

Bulletin of
Bogazici University
Asian Studies Center

BUAS

Inaugural Issue
January 2026

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Asian Studies Center***

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Director's Foreword



It has been more than four decades since I took the legendary and challenging world civilization course at Boğaziçi University, where I first heard about the Meiji Restoration, the Ming dynasty, and other wonders of Asian history from Professor Selçuk Esenbel. It is a great pleasure today to see that the Asian Studies Center, which she founded in 2009, has been a pioneering institution, contributing to the development of Asian studies in Turkey. With its commitment to expanding research and

academic exchange relations between Turkey and Asian countries, the center has so far supported language training programs in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. It also produced projects to improve communication and mutual understanding between the peoples of Turkey and Asian countries.

Since its inauguration, the Asian Studies Center has actively encouraged the exchange of graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and professors between Boğaziçi University and partnering universities in Asian countries. Over the years, it successfully launched exchange programs and mutual research projects with a number of major global centers in Asian studies, including Columbia University–Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Peking University–Department of History, and Göttingen University–Chinese Studies. Since 2009, the Asian Studies Center has hosted leading scholars and organized several conferences, seminars, lectures, and symposia on Asian issues, particularly those related to Turkish-Asian exchanges. With its large collection of resources, the center functions as a reference center for scholars from universities in Turkey and abroad.

The center's administrative board today includes Turkish professors from

different disciplines, albeit all with an Asian interest. Since its founding, the center developed a wide network of visiting researchers from Korea, Sweden, Brazil, Japan, and China, who pursue their research agendas in Istanbul. Visiting researchers of the center also include doctoral students, who come from different disciplines but share a focus on Asia and proficiency in at least one Asian language.

It is our hope that the Asian Studies Center will continue its founding mission to serve as the Turkish hub for all parties involved in Asian studies in the future. This inaugural bulletin is a celebration of its long-achieved and well-deserved success.

Prof. Dr. Arzu Öztürkmen
BUASC Director

Message from the Founder



On Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center

Founded in 2009, the Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center is one of the first research institutions in this field among universities in Türkiye. The Center's primary aim is to contribute to the development of research on Asian countries in Türkiye and to expand research and academic exchange relations between Turkey and Asian countries. The Center also supports the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean language programs offered by

the Department of History at Boğaziçi University, explores opportunities to offer programs in other Asian languages, and designs projects to enhance communication and mutual understanding between Turkish society and the peoples of Asian countries. In addition, the Center organizes and coordinates the Asian Studies Master's Program offered by the Institute for Social Sciences at Boğaziçi University.

To strengthen academic ties between Türkiye and Asian countries, the Center actively promotes the exchange of graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and faculty members between Boğaziçi University and partner universities in Asia. The Center conducts exchange programs and joint research projects with leading global institutions in Asian Studies, such as Columbia University's Weatherhead East Asian Institute and the History Department at Peking University. While the Center focuses primarily on Central and East Asia, its scope includes other regions and the relations of Asian societies with Europe, the Americas, Australia, and Africa. The Center undertakes projects related to the Asian world and regularly organizes conferences, seminars, lectures, and symposiums. In this regard, the Center collaborates with Turkish and international stakeholders to reach broader

audiences. With its extensive resource collection, it serves as a reference center for scholars from universities in Türkiye and abroad. The Center also maintains active relations with industry, prioritizing leading business associations geographically focused on the Asian region. Furthermore, it offers specially designed courses, workshops, and training programs for companies seeking to expand their knowledge of Asia-related topics.

The Center was founded by Prof. Selçuk Esenbel, a globally recognized scholar of Japanese history who has published extensively on Japan–Turkey relations and the interaction between modern Japan and the Islamic world. Esenbel continues to serve actively as the academic coordinator of the Center. The director of the Center is Prof. Arzu Öztürkmen, a faculty member in the Department of History whose research focuses on cultural history, including performance studies and oral history. Öztürkmen is currently working on comparative media studies in China and Türkiye. The Center’s executive board consists of nine members—scholars from different disciplines who all share an interest in Asia. Its researchers include doctoral students from various fields who focus on Asia and possess proficiency in at least one Asian language.

The Center hosts a wide network of visiting researchers from Korea, Sweden, Brazil, Japan, and China, who carry out their research agendas in Istanbul.

On MAAS (Master of Arts in Asian Studies) Program

The Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Master’s Program was established under the Institute for Social Sciences—initially as a non-thesis program in 2012, and then as Turkey’s first thesis-based Asian Studies program in 2014—as the second graduate program of the Department of History. The graduate advisor of the program is Dr. Hale Eroğlu, a historian of China and a faculty member of the Department of History. Over the past ten years, the thesis track has produced more than 50 graduates. MAAS (Master of Arts in Asian Studies) graduates include young diplomats serving in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Those who wish to pursue an academic career have successfully entered prestigious doctoral programs—with scholarships—at renowned universities such as the University of Tokyo, Osaka University, Waseda University, Cambridge, the University of Texas at Austin, and Hong

Kong City University. As Turkey's pioneering program in this field, we take great pride in cultivating specialists in Asian regions and countries from Turkey's unique geographical and cultural perspective. Asian countries such as Japan, China, India, and Korea, with their rich cultural heritage, are also at the forefront of globalization with their economic and technological dynamism and social energy.

Our MAAS program emphasizes the interregional relations of Asian countries and their strong visibility in global international relations. The program offers a wide range of interdisciplinary courses—focusing on foreign policy, international relations, and economics, as well as history and culture—alongside specialization courses on Japan or China, and language training in Asian languages. We provide an extensive selection of elective courses on Japan, China, Korea, India, Russia, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia. The faculty reflects Boğaziçi University's emerging expertise in Asian Studies while incorporating contributions from other distinguished Asian Studies scholars from leading Turkish universities. Students will have opportunities to meet prominent international academics, diplomats, and business representatives from Asia, Europe, and the United States.

Prospective students may choose between a two-year thesis program and a one-and-a-half-year non-thesis program, depending on their interests and career goals. The program offers language instruction at various levels, providing opportunities for both beginners and advanced students to learn Asian languages in depth. Students will benefit from Boğaziçi University's thirty-year tradition of high-quality Asian language education. While beginners are encouraged to apply, we also welcome advanced language learners who wish to receive systematic academic training in Asian Studies in Türkiye.

The program invites applications from professionals in the public and private sectors, graduates of social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities, and all candidates with academic or professional interest in Asian issues who seek the best education available in this field. MAAS students will gain up-to-date knowledge on global issues in which Asia plays a leading role. Students are encouraged to develop a creative and dynamic understanding of globalization by engaging critically with traditions, innovations, and transformations in Asia—and by examining Turkey's historical connections

and the increasingly complex contemporary relations with Japan, China, Korea, and other countries. We invite highly qualified and motivated candidates to explore Asia with the rich cultural environment and academic excellence of Boğaziçi University.

Sincerely,

Emeritus Prof. Dr. Selçuk Esenbel

Founder and Academic Coordinator, BUASC & MAAS Program

Editor's Note



The present volume marks the inaugural issue of *BUAS*, the *Bulletin of Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center*. With this first issue, we set out to do something at once modest and necessary: to gather, organize, and make visible the intellectual life of a center that has been active, productive, and steadily evolving since its official founding on June 18, 2009.

Asian Studies, by its very nature, is a field shaped by dialogue—between regions, disciplines, generations, and perspectives.

Since its birth, the Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center has functioned as such a meeting ground: a space where historical inquiry meets contemporary analysis, where area studies converse with global questions, and where students, scholars, and visiting academics engage in sustained exchange. Yet, until now, much of this rich activity has existed in dispersed forms: events remembered, theses archived, collaborations lived rather than documented.

This bulletin is conceived as a response to that dispersion. It aims to serve as both a record and a reference point—an institutional memory that reflects the Center's academic trajectory while also offering a clear snapshot of its present structure and future aspirations.

The structure of this first issue mirrors that intention. Following the Director's Foreword and the Message from the Founder, we present an overview of the Center's faculty and governance, highlighting the individuals who sustain its academic vision. The sections on academic activities trace both recent work and earlier initiatives, underscoring continuity as much as change. The alumni section, with graduate lists and thesis abstracts, stands as a testament to the Center's most enduring contribution: the scholars

it has helped to form. Finally, the graduation photograph and the call for applications gesture toward what lies ahead, reminding us that an academic institution is always, fundamentally, oriented toward the future.

BUAS is not intended as a static chronicle, but as a living publication—one that will grow alongside the Center itself. We hope that future issues will expand in scope, depth, and dialogue, welcoming contributions that reflect the evolving questions and methodologies of Asian Studies.

If this first issue has a guiding spirit, it is one of continuity with awareness: honoring what has been built, while consciously preparing the ground for what is yet to come.

On behalf of the editorial team, I am pleased to present this inaugural issue and to invite our readers—faculty, students, alumni, and colleagues—to regard *BUAS* as a shared intellectual space.

Dr. Erdal Küçükyalçın
Editor

FACULTY
FACULTY
FACULTY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof. Arzu Öztürkmen

Chair

Research Interests

Oral History; Folklore; History of Performing Arts; Historical Ethnography; Television Studies

Arzu Öztürkmen was born in Beirut in 1965. After completing her secondary education at Notre Dame de Sion French Girls' High School, she received her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Boğaziçi University in 1988. She earned her master's degree from Indiana University in 1991 with a thesis titled "The Folk Dance Movement in Turkey," and completed her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania in 1993 with a dissertation entitled "Folklore and Nationalism in Turkey." Since 1994, she has been a faculty member in the Department of History at Boğaziçi University. Her research fields include cultural history, performing arts history, oral history, women's studies, and Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean studies.

Prof. Em. Selçuk Esenbel

Member, Academic Coordinator

Research Interests

Japanese History; Peasant Studies; Historiography; Asian Civilizations

After studying at International Christian University in Tokyo and George Washington University, Selçuk Esenbel earned her PhD in Japanese history from Columbia University. She has taught Japanese and Asian history at Boğaziçi University since 1982 and oversees the Asian Studies graduate program as well as Asian language courses. Her research focuses on Japanese history, Japan-Islam relations, pan-Asianism, modernization in Japan and Ottoman Turkey, and Japanese-Ottoman/Turkish relations. She has received

numerous awards, including the Order of the Rising Sun and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation George Forster Award.

Prof. Oğuz Baykara

Member

Research Interests

Philology; Translation Studies; Oriental Languages and Literatures; Japanese Language and Literature

Oğuz Baykara is a faculty member in the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Yeditepe University, and Vice President of the Japan Studies Association (JAD). He also teaches in the Asian Studies MA program at Boğaziçi University. He completed two master's degrees on Japanese-Turkish phonology and translation lexicography, and earned his PhD from Kyōrin University in 2004 with a dissertation on Taishō-period literature, focusing on Jun'ichirō Tanizaki and Ryūnosuke Akutagawa. He previously taught at Boğaziçi University (2004-2019) before joining Yeditepe University in 2019.

Asst. Prof. Z. Hale Eroğlu Sağer

Member

Research Interests

Modern History of China, History of Islam in China, Intellectual History of Chinese Muslims, Ethnicity and Islam, Nationalism in Comparative Perspective, Transnational History of Islam

Z. Hale Eroğlu is Assistant Professor of History at Boğaziçi University and a faculty member of the Asian Studies Center. She received her PhD in Inner Asian and Altaic Studies from Harvard University in 2016, where her dissertation examined Muslim reform and transnational networks in modern China. She holds an MA in History from Boğaziçi University and a BA in International Relations from Middle East Technical University. Her research focuses on late imperial and modern Chinese history, Islam in

China, intellectual history, and trans-regional Asian connections. She teaches courses on Chinese history and modern China.

Prof. Büşra Ersanlı

Member

Research Interests

Political theory, Nationalism and Turkish historiography, Eurasian studies, Gender and politics

Büşra Ersanlı is Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Marmara University, where she has taught since 1990. She received her BA in English Language and Literature from Boğaziçi University and completed her MA and PhD in Political Science at the same institution. Her doctoral dissertation, supervised by Prof. Şerif Mardin, examined the cultural dimensions of the Kemalist Revolution. Prof. Ersanlı has conducted research in the UK, France, Russia, and Turkey. Her research interests include political theory, nationalism, Turkish historiography, Eurasian studies, and gender studies. She has published extensively and has been actively involved in civil society and constitutional processes in Turkey.

Dr. Erdal Küçükyağın

Member

Research Interests

Japanese History; history of religions; Inner Asian studies; church-state relations; warrior-classes and religion

Erdal Küçükyağın graduated from Dept. of Economics, Boğaziçi University, and received his MA and PhD from the same university. He is teaching Japanese and Asian history related topics in the MAAS program. He conducted extensive research in Japan as a Japan Foundation Fellow at Tokai University (2014) and as a Numata Fellow at Ryukoku University (2010). His research focuses on history of religion in Japan, state-religion relations, the Ōtani Expeditions, Central Asian and Silk Road studies, and the Great Game.

He has authored several books on Japanese and Ottoman history, co-edited volumes on Japan–Turkey relations, contributed to NHK documentary productions. He is the editor-in-chief of the yearly academic journal “Global Perspectives on Japan”.

Prof. Mehmed Özkan

Member

Research Interests

Robotics; Mechatronics; Stereotactic Neurosurgery; Robotic Surgery; Biomechanical Simulation; Medical Image Segmentation; Registration; Functional Electric Stimulation; Implantable Stimulation Devices

Mehmed Özkan, born in Eskişehir in 1964, received his BSc in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Boğaziçi University in 1986, followed by his MSc (1988) and PhD (1991) from Vanderbilt University, specializing in intelligent robotics and robotic surgery. He conducted research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and as a senior researcher at Bridgestone in Japan, contributing pioneering work on neural-network-based robot control. Since returning to Boğaziçi University in 1995, he has worked in biomedical engineering, supervised over 45 graduate theses, published extensively, led major research and industry projects, founded a biomedical startup, and has served as Rector of Boğaziçi University between 2016-2021.

Assoc. Prof. Oya Pancaroğlu

Member

Research Interests

Visual and literary cultures of the medieval Persianate world; figural representation in medieval Islamic art; production and perception of objects in medieval Islamic societies; ceramic production in the medieval Islamic world; Islamic architecture in medieval Anatolia (1100-1400)

Oya Pancaroğlu is Professor of History at Boğaziçi University, specializing in Islamic art and architecture, with a focus on medieval Anatolia and Iran.

She received her PhD in the History of Art and Architecture from Harvard University. Her research explores figural representation, ornament, and cultural identity in the medieval Islamic world. She has held fellowships at Oxford, the Getty Research Institute, and other international institutions.

Prof. İsenbike Togan

Member

Research Interests

Inner Asian and Central Asian history; Turkic and Mongol societies; China–Central Asia relations; the Silk Roads; nomadic political cultures; comparative Eurasian historiography.

İsenbike Togan is a historian specializing in Inner Asian, Turkic, and Mongol history, with particular attention to China–Central Asia relations and nomadic societies. She received her PhD from Harvard University and has taught at institutions including Boğaziçi University, METU, Harvard, and Peking University. An honorary member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA), she has played an active role in international UNESCO-supported research initiatives on the Silk Roads and Eurasian history.

MASTER OF ARTS ASIAN STUDIES (MAAS) PART-TIME FACULTY

Prof. Ali Akkemik

Dept. of International Trade, Fukuoka University

Japanese economy; Chinese economy; late development in East Asia; industrial policies; computable general equilibrium modeling; development economics; macroeconomics; international economics

Prof. Güven Alpay

Dept. of Management, Boğaziçi University

Organization and management; strategic management; global patterns of negotiation

Dr. Altay Atlı

Dept. of International Relations, Koç University

Asian political economy; foreign policy; Chinese economy; State-business relations; Southeast Asian studies; Economic statecraft; Business-government relations; Geopolitical risks; International political economy; Economic interdependence

Prof. Dr. Mine Eder

Dept. of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University

International political economy; political economy of development; late industrialization; labor politics; government-business relations

Dr. Sema Göksel

School of Foreign Languages, Boğaziçi University

19-20th century literature; language and memoirs as reflections of cultural and historical realities and perceptions; writing and race; post-colonial studies

Dr. Hyun Woong Hong

Oral History Research Center, Hankook University of Foreign Studies

U.S. History (General); 20th Century American History; American Diplomatic History; Cold War (Specialization); Modern East Asian History (Minor); Modern European History (Minor); Korean History; History of relations between Korea and America.

Prof. Huricihan İslamoğlu

Dept. of History, Boğaziçi University

Economic history; Political economy; Globalization and development; Development studies; Political economy; Social and economic history

Prof. Asım Karaömerlioğlu

Atatürk Institute for Modern Turkish History, Boğaziçi University

Historical Generations; Evolutionary Theory; Blockchain; Social history; Demography

Prof. Çağdaş Üngör

Dept. of Political Science and International Relations, Marmara University

Chinese political history and foreign policy; International relations of East Asia; Sino-Turkish relations

Assoc. Prof. Kadir Temiz

Dept. of Political Science, Medeniyet University

International Relations; Modern Turkish History; Modern Chinese History; Turkish Foreign Policy; Chinese Foreign Policy; International Relations of East Asia

Assoc. Prof. Yücel Terzibaşođlu

Dept. of History, Bođaziçi University

Economic History of Europe and the Middle East; 19th Century Ottoman History (Landed and Urban Property, Crime and Punishment, Law and Legal Institutions)

Assoc. Prof. Meltem Toksöz

Dept. of History, Bođaziçi University

South Asian studies; history of Asian civilizations; Middle Eastern history; Economic history

Prof. Em. Nur Yalman

Dept. of Anthropology, Harvard University

Social theory; Political, religious and social institutions; Structure and symbolism; Theories of religion

Prof. Mehmet Ölmöz

Dept. Of Modern Turkic Languages And Literatures, İstanbul University

Social Sciences and Humanities; Philology; Turkish Language and Literature; Old Turkish Language; Contemporary Turkish Dialects and Literature

Assist. Prof. Kerem Kılıçdarođlu

Dept. of Political Science and International Relations, TED University

Social movements and political participation; Political regimes and governance in East and Southeast Asia; Political parties; Organization and clientelism; Comparative politics; Political party politics particularly in Turkey, Indonesia, Korea, and Southeast Asia

ACTIVITIES
ACTIVITIES
ACTIVITIES

RECENT ACTIVITIES (2024-2025)

March 9, 2024 Workshop



Turkish Japanese Diplomatic Relations 2024 Centennial Event
Türk-Japon Diplomatik İlişkilerinin 100. Yıldönümü Etkinliği
9 March 2024 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Nafl Baba Building Bogazici University

International Workshop on Turkish-Japanese Relations Research Sources
Uluslararası Çalıştay: Türk-Japon İlişkileri Tarihî Araştırma Kaynakları

Organized by the Japanese Studies Association/JAD, Bogazici University Asian Studies Center, Ankara University Asia-Pacific Research Center APAM, Toyo University, and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science KAKEN

9:00 **Welcome Speeches: Japanese Studies Association, Bogazici Asian Studies Center, Ankara University APAM, Toyo University, Mr. Nomura Takeshi Cultural Attaché of the Consulate General of Japan in Istanbul**

The papers will be 30 minutes each with 10 minutes Q/A

9:30-10:10 **Nobuo MİSAWA**, "Turkish Images in Japanese Publications of the Modern Period / Modern Çağ Japon yayınlardaki Türk İmgeleri"

10.10 – 10:50 **Kiyohiko HASEBE**, "Plan to establish an Islamic University in Japan: According to documents in the Waseda University Archives / Japonya'da İslam Üniversitesi Kurma Planı: Waseda Üniversitesi Arşivi'nde bulunan belgelere göre"

Coffee Break

11.10- 11:50 **Sayoko NUMATA**, "Interaction between Photographic Data and Tatar Migrants' Stories / Fotoğrafik Veriler ve Tatar Göçmenlerin Hikayeleri Arasındaki Etkileşim"

11:50 – 13:30 **A. Merthan DÜNDAR**, "Tokyo Mahalleli İslamiye Printing Press as a Source for Turkish-Tatar History Research in Japan: On Documents, Books and New Japon Mohbir Magazine / Japonya'daki Türk-Tatar Tarihî Araştırmalarına Kaynak Olarak Tokyo Mahalleli İslamiye Matbaası: Belgeler, Kitaplar ve Yeni Japon Mohbir Dergisi Üzerine"

Lunch Break

14:30-15:10 **Selçuk ESENBEL**, "An Assessment of Yamada Torajiro's Toruko Gakan (Illustrated Observations of Turkey) as a Source for the History of Turkish-Japanese Relations / Yamada Torajiro'nun Toruko Gakan (Resimli Türkiye Gözlemleri) Eserinin Türk-Japon İlişkilerinin Tarih Kaynağı Olarak Değerlendirilmesi"

15:10 – 15:50 **Oğuz BAYKARA**, "An Evaluation of the Data Base on Hundred Years of Turkish Literature in Japanese Translation/ Veriler ışığında Japonca'ya çevrilmiş Türk Edebiyatının Yüzyılının Değerlendirilmesi"

Coffee Break

16:00-16:40 **Erdal KÜÇÜKALÇIN**, "Letters from Gazi Farm to 'Daijo' Magazine in Shanghai – An unusual primary source on the sentiments and daily life of Japanese Employees in Ankara during the early years of the New Republic/Gazi Çiftliğinden Şanghay'daki 'Daijo' Dergisine Mektuplar – Yeni Cumhuriyet'in İlk Yıllarında Ankara'daki Japon Çalışanların Duyguları ve Günlük Yaşamı Üzerine Alışılmadık Birincil Kaynak"

16:40-17:40 **Hale EROGLU, Commentary and Round Table Discussion**



Summary

This international workshop brings together scholars working on the history of Turkish–Japanese relations to explore archival sources, printed materials, and visual evidence spanning the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Organized within the framework of the centennial of diplomatic relations between Türkiye and Japan, the workshop aims to foster comparative and transregional perspectives on intellectual, cultural, and political exchanges. By highlighting underused archives and interdisciplinary approaches, it seeks to advance research on mutual perceptions, networks, and interactions across Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Recent Activities (2024-2025)

May 10, 2024 – Japan Talks Series



Japan International Cooperation Agency, Bogazici University Department of History and BU Asian Studies Center in cooperation with Japanese Studies Association cordially invites to the Japan Talks Series, JICA Japanese Studies Chair Lecture



Meiji Restoration Stars of Full-Scale Modernization of Japan

Shinichi Kitaoka

Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo
and Emeritus Professor, The University of Tokyo



10 May 2024 Friday

17:00

Nafi Baba Building 103

Online participation via BuLive

<https://bulive.bogazici.edu.tr/b/sel-mzi-nnt-ifx>



Summary

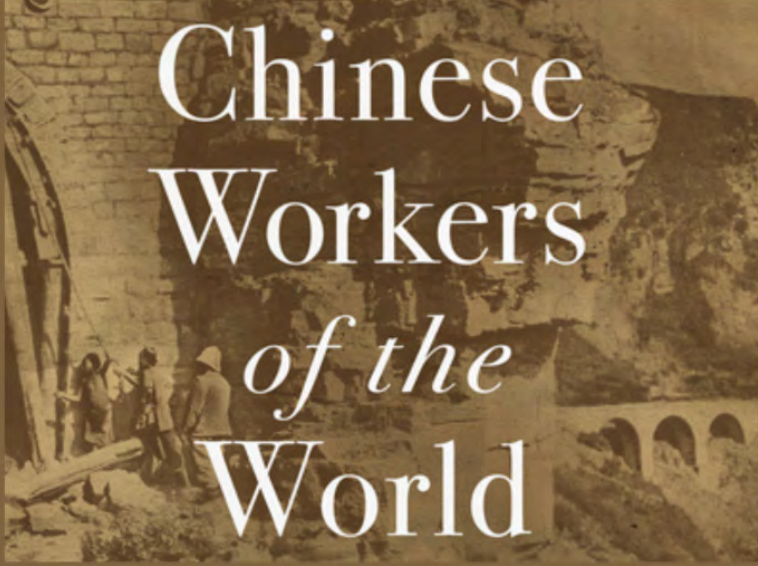
Organized under the Japan Talks Series by the Asian Studies Center at Boğaziçi University, this seminar brings together students and scholars to examine the Meiji Restoration as a foundational moment in Japan's full-scale modernization. With Shinichi Kitaoka as the speaker, the seminar focuses on the political elites, intellectuals, and institutional actors who shaped Japan's transition from a Tokugawa-era polity to a centralized modern nation-state. The discussion foregrounds the dismantling of the bakuhan system, the restoration of imperial sovereignty, and the construction of new political, military, and economic institutions. Particular emphasis is placed on the selective appropriation and adaptation of Western models within indigenous ideological and socio-political frameworks. By situating the Meiji Restoration within global and comparative perspectives, the seminar aims to foster critical engagement with questions of non-Western modernity, state formation, and historical agency, while providing a platform for interdisciplinary academic exchange

Recent Activities (2024-2025)

May 30, 2024 – Asia Talks Series



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites to the Asia Talks Series



Chinese Workers *of the* World

*Colonialism, Chinese Labor, and the
Yunnan–Indochina Railway*

Selda Altan

Assistant Professor, the Department of History at
Randolph College, Virginia

30 May 2024 - 18:00

Nafi Baba Building 103

<https://bulive.bogazici.edu.tr/b/zey-yaq-xkg-zmf>

Summary

The seminar situates the French-constructed Yunnan-Indochina Railway (1898–1910) within the broader contexts of colonialism, labor mobility, and emerging global labor markets, focusing on the experiences and agency of Chinese workers engaged in its construction. Drawing on multidisciplinary research that integrates Chinese, French, and British archival sources, the seminar examines how patterns of labor recruitment, exploitation, and resistance intersect with colonial economic strategies and racialized labor regimes. Emphasis is placed on the ways in which Chinese labor shaped and was shaped by transnational systems of capitalism and imperialism, contributing to broader debates on labor history, colonial infrastructure, and the formation of working-class identities. The seminar offers a platform for critical exchange among scholars of Asian and global history, fostering interdisciplinary engagement with the historical dynamics of labor, empire, and regional integration.

Sep. 6-8, 2024 – Triennial Conference

JAPAN TÜRKİYE 100. ANNIVERSARY

TÜRKİYE'DE
JAPONYA ÇALIŞMALARI KONFERANSI
Türk-Japon Diplomatik İlişkilerinin Yüzyılı
Japanese Studies in Turkey Conference
A Century of Turkish-Japanese Diplomatic Relations

6-8 EYLÜL/SEPT. 2024
Boğaziçi Üniversitesi
Nafi Baba Binası
Boğaziçi University
Nafi Baba Building

JAD **BOĞAZIÇI ÜNİVERSİTESİ 1963** **ASIAN STUDIES CENTER** **JAPAN FOUNDATION** **KANSAI UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN 1959** **ANKARA ÜNİVERSİTESİ 1948** **APAM**

Program of the Conference

Friday, September 6

09:30 | Opening Addresses

- Emeritus Prof. Selçuk Esenbel – Director of the Japanese Studies Association
- Prof. Arzu Öztürkmen – Director of Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
- Prof. Fatih Usluer – Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Boğaziçi University
- Kasahara Kenichi – Consul General of Japan in Istanbul

10:00 – 10:45 | Keynote Speaker 1

- Speaker: Rector Prof. Kayoko Hayashi – Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Topic: “Developments in international/global Japanese studies in Japan”

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Hüseyin Can Erkin – Ankara University

10:45 – 11:00 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

11:00 – 12:20 | Panel 1: Politics & International Relations

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Hüseyin Can Erkin – Ankara University

- Prof. Nobuo Misawa (Toyo University): “Trends at the Embassy of Japan in Istanbul immediately after its establishment”
- Prof. Selçuk Esenbel (Boğaziçi University): “Enduring Trust-Network Amidst Challenges: A Hundred Years of Turkish-Japanese Diplomatic Relations”
- Dr. Gökberk Durmaz (Social Sciences University of Ankara - ASBÜ): “Beyond Strategic Partnership: The Future Potential of Japan-Türkiye Relations”
- Penpe Yüksel (Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University): “A Critical Discourse Analysis of News Coverage on the Palestine-Israel Conflict in the Turkish and Japanese Press”

12:20 – 12:30 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 – 14:45 | Keynote Speaker 2

- Speaker: Prof. Hisao Komatsu – Tōyō Bunko (The Oriental Library)

Topic: "Türkiye and Japan from a Central Asian Perspective"

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Selçuk Esenbel – Boğaziçi University

14:45 – 15:00 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

15:00 – 16:00 | Panel 2: History

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Selçuk Esenbel – Boğaziçi University

- Prof. Jun Akiba (The University of Tokyo): "Ottoman and Turkish Studies in Japan"
- Prof. Ali Merthan Dünder (Ankara University): "About the Books Printed at the Tokyo Mahalleyi Islamiye Printing House"
- Uğur Altın (Yozgat Bozok University): "Nakanome Akira's Perception of Turks"

16:00 – 16:15 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

16:15 – 16:55 | Panel 3: Economics & Business

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Selçuk Esenbel – Boğaziçi University

- Prof. K. Ali Akkemik (Fukuoka University): "The Decline of Japan in Türkiye's Economic Relations with East Asia"
- Assoc. Prof. Sinan Levent (Ankara University): "Postwar Japan's Energy Diplomacy: Yamashita Tarō and the Arabian Oil Company"

16:55 – 17:10 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

18:30 | Cocktail

- Consulate General of Japan Residence, Istanbul

Saturday, Sep. 7

09:00 – 09:40 | Panel 4: History

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Ali Merthan Dünder – Ankara University

- Pelin Elif Yıldız (Hacettepe University): "An Examination of Yamada Torajirō's 19th Century Istanbul Perspective in the Context of Japanese Aesthetics"
- Ertuğrul Evis (Boğaziçi University): "Japan's Approach to the Straits and the Black Sea Issue in the Early 20th Century: Hitoshi Ashida's Perspectives on the Treaty of Lausanne"

09:40 – 09:55 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

09:55 – 11:00 | Panel 5: Anthropology & Sociology

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Arzu Öztürkmen – Boğaziçi University

- Sherzod Muminov & Kobayashi Akina (University of East Anglia / Tama University): “The Anti-War and Anti-Nuclear Protest of the Japanese Artist Shikoku Gorō”
- Dr. Esra Gökçe Şahin (Galatasaray University): “Political Manifestation and Artistic Politics in Japan during the Cold War”
- Prof. Tolga Özşen & Prof. Noriko Nakayama (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University / Chubu University): “An overview of the last century of Turkish and Japanese rural communities in the modernization period”

11:00 – 11:15 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

11:15 – 11:55 | Panel 6: Anthropology & Sociology

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Arzu Öztürkmen – Boğaziçi University

- Assoc. Prof. Ceren Aksoy Sugiyama (Ankara University): “From desperately seeking a ‘Gemba’ to owning a ‘Doba’: becoming legal in Japan”
- Aysu İmran Erkoç (Ankara University): “Perception of the Crime of Defamation in Turkish-Japanese Societies: A Contrastive Analysis Through Court Decisions”

11:55 – 12:10 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break 12:10 – 13:30 | Lunch Break

13:30 – 13:50 | Panel 7: Philosophy

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Oğuz Baykara – Yeditepe University

- Dr. İbrahim Soner Özdemir (Düzce University): “Nature, Silence, and Interpretation: John Cage’s and Sarkis’s Works on Ryōan-ji”

13:50 – 14:00 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

14:00 – 15:00 | Panel 8: Language & Literature

Moderator/Chair: Dr. Erdal Küçükyağcı – Boğaziçi University

- Oğuz Baykara (Yeditepe University): “100 Years of Translated Turkish Literature in Japanese - With Special Focus on Paratexts, 1925-2024”
- Prof. Ayşe Nur Tekmen (Ankara University): “‘Mitate’ in the Context of Language-Culture Homology”
- Prof. Ali Volkan Erdemir (Erciyes University): “Wolf or Lamb? Analyzing Etsuko, Protagonist in Mishima Yukio’s Thirst for Love, Through Erich Fromm’s Destructiveness and Submission Perspective”

15:00 – 15:15 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

15:15 – 16:15 | Panel 9: Language & Literature

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Ayşe Nur Tekmen – Ankara University

- Assoc. Prof. Devrim Çetin Güven (Dokuz Eylül University): “Arabian Nights and Japanese Literature—Focusing on Junichiro Tanizaki and Yukio Mishima”
- Dr. Erdal Küçükyağcı (Boğaziçi University): “Entering into Miyamoto Musashi’s Mind – Translation Process of the Book of Five Rings”
- Edanur Adalıoğlu Şen (Boğaziçi University): “Confession or Fiction: I-Novel as a Genre and Osamu Dazai’s Place within Japanese Literature”

16:15 – 16:30 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

16:30 – 17:30 | Panel 10: Language & Literature

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Ali Volkan Erdemir – Erciyes University

- Dr. Nuray Akdemir (Social Sciences University of Ankara - ASBÜ): “Japanese Literature and Ecocriticism: ‘The Invasion of the Landscape’”
- Utku Aksoy (Ankara University): “The Analysis of the Turkish Translations of Osamu Dazai’s Ningen Shikkaku in the Context of Retranslations”
- Esmâ Altın (İstanbul Medeniyet University): “Capitalism, Student Protests and Religious Sects in the Context of Magical Realism in Haruki Murakami’s Novel Titled 1Q84”

17:30 – 17:45 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

18:00 – 19:30 | Special Performance (Demir Demirgil Hall)

- Hirano Keiko & Oğuz Baykara: Japanese Literature Story Narration Performance

20:00 | Conference Dinner

Sunday, September 8

09:00 – 10:00 | Panel 11: Language & Literature

Moderator/Chair: Prof. Noriko Nakayama – Chubu University

- Assoc. Prof. Ayşegül Atay & Batuhan Yağlıkçı (Erciyes University): “Morpho-semantic comparison of Turkish [-llk], [-sAl] and Japanese

[-sa], [-teki] suffixes”

- Telat Aydın (Ankara University): “Economic Novels in Japanese Literature”
- Dr. Melek Çelik (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University): “The Image of Pierre Loti in the Works of Akutagawa Ryūnosuke”

10:00 – 10:15 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

10:15 – 11:05 | Panel 12: Language & Literature

Moderator/Chair: Dr. Hale Eroğlu – Boğaziçi University

- Nesibe Kaya (Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University): “Modern Japanese Literature Under Censorship During the Post-World War II American Occupation Period (1945-1952)”
- Dr. Filiz Yılmaz (Ankara University): “An Overview of Japanese War Literature”
- Yasemin Daldal (Boğaziçi University): “Chinese Xiqu versus Japanese Kabuki Traditions: Disappearance of Nandan and Perseverance of Onnagata Actors”

11:05 – 12:10 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break 12:10 – 13:30 | Lunch Break

13:30 – 14:30 | Panel 13: Education

Moderator/Chair: Dr. Melek Çetin – Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University

- Yuriko Öncü (Boğaziçi University): “The Use of Manga as the Main Teaching Material in an Intermediate Japanese Class for Native Turkish Speakers”
- Nuri Bilgin İrim (Ankara University): “BETA Era in Foreign Language Learning-Using ChatGPT for Japanese Vocabulary Learning”
- Dr. Esra Kıra, Meltem Emek & Sinem Kaya (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University): “Student Attitudes Towards Learning Japanese and Their Relationship with Perception of Intercultural Awareness”

14:30 – 14:45 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

14:45 – 18:00 | Panel 14: Culture

Moderator/Chair: Dr. Erdal Küçükyağcı – Boğaziçi University

- Dr. Nurullah Sat (Social Sciences University of Ankara - ASBÜ): “Islamic Studies in Japan: Studies on the Holy Quran Before and After World War II in the Light of Okubo Koji's ‘Quranic Studies’”
- Dr. Gül Sarıdikmen (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University): “Turkish-

Japanese Friendship and the Reflection of the Ertuğrul Frigate in Pictures”

- Dr. Vecihe Özge Zeren (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University): “Traditional Storytelling in Japan and Turkey: Rakugo and Meddah”
- Assoc. Prof. Gülşah Polat Turhan & Seher Akdeniz (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University / Haliç University): “Comparative Study of Japanese Kimono and Turkish Kaftan Samples in Terms of Design Features”

18:00 – 18:15 | Q&A & Coffee/Tea Break

18:15 | Closing Remarks

Nov. 5, 2024 – Jan. 5, 2025 – Exhibition

Ayyıldız & Güneş
Türk-Japon Diplomatik İlişkilerinin Yüzyılı **Sergisi**
日月星展
日本・トルコ外交関係樹立100周年
Moon Star and the Sun Exhibition
Hundred Years of Turkish-Japanese Diplomatic Relations
5-24 Kasım 2024
ATATÜRK KÜLTÜR MERKEZİ
OPERA ALT KAT FUAYE

Logos and sponsors include: JAPAN FOUNDATION (国交基金), ARM (ARMERİYE ÇALIŞKANLARI), TÜRKİYE JAAYA 100 (TÜRK ANTLAYIŞI), CALIK HOLDING, TOYOTA, AISIN, aasism, IZMIR ART, JART, APAM, and others.

Summary

The exhibition "The Moon-Star and the Sun – A Century of Turkish-Japanese Diplomatic Relations," was organized in collaboration with the Japan Studies Association (JAD) and the Japanese Art Center (JSM). It was open to visitors initially at the Taksim Atatürk Cultural Center (AKM) Opera Foyer between Nov. 5-24, 2024. Then the Exhibition travelled to İzmir, Adnan Saygun Culture Center (Nov. 30 – Dec. 15, 2024), and to Ankara, Turkish-Japanese Foundation (Dec. 21, 2024 – Jan. 5, 2025). A concise version of the Exhibition was displayed during the 27th Turkiye-Japan Business Council Meeting held in Tokyo on Oct 17, 2024

Feb. 25, 2025 – Asia Talks Series



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites you to the Asia Talks Series



STAGING *TIANXIA*

Dunhuang Expressive Arts and
China's New Cosmopolitan Heritage

LANLAN KUANG



*A Historical Account of Music and
Dance from along the Silk Road*

Lanlan Kuang

Associate Professor, the Department of Philosophy,
the University of Central Florida

07 February 2025 - 17:00
Nafi Baba Building 103

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89995440300?
pwd=XEa5z0wyohzq7vJYkat9SGVTCKg2KM.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89995440300?pwd=XEa5z0wyohzq7vJYkat9SGVTCKg2KM.1)

Meeting ID: 899 9544 0300 Passcode: 244484

Summary

The ancient Silk Road formed an intercontinental network connecting Europe and Asia, facilitating vibrant exchanges of cultural traditions across Eurasia. Extending from Asia to Anatolia and from Thrace to Europe during the Middle Ages, this network profoundly impacted global cultures through the transfer of performing art styles, creating rich and complex adaptations across interconnected nodes. This presentation presents China's historically formed frontier culture—a literary topography of time, space, cultural agents, signs, and metaphors—by examining Silk Road performing art traditions in classical and modern contexts. Centering on textual production as a critical analytical lens, the speaker introduces poetry, lyrics, and audio-visual samples as complex cultural performances that embody dynamic societal interactions. These textual productions reveal intricate processes of literary and artistic taste formation, demonstrating how cultural exchange occurred through carefully crafted linguistic and artistic expressions. Examined as living documents, the texts reflect nuanced negotiations of identity, aesthetic sensibility, and cultural knowledge across diverse geographical and temporal contexts, transforming our understanding of the Silk Road as a vibrant network of intellectual and artistic dialogue.

March 6, 2025 – Asia Talks Series



Boğaziçi Üniversitesi
Asya Çalışmaları Merkezi



Çin: 10 Yıllık Dönüşüm

Emre Demir
Gazeteci

06 Mart 2025 - 17:00

Nafi Baba Binası 103

Summary

By combining journalistic observation with personal experience, this talk presents China's recent transformation not as a distant geopolitical phenomenon, but as a lived reality, offering audiences a nuanced and human-centered understanding of a country that increasingly defines the trajectory of the world.

Apr. 4-7, 2025 – Conference

Bridging Continents, Shaping Histories: Turkey & Korea in Global Perspective



April 4-7, 2025 Boğaziçi University
Nafi Baba Building

Register via yasemin.daldal@std.bogazici.edu.tr to participate.

This conference has been organized by Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center in collaboration with Seoul National University, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, and HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency Center for International Area Studies. We thank the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Istanbul for their support.



Program of the Conference

Apr. 4, 2025

19:00 Welcome Reception

Apr. 5, 2025

10:00-10:30 Opening Remarks

10:30-11:30 Towards Modernization: Imperial Histories 19th Century I

Moderator: Hale Eroğlu (Boğaziçi University)

- Prof. Ho Kim (Seoul National University): Building a Good Community: Inheriting and Creating “Public” in Korean History
- Prof. Selçuk Esenbel (Boğaziçi University): A Comparative look at the Tatar diaspora in East Asia: The Tatar community in Korea and Japan

11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-13:00 Towards Modernization: Imperial Histories 19th Century II

Moderator: Çiğdem Kafescioğlu (Boğaziçi University)

- Prof. Eunjeong Yi (Seoul National University): Studying Ottoman history in Korean historical academia
- Asst. Prof. Hale Eroğlu (Boğaziçi University): Mapping Asian Studies in Turkey: A state of art review

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-15:30 Socio-Cultural Issues in Korea and Turkey: Environmentalism

Moderator: Arzu Öztürkmen (Boğaziçi University)

- Assoc. Prof. Faisal Husain (Penn State University): Korea in Silk Road History and Pedagogy
- Asst. Prof. Emre Demir (TED University): South Korean Soft Power in Turkey

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17:30 Contemporary Encounters in Politics and Economics I

Moderator: Eunjeong Yi (Seoul National University)

- Prof. Mine Eder (Boğaziçi University): A Historical Look at the Late-Industrialization: Remembering the Early Stages of the automotive industry in South Korea and Turkey
- Asst. Prof. JooSong Lee (HUFs): 'Bridging' Korea and Turkey: Brothers

of Çanakkale

- Burcu Mirkelam (The Education University of Hong Kong): Towards a Multicultural South Korean Society: Immigrant Integration in South Korea

19:00 Dinner

6 April 2025

10:00-11:30 Socio-Cultural Issues in Korea and Turkey: Media and Popular Culture

Moderator: Chong Jin Oh (HUFS)

- Asst. Prof. Young-Gil Chae (HUFS): Decline of "Public" Interest of Media in Korea
- Prof. Gi Yeon Koo (Seoul National University): Riding the Korean Wave in West Asia
- Prof. Arzu Öztürkmen (Boğaziçi Üniversitesi): Korean Wave, Turkish Wave: A Comparative Look at the Content of Television Series

11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-13:30 Literary Encounters I

Moderator: Kerem Kılıçdaroğlu (TED University)

- Asst. Prof. YangHee Lee (HUFS): Trends in Turkish Language Education and Research in Korea
- Asst. Prof. Hyang Jo (Seoul National University): Intersubjective Understanding in Han Kang's Novel *Greek Lessons*
- Assoc. Prof. Hatice Köroğlu Türközü (Erciyes University): Edebiyatının Tanınırlığı Üzerine Bir İnceleme

13:30-15:00 Lunch

15:00-16:00 Literary Encounters II

Moderator: Selçuk Esenbel (Boğaziçi University)

- Asst. Prof. Nana Lee (HUFS): The First Turkish Literary Work Translated into Korean: A Review of Selections from Nazım Hikmet
- Jiseon Kang (Boğaziçi University): The Image of Turkish Literature in South Korea: A Polysystem Approach to Translation Activities and Reception

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-18:00 Contemporary Encounters in Politics and Economics II

Moderator: Hyun Hong (Boğaziçi University)

- Prof. Hakan Yılmaz (Bahçeşehir University): Towards A New World Order: Dynamics and Southwest and East Asia
- Prof. Chong Jin Oh (HUFU): Middle Power Cooperation Between Turkey and Korea in Public Diplomacy: Focusing on Turkey's Asia Anew Initiative Strategy and South Korea New Northern policy
- Asst. Prof. Kerem Kılıçdaroğlu (TED University): South and North Korean Relations and the Role of Civil Society

19:00 Dinner Hosted by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in İstanbul*

Apr. 7, 2025

10:00-12:00 Concluding Remarks: Bridging Continents, Shaping Histories: Turkey & Korea in Global Perspective

May 8, 2025 – Museum Lectures – Book Talk

BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MUSEUM LECTURES

Book Talk:

**Muslim Transnationalism
in Modern China:
Debates on Hui Identity
and Islamic Reform**

Hale Eroğlu

Boğaziçi University



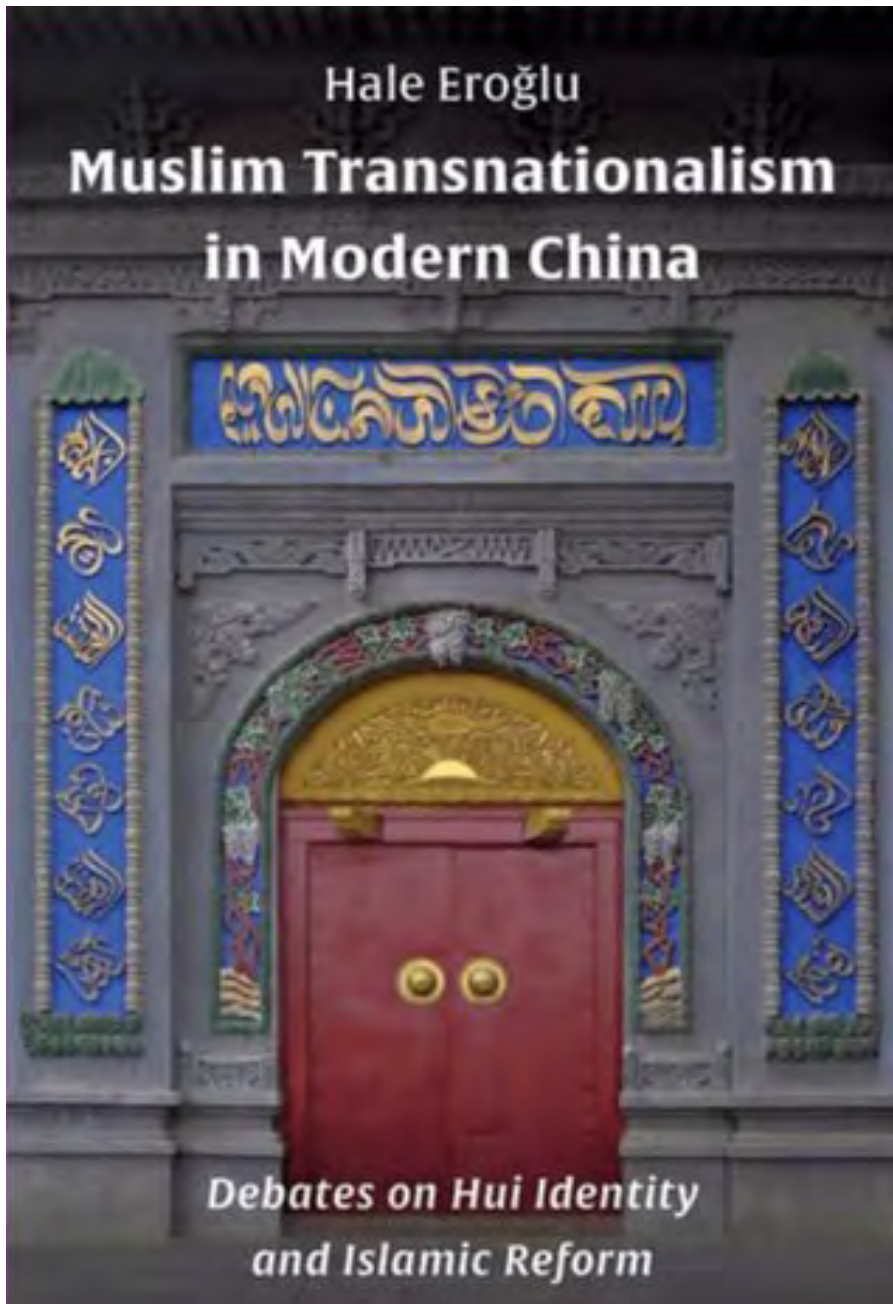
May 8, 2025 at 17:00

TB 310, South Campus

Summary

In this book talk, Hale Eroğlu presents Muslim Transnationalism in Modern China, an intellectual history of Chinese Muslim reformists navigating the profound transformations of the early twentieth century. As the Qing empire gave way to the Republican nation-state, Muslim intellectuals confronted competing ideas of nationalism, religion, secularism, democracy, and modernity. Eroğlu traces how these underrecognized figures sought to redefine Muslims as active Chinese citizens while revitalizing what they understood as “true” Islam as a resource for social reform and national development. Drawing on journals, translated Islamic texts, memoirs, and travel accounts, the talk highlights reformists’ engagement with transnational Muslim networks linking China to Egypt, India, Turkey, Europe, and the Soviet Union. By examining how global ideas were adapted to local political and cultural pressures, the book offers new perspectives on Islam, modernity, and nation-building in modern China.

Interview with Hale Eroğlu



Q1: Can you tell us about your background and the path that led you to your current field of study?

I studied International Relations at Middle East Technical University. Back then, I wanted to become a diplomat. But while I was at METU, my perspective on life really changed, mainly because of the quality of the education I received, which pushed me to think critically. I started to realize that I didn't actually want a conventional diplomatic career, and I began thinking more seriously about becoming either a journalist or an academic.

Around that time, I started to see history as the backbone of the humanities and social sciences. So I decided to continue with an MA in History at Boğaziçi University, where I'm also teaching now. At first, I was planning to work on Ottoman frontier history. But then I met Selçuk Esenbel and took her historiography class, and that class completely changed my direction.

That was actually my first real exposure to Chinese history. I still remember reading Sima Qian as a primary source and Arif Dirlik as a secondary source, which was eye-opening for me. Even though I had studied International Relations at METU, the field back then was very Europe-centered, and hardly anyone was working on Asia. For that class, I ended up writing a seminar paper on the rise of Neo-Confucianism in China.

Not long after that, an opportunity came up to go to China and study Chinese. I decided to take it seriously, and that's when I made a clear decision to shift my field to Chinese history. I studied Chinese at Shenzhen University and wrote my MA thesis in the library of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Interestingly, it was the first Asia-related MA thesis in the department at the time. Of course, that was many years ago — now Boğaziçi has many students working on Asia-related topics.

After I graduated from Bogazici, I studied at Harvard University in the PhD program of Inner Asian Studies. I studied with very accomplished China historians at Harvard.

Q2: Could you please introduce your recent book, *Muslim Transnationalism in Modern China: Debates on Hui Identity and Islamic Reform*? What motivated you to study this topic?

The book looks at how Chinese-speaking Muslim (today also known as Hui)

intellectuals and reformers, thought about who they were during a really transformative period in Chinese history. In the early twentieth century, China was moving from a multiethnic empire to a nation-state, and that raised a lot of difficult questions for Muslim communities — about nationalism, ethnicity, citizenship, religion, and modernity.

What interested me most was how these debates were never just happening inside China. Chinese Muslims were deeply connected to intellectual and religious currents in other parts of the world.

Overall, the book is a transnational intellectual history that tries to show Chinese Muslims not as marginal figures, but as active participants in both Chinese nation-building and wider global Muslim debates.

Q3: The book focuses on the "unsung interpreters" who connected China to the wider Muslim world. Could you please summarize their story for those who have not yet read the book?

The “unsung interpreters” in the book are Muslim intellectuals, religious scholars, educators, translators, and travelers who played a key role in connecting China to the wider Muslim world, even though they’re rarely recognized in mainstream histories. Many of them studied abroad, went on pilgrimage, translated Islamic texts into Chinese, Chinese texts into other languages, or wrote about their encounters with the Middle East, South Asia, Central Asia and Europe.

They acted as intellectual mediators. On the one hand, they introduced global Muslim debates — about reform, orthodoxy, education, and politics — into Chinese Muslim society. On the other hand, they also explained China and Chinese Muslims to audiences abroad. In doing so, they constantly selectively adapted global ideas to local realities, whether they were responding to missionary critiques of Islam, the anti-religious discourse of the New Culture Movement, or the changing policies of the Nationalist and Communist parties.

Their story is really about negotiation and creativity. Rather than simply importing ideas from abroad, these figures reworked them to address very specific social and political challenges at home. Through their efforts, they helped shape new visions of Muslim identity, citizenship, and belonging in modern China, even if their contributions have largely remained overlooked.

Q4: Your work highlights interesting historical connections between China and Turkey. Could you comment on the main interactions or relationships you observed between these two regions during your research?

Sun Yat-sen, who is considered the father of Chinese nationalism in both the PRC and Taiwan, once said in 1924, during a speech in Japan, that Turkey was the western barricade of Asia against imperialism. A decade earlier, Kang Youwei had visited the Ottoman Empire in 1908 and viewed its trajectory as a warning for China. These are relatively well-known examples.

What my research into Republican-era journals and books showed, however, is that Chinese interest in Turkish modernization continued well beyond these moments. Chinese intellectuals selectively read and interpreted the Turkish experience and presented it to different segments of Chinese society in ways that served specific political and social agendas.

What I found particularly interesting is that Chinese Muslims engaged with Turkish modernization in ways that addressed their own concerns as a religious and ethnic minority. At the same time, the increasingly authoritarian Chinese state in the 1930s drew on the very same model to promote absolute loyalty among Chinese Muslims to the Chinese state and nation, and to pressure them to abandon demands for autonomy.

In this sense, the Turkish model was more than just an inspiring success story. It was also actively instrumentalized to achieve concrete domestic goals in China.

Q5: What does the concept of “transnationalism” mean to you in the context of your work?

For a long time, the writing of history was very much shaped by the nation-state framework. In recent decades, however, historians have increasingly paid attention to how global and transnational forces shape national, regional, and local histories — and, just as importantly, how the national and the local can also influence the global. My work is very much part of this broader trend in global history.

There is also a very concrete reason why I adopt a transnational perspective. Chinese Muslim identity itself is the product of long-standing, inter-Asian

connections. The earliest Muslim communities appeared in China during the Tang dynasty (618-907), when merchants arrived shortly after the death of the Prophet via both maritime and overland Silk and spice routes. Many others later came and settled under Mongol rule during the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368), and over time they gradually acculturated — largely through intermarriage — forming what we now know as the Chinese Muslim community, or the Hui as they are known today in China.

These communities have always remained connected beyond China, especially to Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East through religious and commercial networks. Because of this, it's necessary to take a transnational perspective to understand the intellectual and religious history of Muslims in China.

Q6: Writing a book is a long journey. What was the most challenging or rewarding part of the research and writing process for you?

Writing a book is definitely a long journey. For me, the most challenging — but also the most rewarding — part was working with Chinese-language primary sources from the Republican period. I spent a lot of time going through journals and books produced by Muslim intellectuals, and the sheer volume of material was overwhelming. It was a period of intense intellectual activity across China. Despite the authoritarian tendencies of the ruling Nationalist Party, the state didn't have full control over society, which meant that people could publish relatively freely and experiment with new ideas.

I was very lucky in that regard, because Harvard University had access to many of these journals and publications. Being able to work through these sources systematically really made the project possible, so I can honestly say that Harvard's digital and physical library resources played a crucial role in this research. Now that the book is out, it's incredibly rewarding to see the interest it has generated. I've received very positive feedback from colleagues, and after so many years of research and writing, it's a real joy to see the work reaching a global audience.

Q7: As a professor at Bogazici University , how do you find the interest of students at Boğaziçi University regarding Asian history and these specific cross-cultural topics?

We now have many students at Boğaziçi University studying Asian languages. Around one hundred students take Chinese each semester alone. Some of these students go on to pursue academic careers in Asian history.

In the past, student interest was more strongly focused on Japan, largely because of Japan's global economic and cultural influence. Korea followed a similar trajectory. I know many young people who first became interested in Korea through Korean dramas and popular music during the so-called Korean Wave, and later became academically engaged with Korean studies.

Today, China has emerged as a major global power, and student interest is increasingly shifting in that direction as well. What matters most, however, is that students at Boğaziçi University move beyond stereotypical and reductionist views of Asian societies and develop a nuanced, multi-layered, and globally informed understanding of the region. This is precisely what I aim to do in my courses on Chinese history.

Clichés about China—both negative and positive—are extremely widespread. One of my first tasks as a professor is therefore to help students move beyond these simplified narratives by paying close attention to diversity, nuance, and gray areas. I do this by emphasizing close engagement with not only secondary scholarship but also primary sources. As a historian, I strongly believe in the importance of working with primary sources in their original languages in order to avoid falling into the trap of overarching meta-narratives.

Oct.16, 2025 – Asia Talks Series

BOĞAZİÇİ UNIVERSITY, ASIAN STUDIES CENTER
ASIA TALKS SERIES

**THE STEPPE ON PAPER:
MONGOL MANUSCRIPT MAPS
OF THE QING
(18TH-19TH CENTURY)**

by

ANNE-SOPHIE PRATTE
Assistant Professor of History
Georgetown University in Qatar



OCTOBER 16, 2025 – 17:00

**Kriton Curi Room,
Albert Long Hall**



Summary

As the Chinese-Manchu Qing state consolidated its power over the steppe regions from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, it instructed local Mongols to produce maps of newly created administrative units. Local mapmakers thus created hundreds of maps, becoming the architects of successive mapping systems and making and remaking the geography of the Mongol steppe. Though scholars often assume that nomadic groups produced few written records, this book demonstrates that pastoralists Mongols not only created hundreds of local maps but shaped the imperial geography of early modern China and Inner Asia with their distinctive aesthetic, which conveyed localized understandings of mapping and territoriality. These cartographic illustrations revealed indigenous practices of land use and pastoral migrations that differed from the ideal categories set at the metropole level.

Interview with Anne-Sophie Pratte



Q1: Can you tell us about your background and the path that led you to your current field of study?

I am a historian of China and Inner Asia. I became interested in this field when I studied abroad in Guangzhou as an undergraduate student and became immersed in the study of languages.

Q2. You gave a very interesting talk at Boğaziçi University on October 16, 2025, titled “The Steppe on Paper: Mongol Manuscript Maps of the Qing (18th–

19th Century).” Could you please summarize its content for those who did not attend?

The talk examined manuscript maps produced by Mongols under Qing rule. I showed how these maps encoded local knowledge, social hierarchies, and political obligations.

Q3. Could you please introduce your recent book, *The Steppe on Paper: Mongol Manuscript Maps of the Qing (18th-19th Century)*? What motivated you to study this topic?

The book investigates how cartography became a key instrument of governance in Qing Mongolia and how Mongol actors participated in producing geographical knowledge. It traces the circulation of maps between local offices, and the Qing court. I was motivated by the absence of Mongol perspectives in existing histories of Qing cartography.

Q4. Does the perception of the world differ between Eastern and Western cartographers? If so, could you comment on the main differences you have observed?

Rather than a simple East–West divide, I observe differences rooted in administrative needs, material practices, and aesthetic. I would rather emphasize the distinction between printed and manuscript maps.

Q5. What does the concept of “perspective” mean to you?

Perspective refers to the positionality from which knowledge is produced. In cartography, it determines what is included, emphasized, or omitted from maps.

Q6: Istanbul sits at a unique crossroads of history, much like the regions you study. As a historian of empires and geography, what were your impressions of the city?

Istanbul is an open-air history course!

Anne-Sophie Pratte is an assistant professor of history at Georgetown University in Qatar. She completed her PhD in Inner Asian and Altaic Studies at Harvard University and her M.A. in East Asian Studies at McGill University. Her work was published in *Late Imperial China* and *Etudes Mongoles et Siberiennes*. In partnership with the Maclean Collection, she directed the making of an interactive Manchu historical map for the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library.

Nov. 22, 2025 – Asia Talks Series

ASYA ÇALIŞMALARI UYGULAMA ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ
ASYA KONUŞMALARI

DÜNYANIN İLK ROMANI GENJİ MONOGATARI'NIN DÜNYA EDEBİYATINDAKİ YERİ VE TÜRKÇEYE ÇEVİRİ SERÜVENİ

PROF. DR. OĞUZ BAYKARA



**Prof. Dr. Oğuz Baykara**
Çeviribilim Bölümü, Yeditepe Üniversitesi
Asya Çalışmaları, Boğaziçi Üniversitesi
Japonya Araştırmaları Derneğinin Başkan Yardımcısı

22
Kasım 2025

13:00 - 15:30
İbrahim Bodur Oditoryumu
Natuk Birkan Binası
Boğaziçi Üniversitesi Güney Kampüsü

DÜZENLEVENLER:
BOĞAZIÇI ÜNİVERSİTESİ
ASYA ÇALIŞMALARI MERKEZİ VE
JAPONYA ARAŞTIRMALARI DERNEĞİ (JAD)



Summary

While *The Tale of Genji*, written in the 11th century during the Heian Period, gained recognition and prestige in the West during the 20th century, this process took much longer in Japan, where the work embarked on a thousand-year journey within its own borders. Admired worldwide for its rich character development and deep psychological insight, understanding the process of how *The Tale of Genji* attained its status in Japan is of great importance for appreciating its significance in world literature. In this seminar, Prof. Baykara first touches upon the various stages the work underwent in the Japanese language during its canonization as a fictional genre. Subsequently, the adventure of translating the work into Turkish is discussed, accompanied by examples from both poetry and prose translations.

Interview with Oğuz Baykara

Q1: First and foremost, we want to thank you for translating and bringing the oldest novel in the world, *Genji Monogatari*, into our language. Before we dive into your work on *Genji Monogatari*, could you please take a moment to introduce yourself and provide a broader context for your career?

I was born in Istanbul. I completed my undergraduate studies at the Istanbul University Faculty of Economics in 1977. During my university years, I learned English, French, Italian, Spanish, and German, and I worked as a professional translator, interpreter, and tour guide in these languages. In 1985, I had the opportunity to add Japanese to this list.

Later, in 1989, I wrote my master's thesis titled "The Comparative Phonological Structure of Japanese and Turkish" at the Boğaziçi University Department of Linguistics. To specialize in Japanese language and literature, I went to Japan in 1992. After completing the preparatory program at Keiō University, I began my training in Japanese Language Teaching at Kyōrin University in 1996. In 1998, I wrote my second master's thesis titled "Translation Dictionaries and the Problematics of Lexicography." I completed my Ph.D. at the same institution in 2004, focusing on Tanizaki Jun'ichirō and Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, prominent authors of the Taishō period.

I returned to Turkey that same year and served as a faculty member in the Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies at Boğaziçi University for 16 years. As of 2019, I began working as a faculty member in the Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies at Yeditepe University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. However, I still continue to teach the Japanese Literature and Japanese Culture courses that I have been offering since 2015 in the Asian Studies MA program at Boğaziçi University. I also currently serve as the Vice President of the Japanese Studies Association (JAD).

Additionally, in 2020, I was honored with the Diplomatic Mission Award presented by the Consulate General of Japan in Istanbul. I have numerous articles published in three different languages, various translations from English and Japanese, and four original books, one of which is in Japanese. My fifth book is currently in the publication process.

Q2: What is the significance of *Genji Monogatari* for world literature and for you as its translator?

Genji Monogatari is a work that blends prose and poetry, but beyond that, it possesses many distinct qualities that make it special in world literature.

Considered the world's first novel, the most striking aspect of *The Tale of Genji* is, above all, its realistic character portrayals. These psychological analyses—unprecedented in 11th-century world literature—are so detailed that they would astound even Freud, the psychologist who lived 1,000 years after the author. With this feature, *The Tale of Genji* established a benchmark for later literary works and became a symbol of the modern understanding of human nature.

The work meticulously conveys the aesthetic sense, social rituals, and political dynamics of the Japanese Imperial Court. On almost every page, *The Tale of Genji* vividly portrays the attire of the courtiers, the architectural elements of the palace, and seasonal activities. These descriptions serve as a historical documentary regarding the court aristocracy, who were renowned for their elegance and refinement.

The Tale of Genji is deeply tied to the principle of *mono no aware* (the melancholic sadness felt toward the transience of all beings), which is one of the cornerstones of Japanese aesthetics.

The influence of this book extends far beyond the 11th century in which it was written. It is evident that the work has been a source of inspiration for art, literature, and performing arts produced by subsequent generations. The themes, narrative techniques, and character archetypes inspired by *Genji Monogatari* have found resonance on both a national and global scale; it has been the subject of countless novels, stories, poems, translations, adaptations, and academic studies. It is accepted as one of the fundamental works of world literature, particularly due to its contributions to the development of narrative fiction.

To briefly summarize, *The Tale of Genji* holds a special position in world literature not only because it combines prose and poetry, but also due to its psychological depth, historical richness, innovative structure, and philosophical insights. The universality of its themes and the innovation of its narrative style have ensured its status as a sublime masterpiece that

transcends the boundaries of time and space, continuing to shape literary traditions.

Q3: Would you like to tell us what your motivation was in the first place for translating *Genji Monogatari* in Turkish?

My decision to translate this book into Turkish dates back to my doctoral years in Japan. During the seminars held by my late thesis advisor, Prof. Akira Kunimatsu, between 1998 and 2002, we read and analyzed various chapters of *Genji Monogatari*.

It was truly impossible not to be in awe of the sheer scale of this work written a thousand years ago, the perfection of its narrative, the tightly woven plot, the author's character analyses, and especially the exquisite *waka* poems contained within. Encouraged by my professor, I set my mind on translating this work into Turkish one day. Even though I didn't make a formal vow, I always considered it a promise made to him in spirit.

However, I can say that the element that excited me most and drove me to translate the book was the *waka* poetry. Together, the poems created a veritable feast and passionately invited me in. It was as if they wanted me to recreate them in Turkish a thousand years later. And so, I did.

Q4: We know that *Genji Monogatari* was written in the 11th century and the language of the novel is highly different than today's Japanese. From this perspective, how did you overcome the difficulties that you faced with during the translation process in terms cultural and linguistic perspectives?

Translating a classic work from the 11th century, such as *Genji Monogatari*, into Turkish presents numerous cultural and linguistic challenges.

First and foremost, *Genji Monogatari* is deeply rooted in Japan's Heian period and culturally reflects the court life, aesthetics, and social norms of that era. To accurately convey the subtle nuances in the text, the translator must fully grasp this historical context. One must be knowledgeable about the traditions, political structures, and social hierarchies that influence the characters' behavior.

Ancient Japanese literary art and poetry are rich in elements that have no direct equivalents in our culture. For instance, references within the book to

even older *waka* poems or specific cultural practices require careful evaluation. Translators are often compelled to add footnotes and explanations to aid understanding, though this can occasionally disrupt the flow of reading.

The aesthetic principles of the Heian court—concepts of beauty, love, and nature—are intricately woven into the narrative. Since these values might not immediately resonate with Turkish readers, the translator must go beyond merely conveying the meaning; they must craft a translation that evokes similar emotions and imagery.

The language used in *Genji Monogatari* is Classical Japanese, which differs significantly from modern Japanese. This language contains an archaic vocabulary and grammatical structures that are difficult to interpret. To overcome these issues, the translator is often forced to choose a more interpretive approach that captures the essence of the original text, rather than a word-for-word translation.

Classical Japanese frequently employs ambiguous expressions and context-dependent meanings. For example, the use of pronouns is often unclear, so the translator must rely on context to make an interpretation. Furthermore, the text contains idioms, proverbs, and expressions specific to Japanese culture. Finding equivalent Turkish counterparts that convey the same meaning without losing cultural significance constitutes a major challenge. The translator often has to create new phrasing that will resonate within the target culture, yet they must also remain faithful to the original text.

In short, translating *Genji Monogatari* is not simply a matter of transferring words from Japanese to Turkish; it is a complex process that requires a deep understanding of the structures of both the source and target cultures. Cultural differences, historical context, and linguistic variations play a significant role in how the story is perceived by modern readers. Successful translations of such texts must be undertaken by expert translators or academics who have mastered both languages and devoted years to this subject. Only in this way can the richness of the original text be preserved and made accessible to the masses. I have completed the translation of *Genji* over many years by adhering to these very principles.

Q5: During your seminars about the translation of *Genji Monogatari*, you mentioned that you had translated *waka* poems in *Genji Monogatari* according to classical Turkish metrics. What were your major concerns and considerations about interpreting these verses in Turkish?

My biggest concern while translating the *waka* poems in *Genji Monogatari* into Turkish was ensuring they could stand up and say, "I am a poem!" in Turkish as well—that Turkish readers, from young to old, would perceive them as true poetry.

As you know, Ottoman Court poetry used to be written in *aruz* (prosody based on vowel length), while folk poetry was written in syllabic meter. After the Turkish Republic was established, words containing long vowels decreased significantly, and after a certain period, spelling and punctuation ceased to reflect these distinctions in writing. Consequently, in an environment lacking long vowels, the tradition of writing poetry in *aruz* meter disappeared. For this reason, I decided to translate these 11th-century Japanese poems using the ancient syllabic meter that we carried with us all the way from Central Asia.

Waka (和歌) literally means "Japanese poem" and is not free verse. Possessing a fixed syllabic structure, *waka* does not use rhyme. These poems, written according to syllable count, consist of a total of 5 lines and 31 syllables. Therefore, compared to Western poetic forms, *waka* is asymmetrical. This asymmetry is so deeply ingrained in the Japanese language and cultural context that it provides a unique rhythm and thematic flow within the text. It is by no means easy to translate these poems into Turkish or Western languages using even-numbered lines and rhymes while preserving both style and meaning.

However, no matter how asymmetric the poems in *The Tale of Genji* may be, it is still possible to translate them into English or Turkish as rhyming couplets, a form present in the traditions of both languages. I believed that by striking a balance between meter, rhyme, and meaning, we could convey the beauty and depth of Murasaki Shikibu's *waka* poems to audiences in other languages, giving this immortal work a fresh breath of life.

In the Turkish translation, I made a special effort to ensure these sounded like poems suitable for the Turkish poetic tradition, which is why completing

Genji Monogatari took such a long time. As for my method: I took the first part of the *waka* (the 5-7-5 syllable structure, totaling 17 syllables) and condensed it into 14 syllables to create my first line. Then, I kept the syllable count of the remaining 7-7 structure exactly as is to form the second line of my translation. In this way, I rendered almost all of the *waka* poems into Turkish as rhyming couplets with 14 syllables per line. I strove to recreate the feast of poetry that Murasaki Shikibu created 1,000 years ago in *Genji Monogatari* within its Turkish translation, 1,000 years after her death.

Q6: How did you manage to balance faithfulness to the original work with accessibility to the modern Turkish reader?

The task of translating a literary work like *Genji Monogatari* is a process fraught with challenges, requiring a delicate balance between fidelity to the original text and accessibility for modern readers. Translators face the duty of ensuring this classic work resonates with contemporary audiences who do not share the same cultural or historical context.

Personally, I believe the translator's primary duty is to honor the source text. *Genji Monogatari* is steeped in information regarding the aesthetics, social hierarchies, and philosophical foundations of the Heian period. A faithful translation must capture these elements and preserve the style and harmony that reflect the sensibility of that era.

For instance, Classical Japanese, replete with layers of meaning and connotation, poses a significant challenge. Translators may be forced to choose between literal translations that risk losing the text's lyricism, or interpretive translations that stray somewhat from the source.

While fidelity is a sensitive subject, accessibility cannot be ignored; because let alone Turkish readers, even modern Japanese readers struggle to cope with the ancient language and cultural references of *Genji Monogatari*. To bridge this gap, translators often add footnotes, glossaries, supplementary texts, and explanations to ease the reading experience. These tools help illuminate the cultural practices, social norms, and historical events that shape the narrative. Furthermore, translators might prefer—as I did—to blend archaic and modern language to evoke emotions and imagery in the translation similar to those in the original.

The key to achieving a successful translation lies in striking a balance between these two demands. A translator can employ various strategies to adjust the level of detail while preserving the narrative flow. This approach renders the target text more understandable for contemporary readers while maintaining the emotional impact of the original. For example, an ancient love story set in the Heian Court can be expressed using Turkish idioms that convey the same sentiment; such a translation captures the interest of modern readers while preserving the narrative's depth.

Throughout this process, I assumed the role of both translator and storyteller. While guiding readers through the mysterious world of Heian Japan, I also aimed to make *Genji Monogatari* accessible and enjoyable for them. Reflecting on the 15 years of effort I poured into this translation, that is, at least, what I believe I have achieved.

Q7: You have been rewarded by Japanese Government with “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette” for your great translation and its contribution to the relationship between Türkiye and Japan. How do you feel about this recognition?

Naturally, I was delighted when I received the "Diplomatic Mission Award" for the first time in 2020 from the Consulate General of Japan in Istanbul. I am again truly grateful to the Japanese Government and the Consulate General of Japan in Istanbul for this precious award I received in 2025.

However, I would like to state immediately that my interest in Japanese literature is a sincere mission dictated by my own inner journey—one that transcends the desire for acclaim. I am simply doing my duty. So my research on Japanese Literature will continue uninterrupted in the future.

Recent Activities (2024-2025)

Dec. 8, 2025 – Forum

  海峡大学孔子学院
CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AT BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY

**SINO-TÜRKİYE
HUMANITIES
FORUM**

中土人文
学术论坛

/ TIME
10: 00 – 17: 30
08. 12. 2025

/ LOCATION
海峡大学南校区 - 爱朗礼堂 - 克里顿·居里厅
**Kriton Curi Room, Albert Long Hall
South Campus, Boğaziçi University**

主办单位:  海峡大学 · 土耳其
Bogaziçi University · Türkiye
 上海大学 · 中国
Shanghai University · China

承办单位:  海峡大学孔子学院
Confucius Institute at Boğaziçi University
海峡大学历史系亚洲研究中心
Department of History and Asian Studies Center
Boğaziçi University

Summary

Organized through the collaborative efforts of Boğaziçi University and Shanghai University, this forum brings together leading voices in the humanities to explore the historical, cultural, and social ties that connect these two nations. The forum serves as a bridge for academic cooperation, hosted by the Confucius Institute at Boğaziçi University in partnership with the Department of History and Asian Studies Center. Attendees can expect a day of insightful presentations and discussions aimed at deepening the mutual understanding of our shared human history and future academic ventures.

Program of the Forum

Dec. 8, 2025, Istanbul

10:00-10:30 Welcome

- Welcome Speech by Prof. Mustafa Öztürk, Vice-Rector of BU
- Speech by Mr. Jian Shang, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Istanbul
- Introduction of all conference participants by CIBU directors
- Group Photo

10:30—12:00 PANEL I: Global Circulations of Media and Performance

Chair: Hale Eroğlu, History Department and Turkish Director of CIBU

- Dr. Jianping Mao (Lanzhou University): Relationships and the Self in Mustang: *The Construction and Interaction of Transnational Sisterhood*
- Prof. Arzu Öztürkmen (Boğaziçi University): *The Rise of Dizi Content in Transnational Domains*
- Assoc.Prof. Qianwen Zhou (Shanghai University): *Embodied Efficiency: Rethinking Performance in China's Digital Market Era*

12:00-13:30 Lunch, Kennedy Lodge

13:30-15:00 PANEL II: Reframing Empires and Knowledge: Sinology and Sino-Turkish exchanges

Chair: Arzu Öztürkmen, History Department and Asian Studies Center

- Prof. Eyüp Sarıtaş (Istanbul University): *New Trends and Strategies in Sinology Research*
- Prof. Giray Fidan (Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University): *Learning Empires: Mutual Learning Between China and Türkiye in Moments of Crisis and Transformation*

15:00-15:30 Tea Break

15:30-17:00 PANEL III: Eurasian Connections: Texts and Transformations

Chair: Selçuk Esenbel

- Assoc. Prof. İnci Erdoğan (Ankara University): *Chinese Characters Cultural Area and One Belt and One Road Initiative*
- Assoc. Prof. Mihriban Aydın (Dokuz Eylül University): *A Comparative Study on the Chinese and Sogdian Sections of the I.Karabalgasun Inscription*
- Ass. Prof. Hale Erođlu (Bođaziçi University): *The Doctrine of the Mean and Chinese Muslim Reformism in Modern China*

17:00 – 18:00 Informal Scholarly Networking Time

18:30 – 20:30 Dinner

PAST ACTIVITIES (2017-2023)

RETHINKING GLOBAL HISTORIES FOR THE PRESENT

*THE OVERLAND AND MARITIME SILK ROADS
IN CENTRAL EURASIA
AND THE INDIAN OCEAN*



28 – 30 April 2017

Boğaziçi University, Nafi Baba Building

Opening 28 April, 6:00 p.m.

Asian Studies Center, Boğaziçi University & Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul

in collaboration with the Department of History, Boğaziçi University



supported by the Japanese Studies Association – Japonya Araştırmaları Derneği

Limited number of seats. For reservation: osaadet@gmail.com

Bogazici University Department of History
and Asian Studies Center
cordially invite you to a talk by

**Prof. Mark C. Elliott
(Harvard University)**
**“Inner Asian Approaches to China’s Past:
Thoughts on the New Qing History”**



**May 5, 2017
Friday, 14.00
Cultural Heritage Museum**

The Asian Studies Center

Cordially invites you

To a talk by

Cha, Young-cheol

Consul General of Korea

on

THE KOREAN WAVE



Mecintaras Conference Hall

Boğaziçi University

12 October, Thursday

3:00-4:00pm



The Confucius Institute & The Asian Studies Center

Cordially invite you to a talk by

Prof. Zhuang Enping
Shanghai University

on

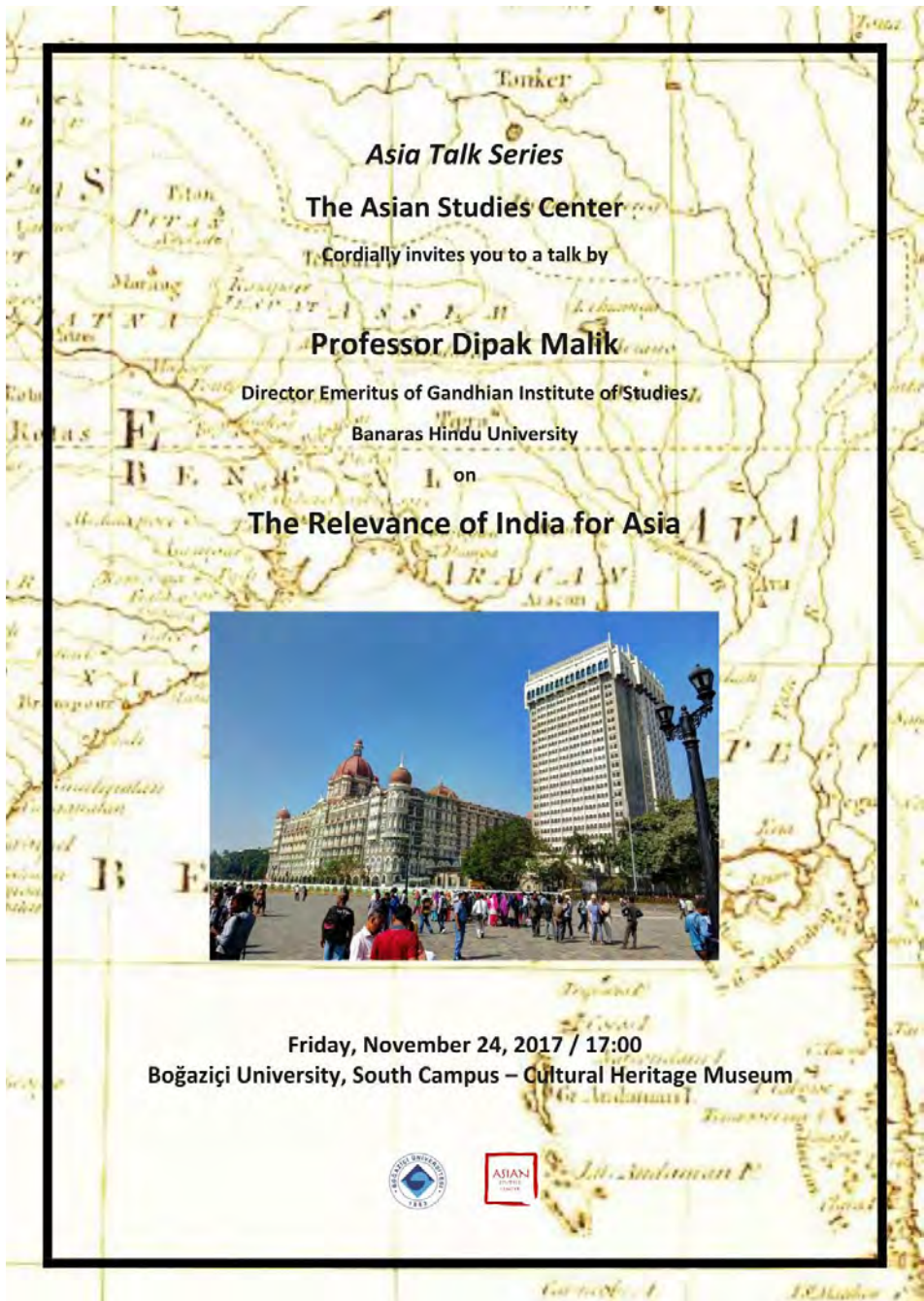
**“Managing Cultural Differences Achieving Cultural
Integration: A Golden Rule for Success”**



24 October 2017 / 15:00 – 17:00
İbrahim Bodur Auditorium
Natuk Birkan Building
Boğaziçi University




Sponsored by Confucius Institute at Boğaziçi University in cooperation with the Asian Studies Center.





Asia Talk Series
The Asian Studies Center
Cordially invites you to a talk by
Professor Dipak Malik
Director Emeritus of Gandhian Institute of Studies,
Banaras Hindu University

on
The Relevance of India for Asia



Friday, November 24, 2017 / 17:00
Boğaziçi University, South Campus – Cultural Heritage Museum



The Asian Studies Center

cordially invites you to a talk by

Akio Miyajima, Ambassador of Japan to Turkey

on

Asia in the 21st century: Japan's diplomacy toward the region



Boğaziçi University, South Campus, Rectorate Conference Hall

Thursday, December 7, 2017, 15:00-16:30



Asian Studies Center
Asia Talk Series

**North Korea Nuclear Issue:
Past, Present and Future?**

by

Dr. Hyun Hong

Korea Foundation Visiting Professor

Boğaziçi University, Asian Studies Center & Department of History



Boğaziçi University, Cultural Heritage Museum

Friday, December 15, 2017, 17:00



THE ASIAN STUDIES CENTER OF BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY
IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE JAPANESE STUDIES ASSOCIATION/JAPONYA ARAŞTIRMALARI
DERNEĞİ (JAD)

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A SEMINAR
ON

**THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL ORDER:
THE PERSPECTIVES OF JAPAN AND TURKEY**



RECTORATE CONFERENCE HALL, BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY

MARCH 9, 2018 - 14:30-17:00





The Asian Studies Center Asian Talk Series
Cordially Invites You to a Talk by
Professor Giray Fidan
Gazi University, Ankara

CHINESE GUESTS OF THE REPUBLIC

Cultural Heritage Museum
Bogazici University
April 12, 2018 - 17:00 - 18:00

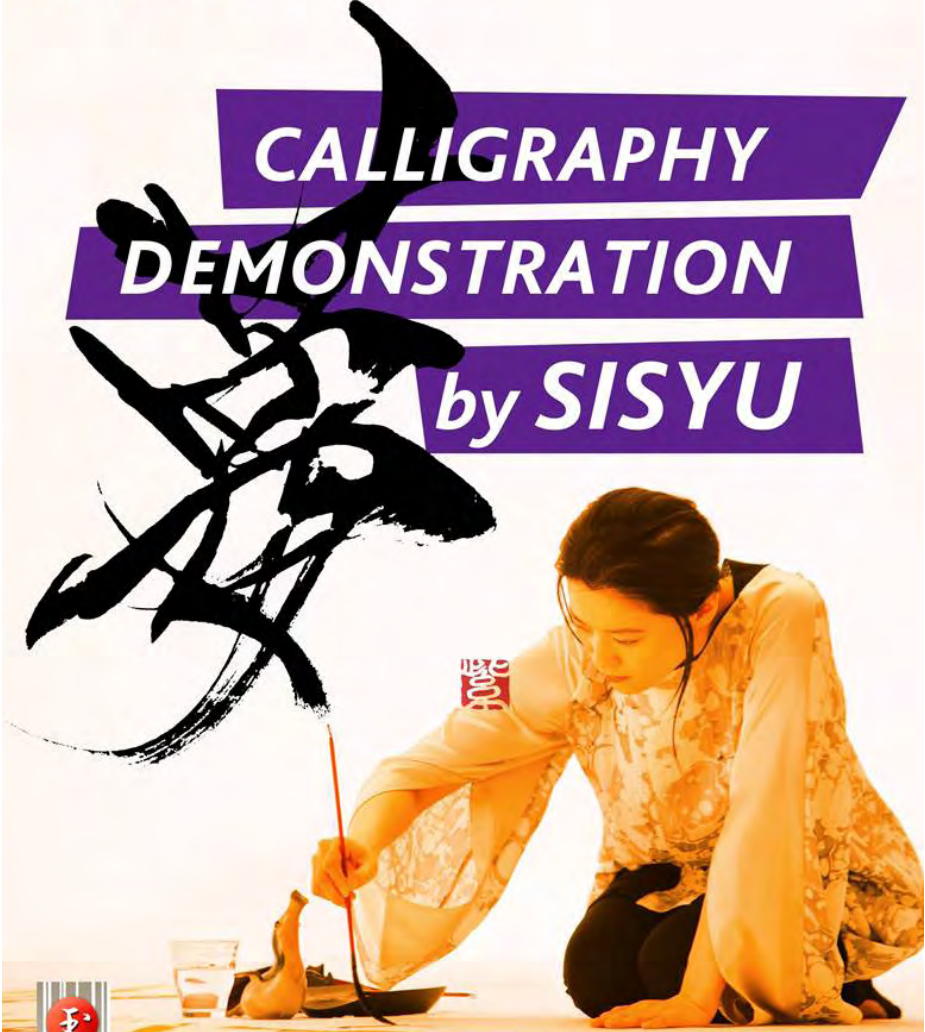


BOĞAZIÇI'NDE
**PER-
FOR-
MANS**

16 Mart 2018 Cuma 17:00
Demir Demirgil
Tiyatro Salonu (ÖFB)
Boğaziçi Üniversitesi
Güney Kampüs



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by SISYU**



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BU+

Boğaziçi University The Department of History and
The Asian Studies Center
cordially invites you to a talk
on

**"THE IMPERIAL HAREM OF SIAM:
LIFE INSIDE THE INNER COURT OF
KING CHULALONGKORN 1868-1910"**

by

Professor Natanaree Posrithong
Mahidol University International College,
Thailand



Cultural Heritage Museum,
Boğaziçi University
April 6, 2018 - 17:00-18:00





opening: 2018 may 21, 17.00-19.00

2018 may 21-25

MASTER SILK ROAD
painting exhibition
caner karavit

Bogazici University, South Campus, Ozger Arnas Hall, Rumelihisari - Istanbul

 Boğaziçi University  Asian Studies Center

THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AND THE ASIAN STUDIES CENTER OF BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO
A PANEL ON

THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN SPACE IN SHANGHAI AND ISTANBUL

DR. WEI QIAOWEI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN HISTORY, SHANGHAI
UNIVERSITY

“HISTORY OF SHANGHAI : WHAT WE LEARN FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FINDINGS“

DR. ÜMIT FIRAT AÇIKGÖZ , RICE UNIVERSITY

“URBAN MODERNIZATION OF ISTANBUL: A CHECKERED HISTORY (1838-1949)“

PROFESSOR MAO YANBING, DEPUTY DEAN OF SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AT
SHANGHAI UNIVERSITY

“THE URBAN ECONOMY OF SHANGHAI PAST AND PRESENT“

BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY
CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM
18:00-19:00 PM
JUNE 8/2018





RESEARCH QUESTIONS ABOUT ASIA

**Bogazici University
MAAS Graduate Student Workshop**

■ **9 JUNE 2018 • 14:00 TO 17:30 •
CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM**

17:30 - Welcome to Summer Party @BUMED

The Japanese Studies Association/Japonya Arařtırmaları Derneđi and
the Bođaziçi University Asian Studies Center,
in cooperation with the Department of History
cordially invites you to a conference on

JAPAN IN THE GLOBAL 21ST CENTURY: RETROSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES ON THE 150TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEIJI RESTORATION

LECTURES BY PARTICIPANTS FROM JAPAN

**YOMOTA INUHIKO, HISTORY OF FILM, CULTURAL ESSAYIST, AUTHOR, POET,
GRADUATE UNIVERSITY OF ART OF KYOTO**

**SHIMIZU YUICHIRO, JAPANESE POLITICS AND HISTORY,
FACULTY OF POLICY MANAGEMENT, KEIO UNIVERSITY**

**SONODA SHIGETO, COMPARATIVE SOCIOLOGY,
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY ON ASIA, UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO**

**OKAMOTO TAKUJI, HISTORY OF SCIENCE,
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO**

**KOSEKI TAKAFUMI, SPACE ENGINEERING AND CONTROL TECHNOLOGY,
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, UNIVERSITY OF
TOKYO**

**NAKAMURA NAOFUMI, BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC HISTORY,
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO**

**INOUE KANJI, PATENT ATTORNEY, PARTNER
NAGATO AND PARTNERS**

22 June, 2018 – 15:00 – 17:00

23 June, 2018 – 10:00 – 17:00

Rectorate Conference Hall, Bođaziçi University



Sponsored by the Japan Foundation, Bogazici University Rectorate, Japanese Studies Association Institutional Members Komatsu Middle East FZE, Toyotetsu Otomotiv Parcalari San.Ve. Tic. A.S., and complements of the Istanbul Consulate General of Japan

Bogazici University Asian Studies Center and the Confucius Institute at Bogazici University
Cordially Invites you to

THE 4TH CHINA-TURKEY FORUM ON GLOBALIZATION, CHINA AND TURKEY

Rectorate Conference Hall, Bogazici University
19 October, 2018 - 14:00 - 18:00
20 October, 2018 - 10:00 - 19:00



Sponsored by Bogazici University Rectorate, Bogazici University Asian Studies Center, Confucius Institute at Bogazici University, SHU Global, Shanghai University, Eurasian Economic Research Center, SILC Business School, Shanghai University



ASIA TALKS SERIES
THE ASIAN STUDIES CENTER
IN COOPERATION WITH THE JAPANESE STUDIES ASSOCIATION
/ JAPONYA ARAŞTIRMALARI DERNEĞİ (JAD)
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU A TALK ON

**”JAPAN’S EXPANDING REGIONAL ROLES
IN A MULTI-POLAR ASIA”
BY
PROFESSOR ANDREW L. OROS
WASHINGTON COLLEGE**



CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM
BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY
MARCH 11, 2019 - 17:00



海峡大学孔子学院 十周年庆
BOĞAZIÇI ÜNİVERSİTESİ KONFÜÇYUS ENSTİTÜSÜ'NÜN
10. YIL DÖNÜMÜ

Tarih: 3 Nisan 2019

Saat: 11:30 -12:30

Yer: Güney Kampüs , Albert Long Hall



CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES &
THE ASIAN STUDIES CENTER OF BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A TALK ON

"Kosovo and Serbia's Unfinished Peace: The EU and Other Agents"

BY

DR. FLORA FERATI-SACHSENMAIER

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY,
GÖTTINGEN.
GLOBAL & TRANSREGIONAL STUDIES PLATFORM
UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN.

OCTOBER 7, 2019

5 PM

NAFI BABA BUILDING, BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY

Reservation: naz.vardar@boun.edu.tr

The talk will be in English only.



THE ASIAN STUDIES CENTER AND
THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE OF BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO
A TALK ON

"Situating China in Modern Global Intellectual History"

By
Prof. Dominic Sachsenmaier
Director
Department of East Asian Studies
University of Göttingen

OCTOBER 8, 2019 • 5PM
Ibrahim Bodur Auditorium
Natuk Birkan Building
Bogazici University

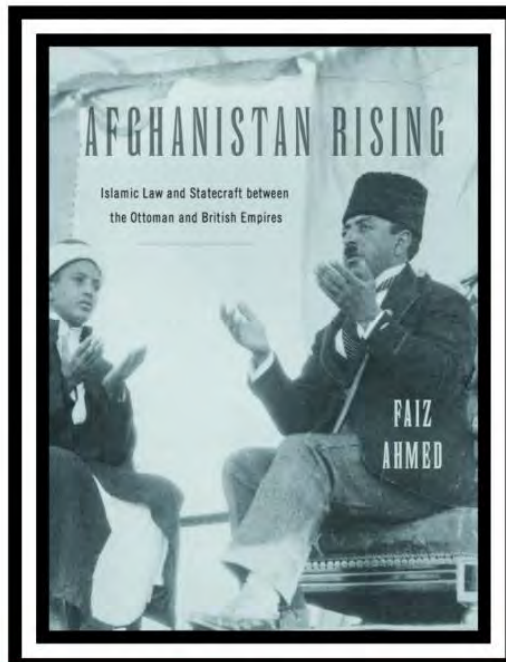
Reservation: naz.vardar@boun.edu.tr
The Talk will be in English only



**BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY THE ASIAN STUDIES CENTER AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO**

**"AFGHANISTAN RISING
Islamic Law and Statecraft between
the Ottoman and British Empires"**

**BY
FAIZ AHMED
Associate Professor of History
Brown University**



**DECEMBER 3, 2019 - 5 PM
CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM
BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY**



Boğaziçi University Department of History and
The Asian Studies Center
cordially invite you to a talk by

DR. HALE EROGLU SAGER

**Rectifying the Name: Sinophone
Muslims and Identity Formation in
Republican China**



Image: Pickens Jr., Rev Claude L. Collection.

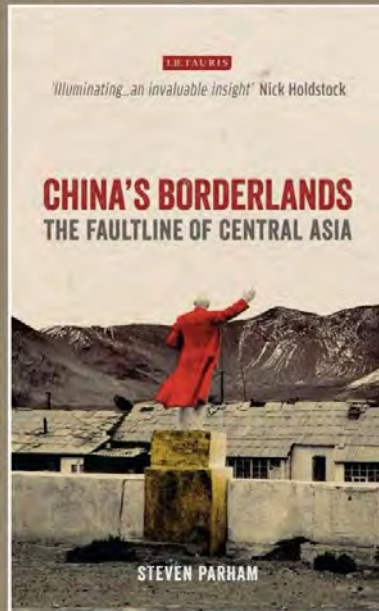
**Thursday, February 27, 2020 - 5 PM
Cultural Heritage Museum
Vangelis Kechriotis Seminar Room**

ASIA TALKS SERIES
Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites you to a talk on
**CENTRAL ASIA AT CENTRE-STAGE:
ANTHROPOLOGY AND
UNDERSTANDINGS OF INNER ASIAN
POLITICS**

by

STEVEN PARHAM

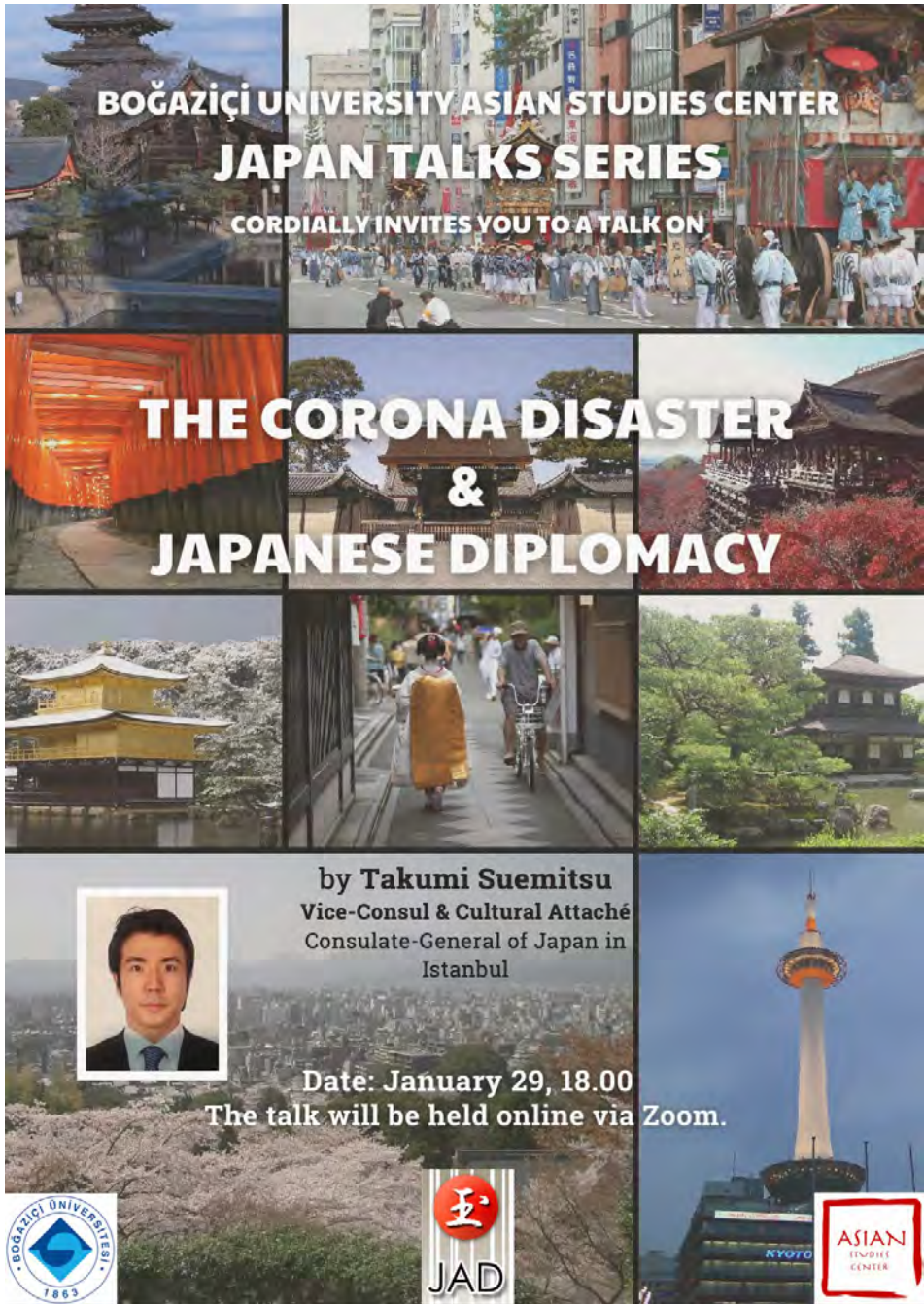
Associate Researcher at the University of Bern
Post-Doctoral Researcher at
the University of Tampere in Finland



DECEMBER 11, 2020 - 17:00
ONLINE VIA ZOOM ON

<https://boun-edu-tr.zoom.us/j/97753812203>








BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY ASIAN STUDIES CENTER
JAPAN TALKS SERIES
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A TALK ON

THE CORONA DISASTER
&
JAPANESE DIPLOMACY

by **Takumi Suemitsu**
Vice-Consul & Cultural Attaché
Consulate-General of Japan in
Istanbul

Date: January 29, 18.00
The talk will be held online via Zoom.



Modern Japan, Turkey & The Turkic World: Inter-Regional Relations

Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center

cordially invites you to a talk on

The Rise of a Modern Tatar Identity and the Diaspora in Asia: Naqshbandis, Commercial Networks, and Nationalism

by

ULI SCHAMILOGLU

Professor Emeritus at the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic of the
University of Wisconsin

Professor and chair at the Department of Kazakh Language and Turkic
Studies, Director, Ph.D. in Eurasian Studies Program of Nazarbayev University

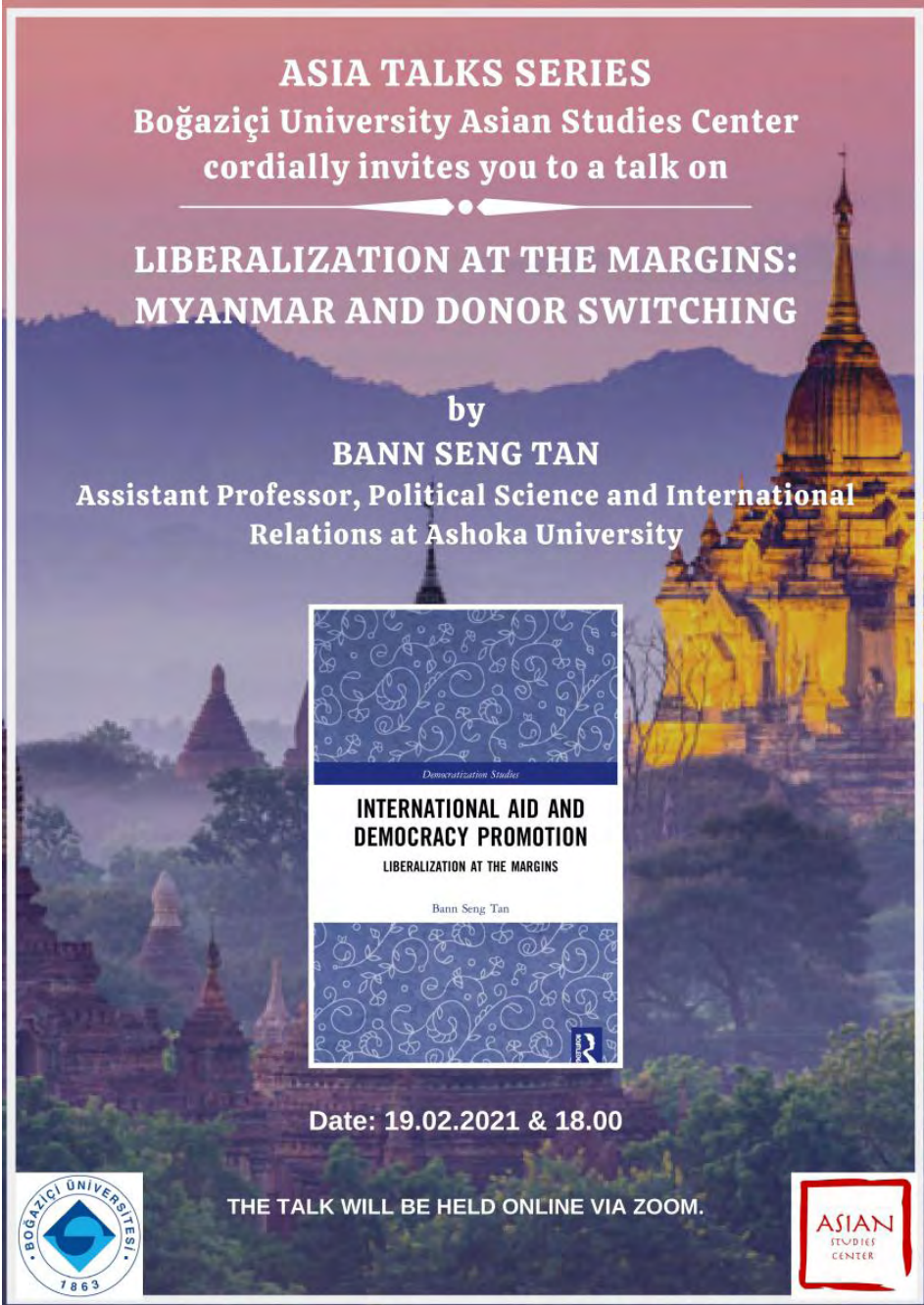


Date: 05.02.2021

18.00

THE TALK WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM.

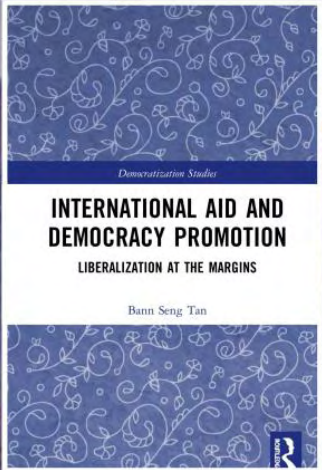




ASIA TALKS SERIES
Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites you to a talk on

**LIBERALIZATION AT THE MARGINS:
MYANMAR AND DONOR SWITCHING**

by
BANN SENG TAN
Assistant Professor, Political Science and International
Relations at Ashoka University





Democratization Studies

**INTERNATIONAL AID AND
DEMOCRACY PROMOTION**
LIBERALIZATION AT THE MARGINS

Bann Seng Tan

Date: 19.02.2021 & 18.00

THE TALK WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM.



ASIA TALKS SERIES

Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites you to a talk on

STATES OF CRISIS: THE POLITICS

AND

AESTHETICS OF DEVELOPMENT IN MODERN XI'AN

by

JEREMY TAI

Assistant Professor

Department of History and Classical Studies

McGill University



Date: 5.03.2021 @ 18.00



THE TALK WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM.



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
in collaboration with the Japanese Studies Association (JAD) in Istanbul
cordially invites you to

JAPAN TALKS SERIES



THE BOOK OF FIVE RINGS UNDERSTANDING/TRANSLATING MIYAMOTO MUSASHI'S MIND

by
DR. ERDAL KÜÇÜKYALÇIN

Adjunct Lecturer at the Master of Arts in Asian Studies Program at Boğaziçi University

Date & Time: 02.04.21

18.00 (Turkey Time)

The talk will be held online via Zoom.



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites you to
ASIA TALKS SERIES

*Studies of Chiang Kai-shek (Jiang Jieshi) since
2006: Discoveries and Significance*

by

DR. EMILY HILL

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY



Date & Time: 16.04.2021 & 18.00
THE TALK WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM.



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center in
collaboration with the Japanese Studies Association
[JAD]

cordially invites you to

*Modern Japan, Turkey & the Turkic World:
Inter-Regional Relations*



**Asia's Anti-Colonial Awakening?
Revisiting Egyptian Reactions to the
Russo-Japanese War**

by

ULRICH BRANDENBURG

Postdoctoral Fellow Islamic Studies
Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies
University of Zurich

DATE & TIME: 30.04.2021 & 17.00 (TURKEY TIME)

THE TALK WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM



BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY ASIAN STUDIES CENTER IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE JAPANESE STUDIES
ASSOCIATION IN ISTANBUL (JAD)
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO
JAPAN TALKS SERIES

THE QUAD IN JAPAN'S IMAGE

YOICHIRO SATO

Department Professor at the College
of Asia-Pacific Studies
Ritsumeikan Asia-Pacific University



14.05.2021 & 15.00 (TURKEY TIME)

THE TALK WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA
ZOOM.



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites you to

ASIA TALKS SERIES

TRANSLATIONALISM

by

Giray Fidan & Aslı Özlem Tarakçıoğlu
Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Translation and
Interpreting Department, Faculty Members



Date & Time: 28.05.2021 18.00 (Turkey Time)

THE TALK WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM.



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center in
collaboration with the Japanese Studies
Association (JAD) in Istanbul

cordially invites you to

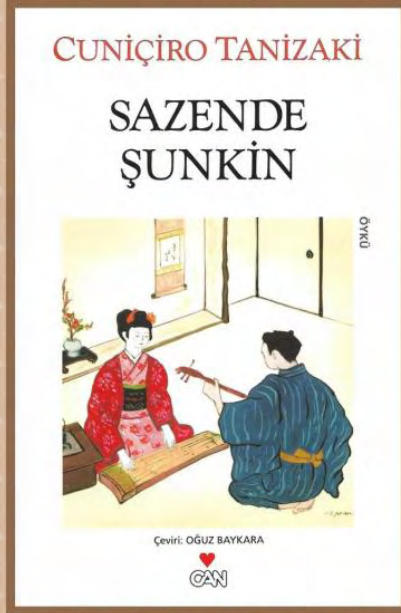
JAPAN TALKS SERIES

**Tanizaki Jun'ichirō, Feminizm ve Meiji Dönemi
Çeviri Edebiyatı**

by

Oğuz Baykara

Associate Prof. in Translation and Interpreting Studies at Yeditepe
University



Date & Time: 11.06.2021 & 18.00

**THE TALK WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA
ZOOM.**



BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY ASIAN STUDIES
CENTER CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO
ASIA TALKS SERIES

**THE IDEA OF 'CHINA:' A
CONTESTED MODERN
INTELLECTUAL GENEALOGY**

BY

DR. WEN YU

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, LIEBERTHAL-ROGEL CENTER FOR CHINESE
STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



THE TALK WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM.

**DATE & TIME: 18.06.2021 &
18.00 (TURKEY TIME)**



CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AT BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY

**2021 CHINA-TURKEY FORUM:
ON INTELLECTUAL AND
CULTURAL CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN CHINA AND TURKEY**

海峡孔院 2021 中土人文交流论坛

OCTOBER 8, 2021

13.30-16.30 (TURKEY) / 18.30-21.30 (CHINA)

ZOOM ID: 84682053644

PASSWORD: 123456

Hosted by

Confucius Institute at Bogaziçi University 海峡大学孔子学院
Asian Studies Center at Bogaziçi University 海峡大学亚洲中心



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites you to

Book Talk by Eric Schluessel

Assistant Professor of History and International Affairs
at Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, George Washington University



Land of Strangers The Civilizing Project in Qing Central Asia

03 DECEMBER 2021 18.00(IST)

The talk will be online via Zoom



Boğaziçi Üniversitesi
Asya Çalışmaları Merkezi
ASYA KONUŞMALAR SERİSİ

KİTAP SÖYLEŞİSİ

ÇİN DIŞ POLİTİKASI VE ORTA DOĞU

Kadir Temiz

İstanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi

17 Aralık 2021

18.00 (IST)

Söyleşi zoom üzerinden online gerçekleştirilecektir.



Boğaziçi Üniversitesi
Asya Çalışmaları Merkezi
ASYA KONUŞMALARI SERİSİ

Yamada Torajirō
JAPON AYNASINDAN
Resimli Türkiye
Gözlemleri

Prof. Dr. Selçuk Esenbel



24 Aralık 2021

18.00 (IST)

Söyleşi Zoom üzerinden gerçekleştirilecektir.



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
Asia Talks Series



Ghosts, Spirits and
Gallows Humor

Attitudes Towards Technology after
Fukushima

by

Esra Gökçe Şahin

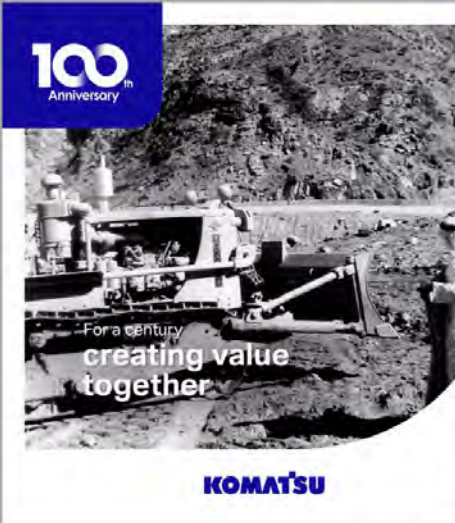
24 March 2022

18.00

via zoom



Asian Studies Center in collaboration with the Japanese Studies Association
Asia Talks Series: Business



100 years with
Komatsu

Yasushi Haga

羽賀靖

Komatsu Middle East FZE Istanbul Main Branch

25 March 2022

18.00

via zoom



Past Activities

Asian Studies Center in collaboration with the Japanese Studies Association
Asia Talks Series: Diplomatica



JAPAN IN INDO-PACIFIC
AND TURKEY'S ROLE TO
PLAY

Ambassador of Japan to Turkey
SUZUKI
Kazuhiro
鈴木 量博



08 April 2022
17.00 (IST)
via zoom

Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center cordially invites you to Asia Talks Series



Chinese Neoliberalism &
China–Pakistan Economic
Corridor



Sikander Ahmed Shah
Associate Professor at LUMS Centre for Chinese Legal
Studies
Uzair Kayani
Assistant Professor at Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law



15 April 2022
18.00 (IST)
20.00 (PKT)
via zoom



Bogazici University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites you to
ASIAN TALKS SERIES

China's Hidden Sufi Movement: The
Naqshbandiyya Mujaddidiyya among the Hui
by

Rian Thum
The University of Manchester



23 MAY 2022 - 18.00

Nafi Baba Building - Room 103

Due to the pandemic, the number of seats in the venue is limited,
therefore if you wish to physically attend the lecture please contact
batuhan.ozbelli@boun.edu.tr

The lecture will also be streamed live via Zoom:

<https://boun-edu-tr.zoom.us/j/97634546591?pwd=ZU5BYlY2dXVFTElubUFqTVgzQlRwQT09>



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites you to
ASIAN TALKS SERIES

PANEL
Belt and Road Initiative and
Asia in the New Era
by

Vusal Guliyev

Research Fellow, Boğaziçi University
Asian Studies Center

Asım Doğan

Research Fellow, Boğaziçi University
Asian Studies Center

The Growing Significance of
the Middle Corridor

China in "New Era": Belt and
Road Initiative



17 NOV 2022 - 18.00

TB 310 - Anderson Hall

(The entrances will be from the back door next to the Engineering Faculty)

Registration for non-BU Students or Staff:

batuhan.ozbelli@boun.edu.tr





Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center

cordially invites to the
Asia Talks Series



Death and Diplomacy in Marginal Ecologies: Funerary Rites in Early Medieval Inner Asia

Aybike Tezel

Ph.D. in Anthropology & Central Eurasian Studies,
Indiana University Bloomington



8 December 2023 Friday

18.00

Nafi Baba Building 103

The talk will be broadcast via BuLive

Password: 123986

Past Activities

The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA),
Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center and the Department of History
cordially invites to the
JICA Japanese Studies Chair Lecture

Intellectual and Social Aspects of Modernization in Japan

Professor
MATSUDA Koichiro
Rikkyo University



9 December 2022 Friday 17.00

Ozger Arnas Hall

(Kırmızı Salon)

The talk will also be broadcast on Zoom

registration for non BU members to the campus and Zoom
please contact
batuhan.ozbelli@boun.edu.tr



Bogazici University Asian Studies Center in collaboration with the
Japanese Studies Association
cordially invites you to
ASIA TALKS SERIES

Pan-Asianism

Conceptions of Rights in Pan-Asian Thought

by

Cemil Aydın

Professor at University of North Carolina
Department of History



14 DEC 2022 Wednesday - 18.00

Özger Arnas Hall (Kırmızı Salon)

Participation for non-BU members and students please contact: asia@boun.edu.tr



EXCHANGE OF CULTURAL WAVES: KOREA AND TÜRKİYE

23 DECEMBER 2022 17:00
NAFI BABA BUILDING
BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY, SOUTH CAMPUS
Moderated by Emeritus Prof. Dr. A. Selçuk Esenbel



PROF. DR.
ARZU ÖZTÜRKMEN

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY
CONSTRUCTING TELEVISION
CONTENT IN TÜRKİYE:
A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE
DİZİ GENRE

ASST. PROF.
YANG MIN-JI

INSTITUTE OF
MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES
BUSAN UNIVERSITY OF
FOREIGN STUDIES
COMMUNITY AND
COMMUNICATION, THE
ELEMENTS OF THE KOREAN
WAVE'S SUCCESS STRATEGY

RETD. AMB.
HAKAN OKÇAL

FORMER AMBASSADOR OF
TÜRKİYE TO KOREA
TURKISH-KOREAN RELATIONS
AND KOREAN CONTRIBUTION
TO CONTEMPORARY CULTURE
AS SEEN THROUGH
A PERSONAL PRISM

The talk will be broadcasted via zoom.



Bogaziçi University Asian Studies Center in collaboration with the
Department of History

cordially invites to the Online Panel

REMEMBERING AFGHANISTAN

A Dialogue of Academic and Personal Experiences

Meltem Türköz

Professor, Department of History,
Bogaziçi University

Childhood Memories of
Kabul's 'Golden Years'
1968-1974

Margaret Mills

Professor Emerita, Center for Folklore
Studies, The Ohio State University

Academic and Personal
Afghanistan: A Guest's
Memories 1969 to 2019

Selçuk Esenbel

Professor Emerita, Department of History,
Bogaziçi University

The Japanese Perception
of Afghanistan's
Classical Legacy



29 April 2023 Saturday 18.00

bulive code: 631449

<https://bulive.boun.edu.tr/b/sel-tw6-fla-qma>



Past Activities

Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center

cordially invites to the
Asia Talks Series

New Corridors Across a Shifting Eurasia:
The Belt and Road Initiative
Through Its First Decade

Xiangming Chen

Raether Distinguished Professor of Global Urban Studies
Trinity College, Connecticut



25 May 2023 Thursday

17.00

İbrahim Bodur Aiditorium

Boğaziçi University South Campus Natuk Birkan Building
registration for non BU members to the campus

please contact

batuhan.ozbelli@boun.edu.tr



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center

cordially invites to the
Asia Talks Series

DEMODERNIZATION

A Transnational Phenomenon

Yakov M. Rabkin

Emeritus Professor, Department of History, University of Montreal



14 September 2023

Thursday

17.00

Nafi Baba Building 103



Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center

cordially invites to the
Asia Talks Series

Remembering Wang Jingwei

Seeking Mnemonic Justice in Contemporary China

Zhiyi Yang

Professor, Goethe University Frankfurt



17 November 2023 Friday

18.00

Online via BuLive

<https://bulive.boun.edu.tr/b/zey-yaq-xkg-zmf>





Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center



cordially invites to the
Asia Talks Series

The Making of Republican Revolution in China:

Identity, Ideology, and the Role of the
Constitutionalists

Z. Hale Eroğlu

Boğaziçi University, Department of History





Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center

cordially invites to the
Asia Talks Series



Jewish Opposition to Israel's War on Gaza

Yakov Rabkin

Professor Emeritus of History at the Université de Montréal

YAKOV M. RABKIN

Yahudilerin
Siyonizm Karşıtlığı

ÇEVİREN
ŞAHİKA TOKEL



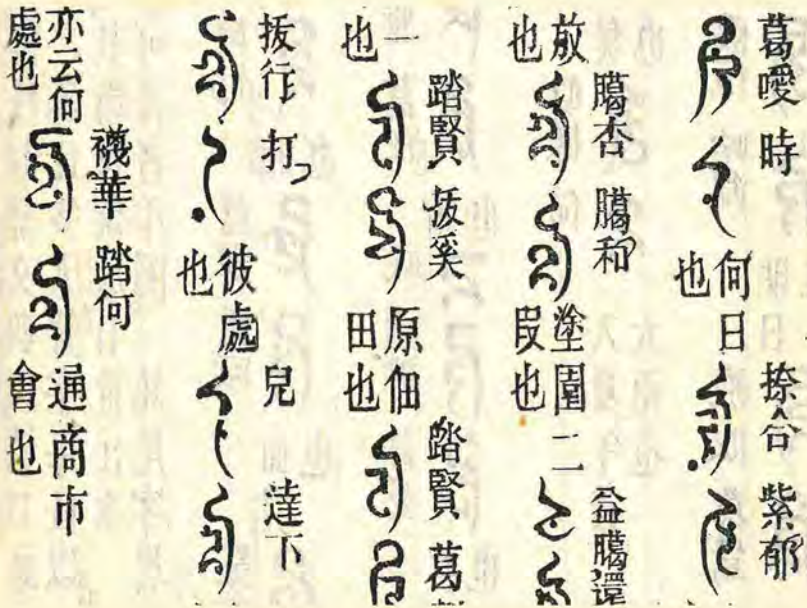
Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center
cordially invites to the
Asia Talks Series



CODES OF MODERNITY

Chinese Scripts in the Global Information Age

ULUĞ KUZUOĞLU



22 December 2023 Friday

17.00

Nafi Baba Building 103

The talk will be broadcasted via Bulive

MAAS ALUMNI
MAAS ALUMNI
MAAS ALUMNI

LIST OF MAAS GRADUATES (WITH THESIS)			
NO	YEAR	NAME	THESIS TITLE
1	2014	HÜSEYİN OĞUZ GENÇ	China's Developmental State and the Main Determinants of Its Growth During the Reform Era
2	2017	HÜLYA GÖRKEM DEMİRBULAK	Changing the Status of the Presidency: A Comparison of Constitutional Amendments in South Korea and Turkey
3	2017	EMRE TUNÇ SAKAOĞLU	Patterns of Contemporary Russo-Syrian Relations: A Realist Interpretation from the Moscow Perspective
4	2018	İREM CİHAN MUTER	Practices of Soft Power: A Comparison of South Korea and Turkey From the 1990s to 2017
5	2018	BARIŞ İSKENDER	One Nation, Two States": Turkey–Azerbaijan Economic Relations and the Rhetoric of Turkic Identity
6	2018	BURCU MİRKEİAM	Prospects for a Multicultural Korean Society: Minority Politics With a Focus on Afro-Koreans
7	2019	ZEYNEPCAN AKAR	Turkey, China and the Silk Road of Energy: The Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline
8	2019	TÜRKAN ARSLAN	Emerging Energy Trends in East Asia: The Relationship Between Production Levels and World Oil Prices
9	2019	ALP ANIL ATEŞ	The Making of Luxury Markets: A Comparison of Chinese and Turkish Patterns
10	2019	GÖZDE CAN	Nasreddin Efendi (Afanti) in the Chinese Media: A State Instrument for Coping With the Uyghur Issue
11	2019	ÇAĞDAŞ UTKU ÇAKMAK	Policy Convergence Between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China

12	2019	EBRU DUMAN	The Impact of Kawaii Culture on Gender and Japan's National Image
13	2019	MELİSA GÜNDÜZ	The Changing Role of Japanese NGOs: A Case Study of a Japanese NGO in Turkey
14	2019	ASLI İDİL KAYNAR	Representations of the Modern Girl in Japanese Interwar Literature
15	2019	CAN ÖÇALAN	Japan's Constitutional Revision Debate in the Light of Domestic and Regional Developments
16	2019	GÜNEŞ SARGÜNEY	Robotics and Ageing Well in Japan: The Challenges and Prospects for a Super-Aged Society
17	2019	REYHAN SİLİNGAR	The Emperor's Role in Postwar Japan: An Analysis of Emperor Showa's Addresses at Parliament Openings
18	2020	NAZLI ALMİRA BAĞLAR	Artificial Intelligence for Social Good: From a Global Perspective to a Regional One
19	2020	KEMAL SAF	A Marxist Reading of Kuroshima Denji
20	2021	CANSU GÜMÜŞ	The Legacy of Inequality in the Status of Turkish and Chinese Women's Rights to Property
21	2021	TANER KIR	The Strategic Importance of the Kuril Islands for Japan's National Security
22	2021	KUNTAY YİĞİT UÇAR	Hyundai Motor Company's Overseas Manufacturing Policy: The Analysis of Turkey as a Production Site
23	2021	MERVE YAŞI	Branding Washoku as an Instrument of Japanese Soft Power
24	2021	NESLİHAN YAKUT	The Impact of the Japanese Occupation on Contemporary Ethnic Politics in Malaysia

25	2022	YALIN AKÇEVİN	Understanding Jimintō (Liberal Democratic Party) Factionalism as a Structure of Elite Circulation in Japanese Politics
26	2022	BURCU KARAASLAN	The Perception of Chinggis Khan: A Comparison of Medieval Mongolian, Persian, and Chinese Historical Sources
27	2022	SEMİHA KARAOĞLU	Bunka Gaikō (Japan's Cultural Diplomacy) Re-constructing Japanese Identity in France and Turkey (1952–1989)
28	2022	AYŞE SELİN KOT	Tracing the Criminal Women in Edogawa Ranpo's Stories
29	2022	JENNIFER LEIGH NORRIS	The Influence of the Vajrapāni on Japanese Martial Ideologies
30	2023	ÇAĞLA ÖNİZ	Impact of Government Policies on the Development of the Korean Wave
31	2023	MELİS PEKTAŞ KİM	The Origin of South Korean Public Diplomacy: Kim Dae-jung Government and Its Relations with Japan
32	2024	BATUHAN ÖZBELLİ	Revolution in Abkhazia: Identity and Sovereignty (1917–1931)
33	2024	HASAN CAN ÖZTÜRK	An Analysis of Chinese Production and Financial Networks in the Turkish Economy
34	2024	GÖZDE TOP	Shifts in Cultural Policies in Post-Mao China: Analysis of the Sixth-Generation Films Under Xi Jinping's Rule
35	2024	FATMA ZÜLAL ÜÇİŞİK	The Impact of American Missionaries on Women's Education in the Ottoman Empire and Korea
36	2025	EDANUR ADALIOĞLU ŞEN	Osamu Dazai and the I-novel Genre in Japanese Literature

37	2025	SERAY AKKÜLAH	Women's Interest in 'Queer Literature': A Case on BL in China and South Korea
38	2025	CEMRE BAYBURA	Yōkai as Reflections of Modern Society in Pom Poko and Princess Mononoke
39	2025	YASEMİN DALDAL	Comparing Sakurahime and Yotsuya Kaidan by the 19th Century Kabuki Playwright Tsuruya Nanboku IV
40	2025	ELİF KURT CİVİL	Territorial Disputes and Sovereignty Claims: The Case of Dokdo/Takeshima and Regional Perspectives

MAAS ALUMNI

LIST OF MAAS GRADUATES (WITHOUT THESIS)		
No	Year	Name
1	2013	ÖMER FARUK KARATAŞ
2	2014	KATRE ÖLMEZ
3	2014	QIANWEN YI
4	2014	AMİNE ERTÜRK
5	2021	BAHAR ÖZLEM EKER
6	2021	ERDAL ERGİŞİ
7	2021	BAHAR ÜĞÜTÜCÜ
8	2022	DİDEM İPEKOĞLU
9	2022	TURUHAN ALKIR
10	2022	ASYA HAZAL BORAHAN
11	2022	BAHADIR NUMAN OKÇU
12	2023	PELİN ÖZER
13	2023	TUANA FULYA ÖZMEN
14	2023	AHMET ONAT SERİNKAN
15	2023	MİNA YALÇINTAŞ
16	2024	HATİCE İREM ÖZETLERER
17	2024	EYLÜL YAĞMAHAN
18	2025	ŞÜHEDA ÖZGE DEMİR
19	2025	MEHMET SELİM PULCU
20	2025	ELİF SEVEN

MA THESES – ABSTRACTS

2016

Genç, Hüseyin Oğuz

**China's Developmental State and the Main Determinants of Its Growth
During the Reform Era**

This thesis examines China's national development in late 20th century in the light of Japan's development process that has started with the Meiji restoration in late 19th century. The research is conducted in five parts in which starts with an introduction that provides a basic ideological discussion over the ideas on development and hegemony, and continues to discuss the main framework of 'the developmental state' theory developed by Chalmers Johnson in the early 1980s. A brief background to the theory is also presented during the first chapter, which is followed by the second chapter that offers a retrospective showcase for the 'Japanese developmental state' that follows with the Korean and Taiwanese and some other successful and failed examples of the model. Nonetheless, the economic stagnation in Japan that has started in the early 1990s is pictured to show the whereabouts of the 'developmental state' at the very place it started. The third chapter starts with China's development story starting from the post-1978 'reform' era. The political economy and the institutional structure of the Chinese state until recent years are examined to understand whether the Chinese state suits the 'East Asian developmental state' model at any measure. The fourth part includes a mathematical analysis to see whether the provided data for a wide range of Chinese industries support China's development model to evoke the Japanese case. The fifth and the last part winds up with a conclusion.

2017

Demirbulak, Hülya Görkem

Changing the Status of the Presidency:

A Comparison of Constitutional Amendments in South Korea and Turkey

The aim of this thesis is to plot South Korea and Turkey's journey towards a constitutional amendment by focusing on their current debates about

changing the status of the presidency and to find an answer to the question of whether the intended changes to the respective countries' constitutions will bring them close to a democratic presidential system. In this context, in this study, a general framework of both countries' constitutional developments throughout history and the characteristics of their constitutions will be drawn, and the parallelisms in their constitutional histories will be highlighted. Furthermore, the ongoing debates on constitutional revision appertaining to the presidency will be handled with the main matters in question and a comparative assessment will be made within the scope of the similarities and divergences between two countries. As the fundamental legal document defining basic principles of the state, regulating its relationship with the citizens, and reflecting the nation's history, its future goals, and its view of the world, a constitution constitutes a basis to fully understand a country. For this very reason, by examining the process of South Korean and Turkish constitutional developments throughout history and the current debates on constitutional amendments, this thesis offers the opportunity to thoroughly perceive both countries' political tradition, to better interpret our modern day, and to make more to-the-point inferences about their futures.

Sakaoğlu, Emre Tunç

Patterns of Contemporary Russo-Syrian Relations: A Realist Interpretation from the Moscow Perspective

The primary aim of this thesis is to shed light on the past, present, and near future of Russian-Syrian relations from a broadly realist perspective, the particular variants of which had been labeled as "old-fashioned" and therefore swept aside without a second thought until recently for their perceived inability to offer a reliable account of contemporary international relations. While trying to reveal the persistent trends, practical necessities, mutual interests, and shared threats underlying the historical evolution of this key bilateral relationship from 1945 till date; the following chapters further explore major fluctuations in the larger international context and the complex interplay between the geopolitical variables of each successive phase under scrutiny. Within this framework, particular attention is paid to the lasting – and apparently, still highly determinative – influence of certain considerations in shaping Russian strategies towards the Greater Middle

East. The main reason for this is to bring a convincing answer to widespread questions as to the dynamics behind the transformation of the ongoing Syrian crisis into a geopolitical black hole with utterly destructive repercussions for all parties involved, particularly Syria itself and those countries that lie in its immediate neighborhood. Such an academic inquiry is deemed essential at this stage in time, for the Syrian imbroglio is yet to be resolved. Whereas one needs to diagnose the disease accurately, in as rational a manner as possible, before searching for practical ways to cure it.

Muter, İrem Cihan

Practices of Soft Power:

A Comparison of South Korea and Turkey From the 1990s to 2017

Throughout the history, power has been conceived as the ability to get what you want through inducement or threats which is basically called hard power and states have been longly practicing hard power in order to get what they want from other nations. Distinctly from the conventional perception of power, many countries utilize soft power to gain what they want in the international arena in the 21st century. Foremost among them, Korea and Turkey the “brother nations” which have similar modern historical developments have been decidedly employing cultural diplomacy strategies and trying to gain a leverage in the international arena. In this thesis, soft power practices of the both countries were investigated and their global soft power rankings were compared based on Joseph Nye’s theory on three sources of soft power as cultural attractiveness, universal foreign policies and legitimate domestic politics.

2018

İskender, Barış

One Nation, Two States:

Turkey–Azerbaijan Economic Relations and the Rhetoric of Turkic Identity

The rhetoric of “One Nation, Two States” has been dominating the official expressions of Turkey-Azerbaijan relations since the independence of the latter in 1991. Along the way, both countries have been cooperating in energy

politics, regional disputes, and bilateral trade. However, it is not evident what role being Turkic plays in the commercial relations of Turkish businessmen in Azerbaijan. This study aims to carry out research that examines the impact of Turkic identity on the commercial dimension of Turkey-Azerbaijan brotherhood that is described with the official rhetoric of One Nation, Two States. After providing an historical account of the bilateral relations since 1991, the study analyzes them through the perspectives of realism, liberalism, and constructivism under the methodology of analytic eclecticism. To find out the impact of ideational factors on commercial links, interviews with Turkish diplomats and businessmen are conducted. At the end of the research, the study confirms the role of Turkic identity in initiating and facilitating the relations with the conclusion that they are mostly maintained by mutual interests in political dimension and compliance to liberal market dynamics in the commercial realm.

Mirkelam, Burcu

Prospects for a Multicultural Korean Society: Minority Politics With a Focus on Afro-Koreans

This thesis looks into the potential towards a multicultural South Korean society and possible improvement of minority politics with a focus on Afro-Asians in South Korea. The main research question is to what extent the Afro-Asian community can define a multicultural South Korea and challenge the nationalist discourse. It is aimed to look into the government policies to be able to understand the inclusion and exclusion mechanisms of the state towards the minorities and look into the limits of the multicultural policies towards this minority group. It will be maintained that although there has been an inclination to adopt multicultural policies for the integration of mixed-race individuals living in South Korea, its sphere of influence has been significantly limited and an effective policy-making is an important step for achieving multiculturalism. The implied policies do not necessarily change the public opinion and attitude towards multiculturalism. Although Koreans' view on foreigners, multicultural family and mixed-race individuals seem to be positive, there is still discrimination against them, decreased in its intensity. Hence, it will be argued that there are complex layers to multiculturalism in South Korea when the state-led policies, public opinion and personal

biographies of mixed-race Koreans looked into. In other words, there are different value systems attached to certain multi-ethnics in South Korea as celebrity and non-celebrity cases highlight. As the multicultural policies took initiative in the late 1990s, due to the influx of migrants, this thesis will look into the initiation of these policies until today in South Korea.

2019

Akar, Zeynepcan

**Turkey, China and the Silk Road of Energy:
The Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline**

This thesis analyzes the motives behind involvement of Turkey and China in the Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP). Referred as the Silk Road of Energy, TANAP is a fundamental section of Southern Gas Corridor which is an international new route for diversifying energy sources of Europe. TANAP is a recently constructed pipeline crossing Turkey and will carry 16 bcm of natural gas of Azerbaijan delivered from Shah Deniz 2 field, 6 bcm of which will be consumed in Turkish national market and the rest will be transferred to Europe. As an international project, TANAP received loans from various institutions, while World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) are co-financing the project. As a newly established institution spear-headed by China in 2015, AIIB aims to support infrastructure development in Asia, while TANAP is a section of a new energy route benefiting Europe, which is not directly within the spectrum of AIIB. Even though not directly involved, China imposes a role in TANAP through AIIB. The involvement of China through the loan provided by AIIB implies China's interest in this new energy route and is a subtle cooperation between Turkey and China on future energy relations. On the other hand, TANAP is a significant part of Turkey's aim to become an energy hub and highlights Turkey's strategic position between Asia and Europe while complimenting Turkey's energy security. The motives of Turkey are both strategic and energy security based while China has only strategic motives in involving in TANAP.

Arslan, Türkan

Emerging Energy Trends in East Asia:

The Relationship Between Production Levels and World Oil Prices

This thesis looks at the emerging energy trends in East Asia between the nations of Japan, China, and South Korea and the importance they have in the global energy market. Even though the world supply-demand situation of oil has been simplified due to the alternative energy sources in the past several decades, still oil is the most needed input for production. Industrialized countries such as Japan, China, and South Korea are known to be huge consumers of the oil and petroleum products for meeting high demand. In microeconomics, supply and demand relationship is one of the economic models of price determination; the price of a product can differ in time significantly according to the market. Therefore, the question is whether the demand of East Asia for petroleum has any impact on this price determination. I have observed that some reports and economists claim that the increasing demand for oil from East Asia is the key factor for oil prices to fluctuate for the last couple of years.

Ateş, Alp Anıl

The Making of Luxury Markets:

A Comparison of Chinese and Turkish Patterns

During the recent decades of globalization, consumption practice of the people in developing countries has drastically changed and ostentatious products have become popular. This study explores the luxury consumption behavior and patterns of different cultures through a comparative study of the Chinese and Turkish experiences of conspicuous consumption. In order to assess these patterns, the study adopts the conceptual framework of Thorstein Veblen's *The Theory of the Leisure Class* and Pierre Bourdieu's *Distinction: A Social Critique of Judgement of Taste*. The study argues that the recent Chinese and Turkish experiences of conspicuous consumption patterns of middle classes are in step in general with the modern industrial society's phase of intensive consumption patterns which emerged previously in the United States and Europe that have been theorized extensively in the works of Veblen and Bourdieu. The study's second argument, however, shows that

the perception of attractiveness is different for each culture which impacts the kind of conspicuous consumption that has been experienced in China and Turkey. Furthermore, consumption habits in China and Turkey vary due to cultural influences that combine patterns of Western and traditional values, and the development level of the country. Thus, knowledge about the Chinese and Turkish experiences help contribute to our understanding of the global patterns of conspicuous consumption as a social phenomenon of economic transformation by bringing in examples from geographies outside of the urban experiences in the United States and Europe.

Can, Gözde

Nasreddin Efendi (Afanti) in the Chinese Media: A State Instrument for Coping With the Uyghur Issue

This thesis looks into the question of how Nasreddin Hodja is used in the Chinese media under the Chinese name —Afanti¹¹ as a state instrument for coping with the Uyghur issue. In answering this question, Afanti animated films that have been produced and broadcasted in China since the foundation of the People's Republic of China are taken into consideration. These animated films are *Afanti de Gushi* 阿凡提 的故事 (The Story of Afanti), *Shaonian Afanti* 少年阿凡提 (The Young Afanti), *Laoxiao Afanti* 老小阿凡提 (The Old and the Little Afanti), *Afanti Xinzhuan* 阿凡提 新 (Legend of Afanti), and *Afanti Zhi Qiyuan Lixian* 阿凡提之奇 (The Adventure of Afanti). Through an analysis of the Chinese state's minority policies and a comparison with the related animated films, it is seen that Afanti figure has been constructed as a state tool to handle the Xinjiang issue, to rebuild a state-sanctioned Xinjiang image, to integrate Xinjiang into China, and to position Xinjiang under Chinese hegemony with an oriental approach. This repositioning is intended both for the Uyghur and the Han audience. Through this usage, the state-constructed Afanti image is also promoted as a state-approved Uyghur ethnic role model for the Uyghurs. Through these animated films, a shared modernity, secularity, and Han-Uyghur integration is also aimed.

Çakmak, Çağdaş Utku
Policy Convergence Between the Russian Federation
and the People's Republic of China"

This thesis examines the bilateral relations between Russia and China based on the policy convergence theory. The aim of the thesis is to analyze Sino-Russian relations within the framework of policy convergence theory and to determine the areas in which policy convergence occurs. The introduction chapter explains the study, the literature used about the policy convergence theory and the framework of the study. The second chapter gives the literature about the policy convergence theory used in the thesis. The third chapter explains the historical background of Sino-Soviet Relations and how they end up from comrades to enemies after the Zhenbao Island Incident. Chapter four analyzes the political relations of Russia and China, in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, in the United Nations Security Council, common stance against the radical Islam and American containment policy and military cooperation. The fifth chapter is covering economic relations between Russia and China, in BRICS, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Russian Far East and convergence on energy trade and policies. The sixth and the last chapter is the conclusion and overall evaluation of the policy convergence between Russia and China.

Duman, Ebru
The Impact of Kawaii Culture on Gender
and Japan's National Image

The aim of this thesis is to examine Japan's usage of kawaii culture as a soft power and to discuss whether it has been trying to change its worldwide image, while considering masculinity and femininity dimensions in culture. In this respect, historical progress and characteristics of Japan's kawaii culture will be analyzed, and the global effects of kawaii will be explained with examples. As a country with a high masculinity index, Japan always had a negative image of a tough, militarist nation. Recently, kawaii culture has been drawing attention with its feminine qualities and has sparked an interest both in Japan and around the world. Japanese government has also been contributing to the spread of kawaii culture and has made many attempts for that purpose. In this study, Japan in terms of masculinity and

femininity dimensions will be analyzed and arguments about them will be evaluated. Emphasizing the importance of soft power, the influence of gender roles in Japan and kawaii culture will be studied, and as a result the direction of Japan on the international platform will be discussed. In order to discover to what extent Japan has achieved to replace its negative image with a positive one and affected gender role perceptions around the world, examples of kawaii's spread into other countries will be studied.

Gündüz, Melisa

The Changing Role of Japanese NGOs: A Case Study of a Japanese NGO in Turkey

The aim of this thesis is to present the late, yet steady development of Japanese humanitarian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the sector of global humanitarian aid by focusing on one international Japanese humanitarian aid NGO, the Association for Aid and Relief Japan, and its operation in the Syrian refugee response in Turkey. In this context, the study provides a general framework of the late development of the Japanese humanitarian aid through NGOs from the post-war period until the current day, highlighting the parallelism in their contemporary place both in overseas operations and government. Furthermore, the study will discuss the ongoing growth of their operations within the main matter in question and draw on the field operation of the AARJ within the scope of their steady and sturdy growth. Along with the desolate continuity of man-made crises, and the rise of unpredictable environmental crises, the visible growth of humanitarian aid through NGOs has gained a greater value and place within the global governance systems as one of the most practical and efficient response mechanisms. Therefore, by examining the real time field experience of the AARJ and its donor relations, this thesis offers the opportunity to thoroughly perceive the potential and possibilities in relation to the future of Japanese humanitarian aid NGOs.

Kaynar, Aslı İdil

Representations of the Modern Girl in Japanese Interwar Literature

This study explores the Japanese modern girl's (*moga*) representations in Taishō and early Shōwa texts, and the role these representations played

in women finding their voice in literature. The project acknowledges the modern girl figure as a character of fiction and a real-life figure. Examining the modern girl's position within the Japanese feminist writing, the study supports the idea that whereas the media wanted to turn her into a passive figure or a stereotype by objectifying her, literary texts' portrayals of this figure are of great variety. The modern girl differs from her contemporary, the New Woman in that, The New Woman appeared before *moga* in 1910s as a politically active feminist figure, whereas *moga* was defined as passive. *Moga* drew attention due to her Westernized looks and the way she took an active part in the public space. For these reasons, she became an inspiration for many authors. Through context based analysis of Tanizaki Jun'ichirō's and Uno Chiyo's selected literary works, and Kawabata Yasunari's *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa* (*Asakusa kurenaidan*) this study reveals the common patterns in the protagonists' relationships with the modern girl analyzed within the theoretical framework of objectification. This thesis argues that *moga* in real life was a complex figure that cannot be simply categorized as a product of mass culture. The study ends with the suggestion that there is still much to explore about the modern girl, especially through examining her representations in literary texts.

Öçalan, Can

Japan's Constitutional Revision Debate in the Light of Domestic and Regional Developments

The biggest factor that makes the Japanese constitution special is its pacifist article which blocks Japanese army to be deployed in overseas. This constitution, which was written during the American invasion, has not been changed for 70 years. Until the end of the Cold War, Japan displayed a passive and quiet stance in the bipolar world. But the internal and external changes that took place after the Cold War led Japan to rearrange its policies. The pragmatists in the Liberal Democratic Party, lost their power and the bipolar world order is long gone. This complexity gave birth to push Japan to adopt a different policy, particularly to revise its constitution. The main aim of this thesis is to examine the reasons behind the constitutional revision and to prove that these reasons are actually intertwined.

Sargüney, Güneş

Robotics and Ageing Well in Japan:

The Challenges and Prospects for a Super-Aged Society

This thesis looks into the question of how the rapid ageing of the population in Japan is affecting the nation, and what are the main solutions the Japanese government has been developing, especially with the use of robotic technologies. In answering this question, the government reports on ageing and technology are taken into consideration. These reports are Annual report on the aging society:2018 by the Cabinet Office, New Robot Strategy. Japan' Robot Strategy - Vision, Strategy, Action Plan of 2015 and The 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan of 2016. Through an analysis of these reports and corresponding studies, it is seen that rather than solving the issues that are accelerating the population ageing in Japan, mainly decrease in fertility and challenging immigration policies, the Japanese government is planning to utilise new technologies, especially robotic technologies to mitigate the problem. The government's plans also include leading the newly emerging field of medical and nursing robots and creating a favourable environment within the global robotics market for Japanese robots and technology. Through these developments in technology, Japan intends to address the issues born out of population ageing while creating an opportunity for companies and institutions to obtain a large share of the global robotics market.

Silingar, Reyhan

The Emperor's Role in Postwar Japan:

An Analysis of Emperor Showa's Addresses at Parliament Openings

Japan has the oldest and yet still continuing monarchy in the world. Despite the change of the emperors along with Japanese history, the question remains the same: What precisely is the role of the emperor in a highly developed country with liberal democracy? This thesis will attempt to answer this continuously asked question with a discourse analysis of Emperor Showa's addresses at the opening ceremony of the National Diet (Japanese parliament) between 1947 and 1988. By putting forward the context of the Showa emperor, one of the most controversial figures in modern times in terms of the role he is believed to have played in the decade of Japanese expansionism during WW

II, this thesis will argue that the emperor is not a mere symbolic figurehead. This thesis will ultimately prove with its empirical findings that the emperor serves the collective memory of Japan possessing an integrative power and thus contributes to the stabilization of the country.

2020

Bağlar, Nazlı Almira

**Artificial Intelligence for Social Good:
From a Global Perspective to a Regional One**

This thesis looks into the question of how the use of artificial intelligence can be utilized for the social good, what problems can it alleviate and what possible solution we can discover by using these new technologies around aligned with the specific needs of the countries with an emphasis on cases from Japan and China. In answering this question, the reports on the subjects from governments, international organizations, global and regional NGOs are used as a framework to reach conclusions about the means AI-based technologies are implemented for the purpose of social good. While considering these notions, the thesis also examines the proposed and applied AI legislations of the countries, the approaches made by various technology companies and the views from academia. Just like many other organizations and institutions working on the subject, the thesis uses the United Nations' Sustainable Goals as a general scheme while addressing the societal problems that can be solved by AI applications, and offers advices for future frameworks while enabling social good.

Saf, Kemal

A Marxist Reading of Kuroshima Denji"

Although there exist many critical studies discussing Japanese proletarian literature, Kuroshima Denji, an anti-war proletarian writer and his works, unfortunately, still have not drawn much interest from academic circles. Moreover, Kuroshima Denji has been defined more as an anti-war writer rather than a proletarian author since most proletarian authors tend to write about the relationship between workers and the capitalist class. Nonetheless, knowing about Kuroshima Denji's works will clarify and contribute to the

understanding of the conditions that gave birth to the proletarian literature in Taishō or even in Meiji Japan. This thesis discusses Kuroshima Denji's stories within the scope of a Marxist literary critique, and it details a deeper understanding of his sociopolitical viewpoint mentioned in his novels.

2021

Gümüş, Cansu

**The Legacy of Inequality in the Status of
Turkish and Chinese Women's Rights to Property**

This study aims to present an analysis comparing the differences and similarities of women's property right both as a legal concept and as a practice in China and Turkey. The focus is particularly on property rights because property is a determining factor for women's decision-making power, independence and self-determination. In fact, in the reforms Mao and Atatürk made to change the inferior position of women, they gave equality to women in property and inheritance fields. However, many women still cannot freely exercise their right to property and share of inheritance in current Turkey and China. Therefore, in order to understand this contradiction for Turkish and Chinese women who have legally gained rights but could not implement them much in practice, the property rights of women in pre-reform period in China and Turkey are examined in detail.

Kır, Taner

**The Strategic Importance of the Kuril Islands for Japan's National
Security**

This thesis was written on the strategic importance of the Northern Territories, for which Japan and Russia did not sign the peace treaty that would end the Second World War. Claiming that the four islands of the Kuril Islands chain, Habomai, Kunashir, Shikotan and, Etorofu, which are close to Japan, are connected to Hokkaido, which is in the northernmost part of Japan, and claiming that they are unjustly occupied, Japan demands the return of these islands to itself. This study, which deals with the military, economic and, political-strategic importance of these islands, which cause mutual conflict, has examined the effects of the Northern Region on Japan's national security.

As a result of the study, it has been revealed that the economic potential of the islands is high and that it can benefit Japan, but it is not of high importance in terms of military security.

Uçar, Kuntay Yiğit

Hyundai Motor Company's Overseas Manufacturing Policy: The Analysis of Turkey as a Production Site

By the 1980s, the dominance globalization was felt on the world economy. Large companies in developed countries have started to make overseas investments in order to make more profit, consequently they have turned into multinational companies. Developing countries also need to have some qualifications to attract these investments in to their own countries for economic development and stability. Foreign direct investments have effects on many macroeconomic indicators such as employment, exports, balance of payments, production, and inflation of the host country. Due to the understanding of the importance of these investments in Turkey by 1970s, foreign direct investments on Turkish Automotive Sector started. Automotive sector has a key role on economic development for both developed and emerging countries. It is known that automotive sector has a very important place for the Turkish economy. Foreign capital investments on automotive sector played an important role for the growth of the Turkish economy. In this context, it has become necessary to conduct more studies on foreign capital investments made in automotive industry, which can be seen as the locomotive sector of country's economy. In this thesis, the development and growth of the Turkish Automotive Industry with foreign capital investments has been examined in light of the investments made by South Korean Hyundai Motors Company in Turkey. In addition, the effects of Hyundai Assan joint venture on country's economy and the results of these effects in terms of economy, politics and social areas are examined.

Yahşi, Merve

Branding Washoku as an Instrument of Japanese Soft Power

Japanese food has become a global trend over the past two decades, and boosted the international standing of Japan. This study delineates the role

of Japanese cuisine, or *washoku*, as an instrument of Japanese soft power. It traces how *washoku* was transformed into a strong national brand and how this brand was framed differently in domestic and global contexts. This thesis argues that while the promotion of *washoku* abroad depicts it as a flourishing cuisine based on characteristics such as respect to nature, seasonality, and a well-balanced diet, in the domestic context it is designed to address issues like a decreasing domestic interest in Japanese foods and the need for greater self-sufficiency in food production. This thesis also argues that through the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List nomination process, Japan was able to combine these two concerns and create a comprehensive strategy to strengthen the *washoku* brand on both national and global levels.

Yakut, Neslihan

The Impact of the Japanese Occupation on Contemporary Ethnic Politics in Malaysia

This study aims to analyze how the Japanese occupation of Malaysia, back then Malaya, created a post-war continuation in the formation of contemporary ethnic politics under Malay political primacy in Malaysia between 1945-1969. The brief Japanese occupation has ramped up the nationalist sentiments and political experiences of not only the Malays but also the Chinese and Indians, who were regarded as transient communities. The Japanese military experience of Malaysia between 1941 and 1945 brought dramatic political changes that were beyond the ability and expectations of pre-war colonial power of Malaysia: The British, which resulted in the decolonization of Malaysia. While independence was achieved as a result of the nationalist movements of all ethnic groups that emerged with the Japanese occupation, the Malays found room to actualize their nationalist agendas in fields of politics, economy, and nation-building. This study observes the role of Japan in the consolidation of ethnic politics in Malaysia under Malay ethnocracy by predicating on the impacts of the Japanese invasion.

2022

Akçevin, Yalın

**Understanding Jimintō (Liberal Democratic Party) Factionalism
as a Structure of Elite Circulation in Japanese Politics"**

The factions of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (Jimintō/LDP) have been subjected to different analyses over the years, each seeking to explain their origins and functions, and to forecast their future. Factions have been studied from cultural and functional-structural viewpoints, and have been characterized as being integral to both the functioning and breakdown of the Japanese political system and the LDP. This study aims to expand the discussion on the factions by moving beyond both these existing viewpoints by using the works of Weber, Michels, Pareto, and Mosca, and by introducing a new model for attributing levels of significance to the circulation of elites. Thus, this study seeks to examine the changing power and influence of the factions as a structure that is integral to the cycle of elite circulation in Japanese politics. While doing so, this study also aims to reexamine the functions and significance of the factions and the Japanese Prime Minister as a factional representative from the viewpoint of elite theories, whilst locating the Japanese case as firmly outside the scope of Japanese exceptionalism as possible by comparing it to the case of Italy's *Democrazia Cristiana* (DC). The findings indicate that the factions of the LDP have functioned as conflicting elite organizations with discernible policy involvements and differentiations. In addition, their powers have shifted in response to the needs of the party and the nation, producing the leadership changes necessary and ensuring that the political elites have been in a state of circulation within the LDP.

Karaarslan, Burcu

The Perception of Chinggis Khan:

**A Comparison of Medieval Mongolian, Persian, and
Chinese Historical Sources**

This study aims to present a comprehensive understanding of Chinggis Khan's life, career, and policies by comparing his perception via evaluating the fair and harsh policies of Chinggis Khan in major primary sources in

its Inner Asian context and conception of political legitimacy. Accordingly, *The Secret History of the Mongols, Jami' al-Tawarikh and Yuan Shi, Chapter 1* examined and concluded that they have similar perceptions about Chinggis Khan, but their approach to the events differs. In this respect, to reconcile these differences, the compilers emphasize Chinggis Khan's good deeds and legitimize or censor things they attribute negatively in accordance with the conditions of the sovereignty of the Mongols, Persia, and China during the compilation process of these sources.

Karaoğlu, Semiha

Bunka Gaikō (Japan's Cultural Diplomacy)

Re-constructing Japanese Identity in France and Turkey (1952–1989)''

Japan has evolved into a cultural nation in the aftermath of World War II owing to the promulgation of the Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan. Given its pacifist culture and emerging role as a responsible member of the global society, cultural diplomacy became the primary and immediate foreign policy instrument to reconstruct Japanese identity in international relations long before the theory of Soft Power emerged. The present research unveils Japan's identity reconstruction through cultural diplomacy as a rehabilitative and constructive foreign policy mechanism to heal its image as a peace-loving nation by comparing Japan's cultural diplomacy in France and Turkey between 1952 and 1989 comparatively to discern what kind of perception of Japan has emerged as a product of Japan's international cultural policies in both countries. Ultimately, the thesis reveals that Japan's cultural diplomacy in France has generated an intellectual ecosystem, whereas, in Turkey, the perception of Japan and Japanese culture remains underdeveloped due to the lack of an official culture house—inaugurated by the Government of Japan—which can constitute a legitimate institute or culture house to coordinate international cultural policies.

Kot, Ayşe Selin

Tracing the Criminal Women in Edogawa Ranpo's Stories

Edogawa Ranpo is a Japanese author whose works concentrate on detective fiction. This study focuses on the portrayal of criminal women in his detective

fiction works, *Appearance of Osei* (Osei Tōjō), *Beast in the Shadows* (Injū), and *Caterpillar* (Imo Mushi). The study analyses their roles as wives, lovers, and aggressors in their surroundings, and argues that by getting his female protagonists to murder their husbands, Ranpo liberates these women from the social pressure and burden of the patriarchal structures placed on them. To discuss the patriarchal oppression and these women characters' agency, this research adopts a context-based analysis through the structuration theory. The thesis also argues that by bending the norms of the structures they are restricted in, these criminal characters can be considered as a statement against the *ryōsai kenbo* (good wife, wise mother) ideology of Meiji Japan.

Norris, Jennifer

The Influence of the Vajrapāni on Japanese Martial Ideologies

This study follows the relationship between the iconic warrior figure *Vajrapāni*, and two of its derived characters: *Fudō Myō-ō* and the *Niō*, as they influence the development of martial ideology in Japan, following the symbolic representations developed in India and the patterns of royal interactions developed in China, culminating in an analysis of modern martial relevance. Origin theories and symbolism are first addressed, to which I will add two observations pertaining to the Bharhut *yavana* the iconic warrior figure dating to the first century BCE and the cross-chest belt *channavīra*, as a symbol of warrior qualities. The integration of *Fudō* into the imperial and political spheres via Shingon Buddhist priest Amoghavajra in China, and the manner in which it was carried forward into Japan by *Kūkai* are examined. *Vajrapāni* extended from the imperial house within Japan and entwined with the several groups including the developing warrior class (bushi) and fighting monks, commonly known as *Sōhei*, as well as means of popular culture. This thesis demonstrates how the *Vajrapāni* and its derivative characters, have played a foundational role in the development of martial ideology in Japan, which was guided through features that were evident from the *Vajrapāni*'s origin, including imperial connection, liminality, bellicosity, transitional or liminal status, association with 'necessary evil' and popular appeal. It is the aim of this thesis to aid the depth of the bridging of ancient Buddhist symbolism and mythological meaning and current martial philosophy.

2023

Öniz, Çağla

Impact of Government Policies on the Development of the Korean Wave

The Korean Wave has turned into a global phenomenon over the past decade. Whereas the popularity of the Korean Wave was mostly limited to Asia until the end of the 2000s, it started to spread all over the world from the early 2010s and evolved from niche cultural trend status to a global phenomenon. In a world dominated by Western cultural hegemony, South Korea has become one of the few countries that can export many forms of its cultural content globally. This thesis investigates the reasons behind the spread of the Korean Wave, and discusses the role of the South Korean government and Korean conglomerates, as well as the importance of digital platforms. This study also explores the contribution of the development and spread of the Korean Wave to South Korea.

Kim, Melis Pektaş

**The Origin of South Korean Public Diplomacy:
Kim Dae-jung Government and Its Relations with Japan**

On August 15, 1945, the Japanese rule in the Korean Peninsula came to an end, and then Korea was liberated. Five years later, however, the Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950. South and North Koreans were tremendously impacted by the Korean War and Japanese colonialism. Especially, “assimilation policies” implemented by the Japanese government in the 1930s and 1940s damaged the consciousness of national and cultural identities among the people. Therefore, since the liberation, Korean governments prioritized the reconsolidating of national identities and pride among the people with anti-Japanese sentiment. In the post-colonial environment, Korean governments mostly benefited from the concept of “culture” to reconstruct the national and cultural consciousness of Koreans. However, culture would become an industry in Korea because democracy was ensured in South Korea, the struggles against the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis began and the country's administrators realized the importance of globalization. Thus, the Kim Dae-Jung period government further developed the Korean cultural industry, and

this situation created the foundations of Korean public diplomacy. Within this context, to explain the emergence of Korean public diplomacy, the research will focus on the change of cultural policies in the Korean peninsula from the past to the present. Finally, the paper will also discuss the first attempts of the Kim Dae-Jung government to implement public diplomacy in Korea-Japan bilateral relations. The aim is to maintain the historical bond between the two countries and make it clearer that the foundation of Korean public diplomacy was first laid by Kim Dae-Jung.

2024

Özbelli, Batuhan

Revolution in Abkhazia: Identity and Sovereignty (1917–1931)

In 1917, the revolutionary movements that led to the dissolution of the Russian Empire paved the way for many ethnic minorities to develop their own national policies and pursue first autonomy and then independence. Among the ethnicities that developed their own national policies in the chaotic aftermath of the revolution were the Abkhaz, a local Caucasian people. The aristocratic class and the elites established an ethnic administration in the country. The Abkhaz, who became a minority in their own country after the deportations under Tsarism, established identity and sovereignty relations with many elements in order to pursue their ethno-national interests. The Abkhaz, inclined towards the Mountaineer unity established in the North Caucasus, accepted the definition of Mountaineer as a higher identity and politically became part of the Mountain confederation. However, the micro-imperialist policies of Menshevik Georgia, which became independent during this period, led to the Georgian occupation of Abkhazia and the beginning of a period of repression. With the 1921 Bolshevik victory, the Abkhaz communists succeeded in establishing a Soviet republic on an equal footing with Georgia. Between 1921 and 1931, the Abkhaz, as a titular ethnicity, pursued a method of governance in Abkhazia based on ethno-national interests. In the 1930s, with the change of the Soviet Nationalities Policy, Abkhaz ethno-nationalism was liquidated. This thesis explores the motivation of Abkhaz identity and sovereignty politics during the revolutionary period and analyzes the ethnic factors that influenced this process.

Öztürk, Hasan Can

An Analysis of Chinese Production and Financial Networks in the Turkish Economy

This thesis employs the networked structure within the Global Economic Networks (GENs) framework to examine China's position in Turkish production and financial networks. Analyzing bilateral export/import and investment data further argues that China's elevated position in GENs since its opening-up process is preceded by its increasing activity in the global production network, then assisted by the accelerated presence of Chinese financial entities in global financial networks. In this regard, the study employs Sino-Turkish bilateral trade relations as a case study to test whether the entry of Chinese financial institutions into the Turkish market trigger an increase in activity in Chinese production networks. The thesis searches mainly for the structural link made possible by the manufacturing network, facilitating the synergy between production and financial activities. Answering these questions, the study concludes that the Chinese manufacturing network demonstrates a robust profile with its increasing export performance to Turkey. Additionally, the study finds that Chinese financial entities contribute to this profile by providing funding support such as credit and loans or intermediary services to coordinate acquisitions.

Top, Gözde

Shifts in Cultural Policies in Post-Mao China: Analysis of the Sixth-Generation Films Under Xi Jinping's Rule

This thesis will address the question of China's attitude toward independent films and filmmakers, known as the Sixth Generation, in the context of the great transformation of the country because of the reform policies of Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s. Sixth-generation filmmakers tried to hold a mirror to China's changing social landscape by focusing on deteriorating interpersonal and family relationships and the new marginal segments emerging in metropolitan cities. In doing so, they relied primarily on their own experiences. They created their own social influence by making the deteriorating social institutions in today's China the main subject of their films. Their relationship with the government and governmental institutions

has always been inconsistent. This thesis will try to understand the changing relations between artists and the government and the shifts in cultural policies of the government by making a close reading of the films of the leading names of the Sixth Generation, Jia Zhangke and Wang Xiaoshuai, throughout three decades. The thesis claims that filmmakers have to negotiate with the relevant state institutions consistently to shoot their films, and the Chinese government, including Xi Jinping, never had an apparent political attitude and regulations regarding the organization of the cultural field; instead, it argues that filmmakers can release their films in China as a result of constant negotiations and bargaining with government institutions.

Üçışık, Fatma Zülal

The Impact of American Missionaries on Women's Education in the Ottoman Empire and Korea

The American foreign missionary movement began in 1810 with the establishment of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM). This voluntary organization oversaw American missionary activity in foreign countries. American missionaries traveled to various countries such as India, Hawaii, Burma, Africa, China, Japan, the Middle East, and Korea. Protestant missionaries prioritized mass education, allowing people to study the Bible in their native languages, leading to the establishment of educational institutions in these regions. This thesis explores the significant role of American missionaries in women's education in the Ottoman Empire and Korea during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This research highlights the similarities and differences in their impact on the social, cultural, and political landscapes of the Ottoman Empire and Korea by offering a comparative analysis of their educational efforts. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions supervised the missionary activity in foreign lands, and the American missionaries' established educational institutions wherever they went. Their focus on mass education and teaching the Bible in native languages played a significant role in developing women's education in both regions. Due to the efforts of missionaries in promoting women's education, numerous women from diverse backgrounds were able to receive education. As a result, American missionary schools for women and their graduates played a vital role in the contemporary education system and

made significant contributions to women's education. This study compares the impact of missionary activities on women's education in the Ottoman Empire and Korea. Through a comparative analysis, it aims to identify the similarities and differences in the influence of American missionary women's education on these two regions.

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Şen, Edanur Adalıoğlu

Osamu Dazai and the I-novel Genre in Japanese Literature

The I-novel genre is arguably one of the most unique forms of Japanese literature. Emerging after the rise of naturalism in post-*Meiji* Japan, the genre gained its popularity for its honest and intimate nature. Supporters of the I-novel tradition praised it for being the truest form of Japanese literature, where the writer bares his soul to his readers and creates a bond based on trust and sincerity. Osamu Dazai and Naoya Shiga are recognized as prominent figures who brought this genre to its peak. However, various scholars are hesitant to call Osamu Dazai an I-novelist due to his unique approach to the genre. This thesis is concerned with the I-novel as a literary phenomenon and the position of Osamu Dazai within the Japanese literary world. In order to understand Dazai's literature, this thesis will first attempt to define the borders and characteristics of the I-novel genre by analyzing the definitions and limitations Japanese literary scholars proposed, and a comparative analysis between Dazai's and Shiga's works will be conducted to identify the points at which Dazai's literature deviates from the I-novel tradition. The findings of this research propose that conflicting opinions on whether Osamu Dazai's writings conform to the I-novel tradition should be of secondary importance. This thesis argues that Dazai should be regarded as a unique phenomenon, as a hybrid author whose works marked the transition period from the I-novel enthusiasm to the period of post-war literature.

Akkulah, Seray

Women's Interest in 'Queer Literature': A Case on BL in China and South Korea

Boys Love (BL) is a genre produced by women for women that is dedicated on depicting romantic and sexual relationships between two males. It has originated in Japan during the 1970s, quickly spreading its neighbors China and South Korea where it has gained a remarkable popularity which it now enjoys in a global scale. This study traces BL's journey from Japan to China and South Korea while presenting social backgrounds on the aforementioned nations. This thesis argues that BL has emerged initially as a result of a feminist response against the women's repressed positions in society as an outlet for them to relieve their frustrations, becoming a realm to have fun through 'playing with gender' in time, hence in its essence it does not aim to represent queer identities and it does not define itself as queer therefore it is not political from a queer perspective and it cannot be classified as 'queer literature.' This study also argues that the difference in the level of severity in the reactions toward BL content by the Chinese and Korean states is due to their different tactics on how they generate consent from the people and how they position and utilize soft power as a tool in their endeavor for integrating to the global economy.

Baybura, Cemre

Yōkai as Reflections of Modern Society in Pom Poko and Princess Mononoke

The aim of this thesis is to examine the role of *yōkai* ("supernatural and strange entities") in modern Japanese society by analyzing two critically acclaimed animated movies *Pom Poko* (1994) and *Princess Mononoke* (1997) by Studio Ghibli. The movies, which are both centered around *yōkai* and *yōkai* related supernatural folklore use the *yōkai* to reflect contemporary Japanese society. The movies achieve this by showing the negative effects of rapid modernization has on *yōkai* in the movies, which are usually in the form of anthropomorphized animals. These negative effects include pollution, destruction of nature, deforestation, and animal deaths related to these consequences. The animal visage of *yōkai*, their mysterious status as creatures

of the borderlands and their deep and rich history so well integrated in Japanese culture allows the directors of the movies Isao Takahata and Hayao Miyazaki to tackle issues that plague modern Japan. I believe looking at how folklore has been incorporated into popular culture is significant in this day and age. This is why I chose two animated movies beloved by both Japanese and global audiences. By analyzing these movies, I came to the conclusion that, *yōkai* play a big role in Japan: A reflection of society itself. I argue that the movies use *yōkai* to inspire younger audiences to think critically of the nature and culture they are a part of.

Daldal, Yasemin

Comparing Sakurahime and Yotsuya Kaidan

by the 19th Century Kabuki Playwright Tsuruya Nanboku IV"

This thesis explores the evolution of female characters in 19th century Edo *kabuki* through a comparative analysis of two plays by Tsuruya Nanboku IV (1755-1829): *Sakurahime Azuma Bunshō* and *Tōkaidō Yotsuya Kaidan*. Initially motivated by the question of whether social changes of the era could be traced through *kabuki's* female figures, the research narrows its focus to investigate how differing portrayals of women may explain the varying popularity of these plays. By situating the plays within the socio-cultural context of late Edo Japan and examining the influence of the *kaidan* genre, the study argues that Nanboku's character Princess Sakura served as a precursor to the more radical and enduring figure of Oiwa. The analysis suggests that Nanboku's evolving experimentation with female archetypes reflects both audience expectations and a broader cultural shift, culminating in Oiwa's uniquely personal and destructive revenge—a major factor in the lasting impact of *Yotsuya Kaidan*.

Civil, Elif Kurt

Territorial Disputes and Sovereignty Claims:

The Case of Dokdo/Takeshima and Regional Perspectives

Asia has long been home to unresolved territorial and maritime disputes, particularly in the East China Sea and South China Sea. These disputes are not just about law or history but they also reflect the struggles over regional

influence. Among these, the dispute involving the islets called Dokdo by Korea and Takeshima by Japan remains one of the most long-standing and sensitive ones in the region. An important cause is the uncertainty embedded in the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty. While the treaty officially ended World War II and required Japan to give up its colonial claims, it failed to clearly state who holds sovereignty over several islets, including Dokdo/Takeshima. This lack of clarity has allowed Korea and Japan to interpret the treaty in ways that support their respective positions. This thesis examines how the dispute has evolved by analyzing historical events, key treaties and diplomatic statements. To better understand the nature of the disputes, the thesis also compares them with other conflicts in East and Southeast Asia that share similar aspects. By doing so, it examines the impact of the U.S. on the formation of the postwar setting and explores how symbolic actions—like Korea’s “Dokdo Day” and Japan’s “Takeshima Day”—are used to strengthen national identity and public awareness. This study argues that resolving such disputes requires more than legal solutions; it also requires historical understanding and long-term diplomatic effort.



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