion With the Help of Geographical Information Systems Under Changing Climatic Conditions and Land Use Systems in Delice Basin (Çorum) During the Early and Middle Holocene (ca. 12,000-4200 cal. BP)* Mr. Koçaklı is working with Chris Renschler in the National Soil Erosion Research Library at Purdue University to analyze the data he has collected from Çorum province, especially the Delice basin, for modeling climate change and socio-ecological interaction in antiquity.

Dr. Ezgin Yetiş, Art Conservation and Restoration, Kastamonu University, *Investigations of Painting Techniques and Organic Materials on Wall Paintings Found in Some Ottoman Mosques in Edirne-Turkey*. Dr. Yetiş will analyze the painting techniques used at several mosques in Edirne, working with Ilaria Bonaduce at Pisa University to develop his understanding of paint analysis.

Machteld J. Mellink Fellows:

Ms. Ayça Deniz Çınar, Archaeology, Çanakkale 18 Mart University, *Early Bronze IV - Middle Bronze II Stone Objects from Tell Atchana and Toprakhisar Höyük: The Role and Significance of Stone Production Technology in Center and Periphery Relations*. Ms. Çınar is conducting research at Haifa University in Israel, where she is developing her analysis of stone finds with Prof. Danny Rosenberg, the head of the Laboratory for Ground Stone Tools Research.

Ms. Filiz Dolđun, Archaeology, İzmir 9 Eylül University, *Analysis of Pottery and Find Spots at Early Bronze Age IVB Tayinat Höyük*. Ms. Dolđun is working with Lynn Welton at the University of Toronto and Timothy Harrison at the University of Chicago to develop her pottery analysis and GIS skills in order to conduct spatial analysis of the excavated rooms of a large EBA structure excavated by the Tayinat team.

Ms. Fatma Kalkan, Archaeology and History of Art, Koç University, *Scrutinizing Past Human Activities via Sediment Geochemical and Phytolith Analyses in Central Anatolian Early Neolithic Communities: Spatial Use and Plant-Human Interaction in Micro-Scale*. Ms. Kalkan will take scientific and technical training at the Culture and Socio-Ecological Dynamics (CaSEs) Laboratory and Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) in Barcelona, working with Carla Lanxelotti and focusing on phytolith analysis.

ARIT Turkish Dernek Fellows:

Mr. İbrahim Arcagök, Archaeology, Bursa Uludağ University, *The Origin of the Soa / Altıntaş Grave Stelai*. Mr. Arcagök is conducting a study of the findspots of a series of grave stelai from the Roman city of Soa, in Kutahya Province.

Mr. Cumali Çatak, Anthropology, Ankara University, *A Comparison of the Measurements of Human Dry Mandibles Using Panoramic X-ray with Predictive Modeling of Age and Gender Estimated with Machine Learning*. A forensic anthropologist, Mr. Çatak uses scientific analysis of human mandibles to develop anthropologists' capacity to determine the age and gender of skeletal remains.

Mr. Burhan Göz, Archaeology, Istanbul University, *The Human – Environment Interaction in Anatolia's Neolithicization Process*. Mr. Göz analyses the regional variations of climate changes during the neolithic period in Anatolia.

Mr. Berksan Gülsoy, History, Marmara University, *Türkiye-Spain Relations (1923-1960)*. Mr. Gülsoy studies international relations during the 20th century, with a focus on interactions between the early Turkish Republic and Spain.

Ms. Bahar Ayça Okçuođlu, Sociology, Koç University, *Identity Transformation and Transnational Solidarity in the Context of "Dual Diasporas": Syrian Circassians in Turkey*. Ms. Okçuođlu studies the history of the Circassian people from regional and local perspectives.

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Dr. İhsan Çetin

In this issue we honor Dr. İhsan Çetin, who passed away in January. Dr. Çetin, retired faculty off from the Department of Tourism and,Hotel Management, Faculty of Applied Sciences, was a pioneer of Türkiye's tourism policies. As the spouse of Dr. Toni M. Cross, he often assisting with varied challenges that ARIT Ankara faced from negotiating leases to handling legal issues. We remember his help and kind sociability now, naming a fund to support advanced study for Turkish scholars at institutions within Türkiye, the İhsan Çetin and Toni M. Cross Memorial Fund.

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REPORTS ON ARIT FELLOWSHIPS

Dr. Oscar Aguirre-Mandujano, University of Pennsylvania, ARIT National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow

All the Shaykh's Poets: Politics, Doctrine, and Poetry in the Ottoman Early Modern World (1452-1512)

In Spring 2022, I conducted research in Istanbul benefitting from several local libraries, including the manuscript collections of the Süleymaniye and Millet Libraries in Istanbul, the bibliographical collections of the Suna Kıraç Library at Koç University, the ARIT and ANAMED libraries housed in Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, and the Boğaziçi University Library.

I am writing a history of how Turkish poetry became the preferred mode for communicating, debating, and shaping the Ottoman political and social experience after the conquest of Constantinople in 1453. Up to the fifteenth century, Ottoman learned men, mostly statesmen, bureaucrats, and scholars, began to evaluate the use of Anatolian Turkish in their introductions to their poetry collections (divans). Until then, most poems, literary works, diplomatic correspondence, as well as scientific and philosophical texts were written in Persian or Arabic, while only a handful of scholars considered writing in Turkish language. The tension between a local language of the nomadic elite and the highly stylized Persian as languages of literature and administration paralleled other empires of the post-Mongol world. And although there were many examples of Turkish literary texts since the early 14th century in Anatolia and beyond, some scholars thought Turkish was underdeveloped as an administrative language and lacked the literary traditions of Persian and Arabic. This changed in the second half of the fifteenth century. As a new literary and cultural identity formed amongst Ottoman elites, poetry and literary prose in Turkish increasingly became a common and even necessary sign of education, intellectual skill, and talent.

My book, *Occasions for Poetry: Politics and Literature Among the Early Modern Ottomans*, delves into the political and social importance of poetry in the early modern Ottoman Empire. During the reigns of Mehmed II (1451-1481) and Bayezid II (1481-1512), Ottoman scholars, bureaucrats, and other elite men composed, recited, shared, and responded to thousands of verses produced by their peers. The Ottoman imperial court of the second half of the fifteenth century, while continuing the experimentation with

Turkish as a literary language in Anatolia, produced the first attempts to develop Turkish as a well-established medium of bureaucratic communication and as a sign of imperial belonging. To be sure, literary experimentation occurred in Anatolia before the Ottomans, but after the conquest of Constantinople these experiments became central to the Ottoman imperial program. These experiments in literary language and bureaucratic writing occurred first in poetry and later in works of prose and were written by poets who played a role in the rise of the imperial bureaucracy and a centralized education.

My book explores why Ottoman elite men—scholars, bureaucrats, generals, Sufi shaykhs, and ministers—decided to dedicate hours of mental effort to produce good poetry, even as poetry was at times discussed as potentially distracting for men of virtue and learning. It studies the courtly and scholarly elite responsible for the composition, editing, and circulation of Turkish and Persian literary works, as well as diplomatic correspondence produced during the reigns of Mehmet II (r. 1451-1481) and Bayezid II (r. 1481-1512), whose patronage played a key role in the formation of the new Ottoman intellectual elite after the conquest of Constantinople in 1453. While literary works by the “servants of the Sultan” have commonly been understood at the same time as mouthpieces of the state and as a sign of the corruption of the elite, this book instead views their work as a constitutive (and at times subversive) political act and examines their attempts to adapt and transform their world through their literary works. To this end, the book analyzes how poetry shaped the experience of Ottoman elite men. It shows how scholars and bureaucrats interacted with each other through poetic imagery, and it illustrates how poetry was not only a creative meaning-making activity, but it was also a means to advance one's own political or bureaucratic career or, ultimately, to save oneself from disgrace—or even death. Poetic composition was as much a form of communication as it was a spiritual and



intellectual exercise. *Occasions for Poetry* turns to literary language and the moral, aesthetic, and spiritual vision it represented to reveal how these aspects of language affected bureaucratic practice.

Thanks to ARIT's support I was able to expand my original topic into a more comprehensive study. Access to Turkish libraries at a crucial moment of writing, also allowed me to incorporate important scholarship produced in Türkiye that is otherwise difficult to access in the US, where I would have needed to request specific works rather than be constantly exposed to relevant scholarship. In addition to the bibliographical opportunities, having a community of colleagues and mentors in Türkiye, both at Boğaziçi University and Koç University gave my research a fresh view, offered possibilities of improvement, and showed me avenues for new exploration.

Dr. Donovan M. Adams, University of Central Florida, ARIT-Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow

Biological Diversity and Community Structure at Early Bronze Age Karataş-Semayük

In spring 2022, I carried out research at the Archaeometry Lab (IDEA Lab) at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Türkiye directed by Doç. Dr. Ali Metin Büyükkarakaya. I collected dental metric and morphological data from the Early Bronze Age (EBA) skeletal sample of Karataş-Semayük (Karataş). Originally excavated in the 1960s-1970s by Dr. Machteld Mellink of Bryn Mawr College, the site provides a skeletal collection of over 500 individuals that can contribute greatly to our understanding of the changing social, demographic, and economic processes of the period.

Specifically, I am interested in how emerging social stratification, interconnections with broader economic trading spheres, and various mobility strategies affected the biological development, social organization, and community identity at the site. The project uses dental size and shape to estimate biological relationships and understand how the demography of Karataş changed over the course of its occupation, including evidence of migration to the site, connection with Neolithic Anatolian populations, and the relationship of Karataş to the broader contemporary Eastern Mediterranean. Dental size and shape also help determine residence by gender and whether there was a predominance of males or females migrating to the site from outside the local community. The data also help to understand whether kinship at Karataş was structured socially or biologically, or some combination of the two, at least as expressed in the mortuary practices.

Due to the curation efforts of the IDEA Lab, the collection has been organized, cleaned, and stored, allowing researchers to effectively study this rich source of information. As a result, I was able to collect more comprehensive demographic data, including age and sex. Most of my time was spent studying the teeth and skeletal remains of several hundred individuals. I collected biological data on individuals currently undergoing isotope analyses to understand diet and mobility and to reconcile archaeological notes from the original excavation with the appropriate burials. As a result, more refined and holistic studies will be possible combining biological, chemical, and archaeological data to understand the lifeways of EBA Anatolia.



Donovan Adams at the museum in Ankara

Initial findings suggest that the people who lived at Karataş descended from Neolithic Anatolian populations with some limited connections to the Aegean and Cypriot populations. Females show the most biological diversity, suggesting that the community was patrilocal (females were more likely to migrate to the site than males). Despite these different mobility patterns, how males and females were treated in burials differed little, suggesting limited distinctions in their roles in the broader community.

I visited the Toni M. Cross Library in Ankara to access many of Dr. Mellink's notes and the numerous archaeological texts and journals in the collection that are difficult to obtain, or even discover, through my local institution. I gained more background information about the site, the time period, the connections of Anatolia to other Mediterranean regions, and am inspired to develop future research using data collected on this trip.

Dr. Sonia Tamar Seeman, University of Texas, Austin, ARIT-National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow

Bread Money - Musical Movement: Turkish Roman ("Gypsy") Life Stories

I received an NEH-ARIT fellowship to conduct field and archival research for my musical ethnographic book project titled *Bread Money – Musical Movement: Turkish Roman ("Gypsy") Life Stories*. Field activities included: site visits to Malkara, Keşan, Biga, and Istanbul for co-witnessing musical laboring practices of and interviews with members of four Roman professional musician families.

During this period, I took lessons, participated in professional musician activities (playing clarinet in ritual processions and dance events), and recorded performance events. I observed and recorded instrument repair activities, gathering ensemble members for gigs and traveling to performance events with bands. I interviewed musicians, family members, music agents, and record executives. I also spent time in musicians' coffeehouses, attended family visits and rituals (kurban bayram, birthday celebrations, circumcisions, wedding events). I shared previously-collected archival materials with family members. In September 2022 I presented at one conference (Ethnic Groups of the late Ottoman Empire and Decoloniality) and gave a guest lecture on my research at ARIT in Istanbul.

Narrated through documents, oral history stories, photographs and recordings, my proposed book traces

the emigration of four musician families from Bulgaria and Greece to Türkiye: Gümüş (Langadha, Greece); Sesler (Serres, Greece) Kabacı (North East Bulgaria); Kemancı (Kalkış Greece), following their descendants and changing musical strategies up to the present.

This book promises to shed unique light on the processes of providing musical labor over the course of more than 100 years (late 19th century to present) and through diverse political eras from the late Ottoman Empire to the modern Republic of Türkiye. These families are both representative and extraordinary. Many Roman professional musicians in Türkiye descend from those who emigrated from either Greece or Bulgaria. Yet the families are extraordinary due to the breadth and mastery of a variety of musical genres, instrumental styles and economic strategies, ranging from *davul-zurna* ensembles to more prestigious *ince saz*, outdoor weddings to indoor commercial recording studios and state ensembles, playing Ramazan *davul* through darkened neighborhoods to DJ-style computer-generated dance tunes, disseminated via YouTube and facebook.

By exploring the lives of these musicians as they labor across different locales and over time, I amplify hidden voices of marginalized Roman musicians whose contributions to contemporary Turkish music are essential yet long ignored. This work draws readers behind the scenes to witness the crucial role of immigrant musical labor in forging Turkish national culture and affirming community through musical services.



Sonia Seeman with musicians in Istanbul



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