UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI L'ORIENTALE

Dottorato Asia Africa e Mediterraneo

CEST



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CEST Summer School

THE POLITICS OF ARCHIVES IN TURKEY AND RELATED GEOGRAPHIES

20-27

September 2026

University of Naples L'Orientale

In cooperation with

universität wien

SciencesPo

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SUITS Institute for Turkish Studies

CEST Summer School 2026

Naples, 20-27 September

University of Naples L'Orientale

Scientific Committee
Yavuz Köse, Elise Massicard, Lea Nocera

Organizing Committee
Lea Nocera, Valentina Marcella

Administrative Secretariat
Riccardo Rosa

This Summer School is convened as part of the Consortium for European Symposia on Turkey (CEST), *funded by Stiftung Mercator and administered by the Stockholm University Institute of Turkish Studies. Members of the Consortium are based at SciencesPo Paris, University of Vienna, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, University of Naples L'Orientale, Stockholm University, University of Copenhagen, and University of Deusto. CEST is also supported by the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program at Northwestern University.*
http://cest-turkey.org

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Synopsis of Events

Sunday, 20 September @ **Riot Studio**
17.00 – Welcome and Opening
17.30 – Keynote Lecture
19.00 – Welcome Dinner

Monday, 21 September @ **Palazzo Du Mesnil**
09.00-10.00 – Lecture #1
10.00-10.30 – Coffee break
10.30-12.00 – Seminar #1
12.00-13.30 – Lunch
13.30-15.30 – Short presentation of all participants
16.00-18.00 – Afternoon Lecture
20.00 – Dinner @ Signora Bettola

Tuesday, 22 September @ **Palazzo Corigliano**
9.30-10.30 – Lecture #2
10.30-11.00 – Coffee break
11.00-12.30 – Seminar #2
12.30-13.30 – Lunch
14.00-18.00 – Lecture and Excursion #1 @ Pio Monte della Misericordia
19.00 – Dinner @ Trattoria Medina

Wednesday, 23 September @ **Palazzo Giusso**
9.30-10.30 – Lecture #3
10.30-11.00 – Coffee break
11.00-12.30 – Seminar #3
12.30-13.30 – Lunch
13.30-15.30 – Workshop
16.00-18.00 – Excursion #2 @ CartaStorie
19.00 – Dinner @ Taverna Santa Chiara

Thursday, 24 September @ **Palazzo Du Mesnil**
9.00-10.00 – Lecture #4
10.00-10.30 – Coffee break
10.30-12.00 – Seminar #4
12.30-13.30 – Lunch
14.00-16.00 – Workshop

Friday, 25 September
9.00-10.30 – Excursion #3 @ Palazzo Corigliano
11.00-12.30 – Excursion #4 @ Archivio di Stato
13.00-14.00 – Lunch @ Palazzo Giusso
14.00-15.00 – Lecture #5
15.00-15.30 – Coffee break

15.30-17.00 – Seminar #5
19.00 – Dinner @ Al 53

Saturday, 26 September @ Palazzo Du Mesnil
9.00-10.30 – Presentations 1st round
10.30-11.00 – Coffee break
11.00-12.30 – Presentations 2nd round
12.30-13.30 – Lunch
13.30-15.00 – Presentations 3rd round
15.30-17.00 – General Conclusions / Participants' Feedback
19.30 – Goodbye Dinner @ Al 53

Summer School Theme

The 2026 **CEST Summer School** is dedicated to the theme "The Politics of Archives in Turkey and Related Geographies". The programme offers a week-long theoretical and practical training focused on archives that preserve, organise, and disseminate materials related to the history of the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey.

Preserving, cataloguing, organising, and granting — or restricting — access to documents, newspapers, and ephemera are distinctly political practices. If archives are to be considered "not as sites of knowledge retrieval but of knowledge production, as monuments of states as well as sites of state ethnography," as Ann Laura Stoler has argued, we must adopt a critical approach that regards archives themselves, as well as practices of (des-)archiving, as objects of study. In contemporary Turkey and related geographies, struggles over archival access, classification, and digitisation are inseparable from broader debates about sovereignty, national history, identity claims, and the boundaries of permissible knowledge. Decisions concerning access and classification represent exercises of institutional sovereignty that shape which histories can be written and which remain marginalised.

In recent years, new collections have emerged or become accessible, while other archives and collections have been closed to the public. At the same time, numerous NGOs and private actors have developed alternative archiving practices. The digitisation of documents has also made thousands of items accessible remotely, sometimes creating an overabundance of certain sources to the detriment of other collections. The Summer School will examine how the availability of online documents shapes knowledge and research, as well as the limits and advantages of multimedia and transnational platforms for the preservation of digital materials. It will also consider how cataloguing practices and archival organisation, often shaped by heritage policies, can hinder research on minorities, marginalised subjects, and politically sensitive topics.

Beyond textual documents, archives also structure access to visual and oral-history sources. The programme will therefore explore what these materials can tell us and how researchers can move beyond the sense of immediacy and the fascination often produced by aesthetically appealing sources. Taking these questions as its starting point, the Summer School will interrogate both the materiality and the politics of archiving across different institutional and cultural settings.

Organizing Institutions

University of Naples L'Orientale (UniOr) | Host Institution

Founded in 1732 as the Chinese College by Matteo Ripa—a lay priest and missionary who served at the court of the Manchu Qing Emperor Kangxi between 1711 and 1723, the University of Naples "L'Orientale" is the oldest school of Oriental Studies in Europe. It is internationally renowned for its expertise in languages, cultures, histories and societies across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Its distinctive interdisciplinary and international outlook promotes the study of cultural diversity, cross-cultural encounters and global connections.

The Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies (DAAM) brings together specialists working on the languages, literatures, histories, religions, philosophies, arts and archaeological heritage of Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean. Building on L'Orientale's long scholarly tradition, the Department places particular emphasis on the historical and contemporary exchanges linking these regions and supports international research collaborations, student mobility and archaeological missions. L'Orientale established Italy's first chair in Turkish as early as 1890 and today offers the country's broadest range of Ottoman and Turkish studies, encompassing Turkish language, classical and modern literature, philology, Ottoman and modern history.

https://www.unior.it/en

Consortium for European Symposia on Turkey (CEST)

The Consortium for European Symposia on Turkey (CEST) is committed to the critical study of modern Turkey. It brings together the expertise of leading European research institutions with the aim to understand the society, politics and cultures of Turkey and its neighborhoods and to promote Turkey as a case study for mainstream social sciences. Members of the Consortium are based at SciencesPo Paris, University of Vienna, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, University of Naples L'Orientale, Stockholm University, University of Copenhagen, and University of Deusto. CEST is also generously supported by the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program at Northwestern University. The Consortium was launched in March 2015 at the University of Graz. It has since organized and offered multiple symposia and summer schools, many of which have produced edited volumes and special journal issues.

http://cest-turkey.org

Stiftung Mercator

Stiftung Mercator is the major funder of CEST. We are indebted for their generous support. Stiftung Mercator is a private and independent foundation. It strives for a society characterized by an openness to the world, solidarity,

and equal opportunities. In this context, it focuses on strengthening Europe; increasing the educational success of disadvantaged children and young people, especially those of migrant origin; driving forward climate change mitigation; and promoting science and the humanities. Stiftung Mercator symbolizes the connection between academic expertise and practical project experience. One of Germany's leading foundations, it is active both nationally and internationally.

www.stiftung-mercator.de/en/

Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS)

The Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS) is an independent, interdisciplinary research institute in the humanities and social sciences. The Institute's research focuses on issues related to international relations and diaspora studies; society, politics and history, and human rights and democracy. SUITS contributes to a deep and nuanced understanding of Turkey among researchers, opinion leaders, business leaders, and the general public in Scandinavia, Europe, and beyond. In addition to research, SUITS engages in outreach activities such as open lectures, conferences, workshops, and interactions with government and civil society.

https://www.suits.su.se

University of Vienna

The University of Vienna (German: Universität Wien) is a public research university located in Vienna, Austria. Founded in 1365 by Duke Rudolf IV, it is the oldest university in the German-speaking world and one of the oldest universities in Europe. Today, it is Austria's largest university, with around 87,000 students and approximately 11,000 members of staff. The University comprises 20 faculties and centres and offers a broad range of disciplines across the humanities, social sciences, law, theology, natural and life sciences. Research combines disciplinary depth with extensive interdisciplinary and international cooperation, and the University is consistently ranked among the leading research universities in Europe.

The Department of Near Eastern Studies is the only institution of its kind in Austria and one of the largest in Central Europe. Its research and teaching cover Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Archaeology, Arabic Studies, Islamic Studies, and Turkish Studies, with a particular focus on Ottoman Studies and the history and culture of modern Turkey. The University of Vienna is also a central partner in ViHOPE – the Vienna Hub for Interdisciplinary Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Studies, which connects more than sixty researchers from the University of Vienna, Central European University, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and other institutions. ViHOPE promotes interdisciplinary cooperation across the humanities and social sciences and strengthens Vienna's role as an international centre for Ottoman and post-Ottoman studies.

https://www.univie.ac.at/en/

Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po)

Sciences Po or Sciences Po Paris, formally known as the Paris Institute of Political Studies (French: Institut d'études politiques de Paris), is a public research university located in Paris, France. The school was established in 1872 by Émile Boutmy as the *École libre des sciences politiques* in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War as a private institution to form a new French elite that would be knowledgeable in political science, law, and history. It was a pioneer in the emergence and development of political science as an academic field in France. Following World War II, the school was nationalized and re-established as a public institution. While Sciences Po historically specialized in political and administrative science, it progressively expanded to other social sciences such as economics, law, and sociology.

Sciences Po has seven campuses in France, with each specialising in different regions of the globe. Research at Sciences Po covers economics, law, history, sociology and political science, while also taking in interdisciplinary topics such as cities, political ecology, sustainable development, socio-economics and globalization. Sciences Po's core curriculum has historically been very transdisciplinary, as the students go through introductory classes to disciplines as diverse as political science, economics, history, law and international relations. Sciences Po is home to a research community that includes over 200 researchers and 350 PhD candidates. The institute has research centers, seven of which are affiliated with France's National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), among which the Centre for International Studies (CERI), which produces comparative and historical analysis on foreign societies, international relations, and political, social and economic phenomena.

https://www.sciencespo.fr/en/

Symposium Program

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

17.00 **Welcome and introductory remarks**
Lea Nocera (Università di Napoli L'Orientale/CEST)
Elise Massicard (Sciences Po–Paris/CNRS/CEST)
Yavuz Köse (Universität Wien/CEST)

17.30 – 18.30 **Keynote Lecture**

Digital Hermeneutics in the Data Lifecycle: Archival Data, Enrichment, and Controlled RAG Systems as Research Infrastructure
Martin Gasteiner (Universität Wien)

19.00 **Welcome Dinner**

📍 **Where?**
RIOT STUDIO - via San Biagio dei Librai, 39

MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

9.00 – 10.00 **Lecture and Seminar #1 pt.1**
Making the Modern Turkish Citizen: A Talk and Workshop on Vernacular Family Photographs
Özge Calafato (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

10.00 – 10.30 **Coffee break**

10.30 – 12.00 **Lecture and Seminar #1 pt.2**
Making the Modern Turkish Citizen: A Talk and Workshop on Vernacular Family Photographs
Özge Calafato (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

12.00 – 13.30 **Lunch**

13.30 – 15.30 **Short presentations of all participants**

16.00 – 18.00 **Afternoon Lecture**

Artificial Intelligence in Archives: Opportunities, Risks, and the Future of Archival Practice
Giorgia Di Marcantonio (Università di Napoli L'Orientale)

20.00 **Dinner**

📍 **Where?**
PALAZZO DU MESNIL - via Chiatamone, 61 | Lectures, lunch, presentations
TRATTORIA SIGNORA BETTOLA - via Raffaele de Cesare, 27 | Dinner

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

9.30 – 10.30 **Lecture and Seminar #2 pt. 1**

Witnessing and Documenting as Forms of Engagement: The Making of (Counter-)Archives in Turkey and Kurdistan
Özgür Sevgi Göral (CETOBaC/EHESS)

10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee break**

11.00 – 12.30 **Lecture and Seminar #2 pt. 2**

Witnessing and Documenting as Forms of Engagement: The Making of (Counter-)Archives in Turkey and Kurdistan
Özgür Sevgi Göral (CETOBaC/EHESS)

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch**

14.00 – 18.00 **Afternoon Lecture and Excursion #1 at Pio Monte della Misericordia**

Doing Research in Small Archives: Visual Traces and Textual Evidence at the Pio Monte della Misericordia of Naples
Rosita D'Amora (Sapienza Università di Roma)

19.00 **Dinner**

📍**Where?**
PALAZZO CORIGLIANO - piazza San Domenico Maggiore, 12 | Lectures, lunch
PIO MONTE DELLA MISERICORDIA - Via dei Tribunali, 253 | Excursion
TRATTORIA MEDINA - Via Medina, 43 | Dinner

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

9.30 – 10.30 **Lecture and Seminar #3 pt.1**

Preserving Alevi Cultural Heritage: Family Archives, Private Collectors and Academic Initiatives

Janina Karolewski (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig)

10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee break**

11.00 – 12.30 **Lecture and Seminar #3 pt.2**

Preserving Alevi Cultural Heritage: Family Archives, Private Collectors and Academic Initiatives

Janina Karolewski (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig)

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch**

13.30 – 15.30 **Workshop**

From PhD to Postdoc and from Postdoc to job: Navigating the MSCA Global Application

Matteo Legrenzi (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

16.00 – 18.00 **Excursion #2**

Il Cartastorie – Museo dell'Archivio Storico del Banco di Napoli

Institutional Welcome: Marcello D'Aponte (President)

19.00 **Dinner**

📍**Where?**
PALAZZO GIUSSO - largo San Giovanni Maggiore, 30 | Lectures, lunch, workshop
MUSEO DELL'ARCHIVIO STORICO DEL BANCO DI NAPOLI - via dei Tribunali, 214 | Excursion
TAVERNA A SANTA CHIARA - Via Santa Chiara, 6 | Dinner

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

9.00 – 10.00 **Lecture and Seminar #4 pt. 1**

Microhistory and Biographical Methods through Self-Narrative Sources and Family Archives

Nazan Maksudyan (Freie Universität Berlin/Centre Marc Bloch)

10.00 – 10.30 **Coffee break**

10.30 – 12.00 **Lecture and Seminar #4 pt. 2**

Microhistory and Biographical Methods through Self-Narrative Sources and Family Archives

Nazan Maksudyan (Freie Universität Berlin/Centre Marc Bloch)

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch**

14.00 – 16.00 **Workshop**

Curating Archives: The Perils and Promise of a Multivocal Approach to Public History

Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal (Scuola Superiore Meridionale)

16.00 **Free Afternoon and Dinner**

📍**Where?**
PALAZZO DU MESNIL - via Chiatamone, 61 | Lectures and workshop

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

9.00 – 12.30 **Excursions**

9.00 – 10.30 **Excursion #3:** Manuscript Section / L'Orientale Library

An Islamic Manuscript Library in Naples: Circulation, Knowledge Networks, and the Making of Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, and Persian Manuscript Collections
Francesca Bellino (Università di Napoli L'Orientale)
Luca Berardi (Università di Napoli L'Orientale)

11.00 - 12.30	**Excursion #4:** State Archives of Naples
13.00 – 14.00	**Lunch**
14.00 – 15.00	**Lecture and Seminar #5 pt.1**
	Between states and statelessness: archival sites and relations in a securitized transnational space
	Alice von Bieberstein (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
15.00 – 15.30	**Coffee break**
15.30 – 17.00	**Lecture and Seminar #5 pt.2**
	Between states and statelessness: archival sites relations in a securitized transnational space
	Alice von Bieberstein (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
19.00	**Dinner**

📍**Where?**
PALAZZO CORIGLIANO - piazza San Domenico Maggiore, 12 | E1
ARCHIVIO DI STATO DI NAPOLI - piazzetta del Grande Archivio, 5 | E2
PALAZZO GIUSSO – largo San Giovanni Maggiore, 30 | Lecture, seminar
AL 53 - piazza Dante, 53 | Dinner

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

9.00 – 10.30	**Presentations 1st Round and Feedback**
10.30 – 11.00	**Coffee break**
11.00 – 12.30	**Presentations 2st Round and Feedback**
12.30 – 13.30	**Lunch**
13.30 – 15.00	**Presentations 3rd Round and Feedback**
15.30 – 17.00	**General Conclusions / Participants' Feedback**
19.30	**Goodbye Dinner**

📍**Where?**
PALAZZO DU MESNIL – via Chiatamone, 61 | Presentations and conclusions
AL 53 - Piazza Dante, 53 |Dinner

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Departure of participants

Speakers' Abstracts & Bios

Francesca Bellino and Luca Berardi

An Islamic Manuscript Library in Naples: Circulation, Knowledge Networks, and the Making of Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, and Persian Manuscript Collections

The University of Naples L'Orientale holds a small collection of approximately 250 Islamic manuscripts, mostly in Arabic, alongside a smaller number of works in Persian and Ottoman Turkish. The collection took shape through a complex and multifaceted history of acquisitions, bringing together different groups of manuscripts that vary widely in subject matter and geographical provenance. Most of them date from the Ottoman period and, taken together, offer an interesting cross-section of Arabic manuscript production, circulation, and scholarly culture during these centuries.

The visit will explore the formation of the collection and the networks of knowledge and book circulation that contributed to shaping it. Particular attention will be devoted to a group of medical manuscripts that, in the early 1930s, formed part of the private library of a Yemeni physician. This group provides a particularly revealing case study for examining medical knowledge, manuscript culture, and the circulation of books in Ottoman and post-Ottoman Yemen, as well as the processes through which private libraries entered European academic collections.

Francesca Bellino is Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Naples L'Orientale. Her research focuses on premodern Arabic literature, Islamic manuscript culture, encyclopaedism, and the transmission of knowledge. She has published on popular Arabic literature, cosmography, adab, and the natural world in Arabic textual culture. She is the editor of *The Collection of the Islamic Manuscripts on Medicine and Magic at L'Orientale* (2025). She has been a visiting researcher at Princeton University, the University of Tokyo, the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and Harvard University.

Luca Berardi is Associate Professor of Ottoman History at the University of Naples L'Orientale. His research interests include Ottoman cartography, manuscript culture, and the history of the book in the early modern Islamic world. He has been involved in the survey, cataloguing, and study of Ottoman manuscripts held in Italian libraries. As part of this research, he published the *Catalogue of the Turkish Manuscripts in the Libraries of Southern Italy* (2018).

Özge Calafato

Making the Modern Turkish Citizen: A Talk and Workshop on Family Photographs

This combined session pairs a book talk with a hands-on workshop, using family photographs as a way of thinking through identity, citizenship, memory, and belonging.

The opening talk focuses on *Making the Modern Turkish Citizen: Vernacular Photography in the Early Republican Era* (I.B. Tauris/Bloomsbury, 2022), which examines how self-representations in vernacular photographs helped produce, negotiate and disseminate the figure of the modern Turkish citizen in the Republic's formative decades, namely in the 1920s and the 1930s. Drawing on an extensive photographic archive, the book points to the classed and gendered nature of the Turkish nation-building process, showing the ways in which citizens both complied with and complicated the ideal citizen-image promoted by the Kemalist regime through photography.

The workshop that follows turns this inquiry toward participants' own family photographs. Working with personal photographs, participants will consider what family archives can reveal about gender and class identities, citizenship, memory and belonging, thinking with the photograph as a cultural object carrying distinct social and cultural histories as well as intimacies whose meanings shift over time.

The talk and workshop together move from scholarly analysis of a corpus from an institutional archive to a participatory exploration of personal ones, asking what is included, what is left out, and what photographs make visible about the relationship between individual and familial lives, national identity, and collective memory.

Özge Baykan Calafato is a Lecturer in Literary and Cultural Analysis at the University of Amsterdam and also teaches in the Archival Studies program at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. Her research focuses on photography, archives, heritage, and transnational memory, with particular attention to vernacular visual cultures and migration histories across Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean. Calafato is the author of *Making the Modern Turkish Citizen: Vernacular Photography in the Early Republican Era* (I.B. Tauris/Bloomsbury, 2022), which explores how self-representations in vernacular photographs negotiated notions of national identity, modernity and citizenship in the formative years of modern Turkey. Between 2014 and 2020, she served as Assistant Director of Akkasah, the Center for Photography at New York University Abu Dhabi.

Rosita D'Amora

Doing Research in Small Archives: Visual Traces and Textual Evidence at the Pio Monte della Misericordia of Naples

In the heart of Naples' historic center stands a beautiful 17th-century palace that has long served as the headquarters of the Pio Monte della Misericordia, an institution founded in 1602 by seven young Neapolitan nobles to provide concrete relief to a large segment of the population struggling in poverty. The Palace houses a church famous primarily for preserving Caravaggio's masterpiece, *The Seven Works of Mercy*. Surrounding Caravaggio's altarpiece are six other masterpieces by 17th-century Neapolitan masters, including *Saint Paulinus Redeeming the Slave* by Giovanni Bernardino Azzolino (1572–1645). This painting stands as an important iconographic testament to one of the most significant works of mercy that the Pio Monte regularly carried out from 1629 to 1856: redeeming Christians, inhabitants of the City and the Kingdom of Naples who had "by misfortune fallen into the hands of the Turks" and needed to be freed, through the payment of a ransom, above all from the danger of converting to Islam. Following the visual traces and textual evidence preserved in the Historical Archive of the Pio Monte della Misericordia, this

lecture explores the strategies and mechanisms of the slave ransoms carried out by the institution and examines how these records interact with documents housed in other city archives, focusing on the opportunities and limitations presented by research in smaller archival collections.

Rosita D'Amora is Associate Professor of Turkish Studies at Sapienza Università di Roma. Prior to this appointment, she has worked as Associate Professor at the University of Salento (Lecce, Italy) and between 2014 and 2016 she has been visiting professor at The Amsterdam School for Regional, Transnational and European Studies (ARTES) of the University of Amsterdam.

Her research interests range from Ottoman social history to contemporary Turkish literature, addressing issues related to different forms of representation and auto-representation of Ottoman and Turkish society. Her research has focused on the cultural exchange and interconnections between Southern Italy and the Ottoman Empire starting from the 17th century; the analysis of the politics of masculine headgear, and the turban in particular, in the Ottoman Empire; and on the most recent trends that have emerged in Turkish language literature, especially those that investigate gender, linguistic and cultural differences, and borders. Lately she has also been working on the role of cultural cross-boundary mediators between Italy and the Ottoman Empire, like the Bolognese Count Luigi Ferdinando Marsili (1685-1730), and the networks of translators and the circulations of translations and ideas in the Mediterranean starting from the second half of the 19th century.

She is the author of *Corso di Lingua Turca* (Hoepli, 2012) which is used as a textbook for learning Turkish in all Italian universities. Her latest publication, published by Marietti1820 in 2025, is an edited volume entitled *Alaturka/alafranga. Interazioni culturali fra Turchia ed Europa mediterranea*.

Giorgia Di Marcantonio

Artificial Intelligence in Archives: Opportunities, Risks, and the Future of Archival Practice

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly reshaping the ways in which archival records are created, managed, described, preserved, and accessed. From handwritten text recognition and automated metadata extraction to semantic search, knowledge graphs, and Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), AI technologies are opening new possibilities for archival institutions while simultaneously raising important methodological, ethical, and professional questions.

This lecture provides an overview of the current landscape of AI applications in archival science, moving beyond the purely technological perspective to examine their impact on archival principles and practices. Rather than asking whether AI can replace archival work, the discussion focuses on how AI can support archivists throughout the records lifecycle while preserving authenticity, provenance, context, and trustworthiness.

Drawing on recent international research projects and practical experiences in the digital transformation of archives, the lecture aims to provide participants with both a critical framework and practical insights for understanding how Artificial Intelligence is transforming archival work and how archival science can actively contribute to shaping trustworthy AI ecosystems for cultural heritage.

Giorgia Di Marcantonio is Associate Professor of Archival Science, Bibliography and Library Science at the University of Naples L'Orientale. Her research lies at the intersection of archival science, Digital Humanities and Artificial Intelligence, with a particular focus on digitisation, knowledge representation, semantic technologies, Large Language Models (LLMs) and Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) for archives and cultural heritage. She is a member of the Scientific Committee of JLIS.it and is actively involved in national and international research networks in archival and information studies.

Martin Gasteiner

Digital Hermeneutics in the Data Lifecycle: Archival Data, Enrichment, and Controlled RAG Systems as Research Infrastructure

In the context of artificial intelligence, archival data are increasingly regarded as a promising resource for new forms of search, analysis, and knowledge production. Yet precisely when archival materials become machine-readable, extractable, and synthesizable, their specific media logic becomes most apparent: archival data are not neutral raw data. They are historically accumulated, materially situated, institutionally ordered, and legally framed traces. Their digital usability therefore does not result from digitization alone, but from technically and curatorially controlled transformation processes through which sources are selected, described, enriched, modelled, indexed, queried, evaluated, and preserved.

The talk develops a model of an extended data lifecycle for humanities and cultural heritage research data. This model builds on established research data and curation frameworks, but shifts the focus from the management of discrete datasets to the operational transformation of archival evidence. The extended lifecycle becomes operative wherever analogue or digital sources are transformed into machine-readable, semantically modelled, and critically verifiable research spaces. Its central phases are not understood as a linear sequence, but as a recursive process: corpus formation, source modelling, enrichment, extraction, retrieval, evaluation, and curatorial revision continuously influence one another. The approach differs from classical lifecycle models above all by treating retrieval, RAG, evidential assessment, and the marking of epistemic uncertainty as integral components of scholarly infrastructure.

Digital hermeneutics, in this context, is not simply a technical extension of historical source criticism. Classical source criticism asks about provenance, transmission, authenticity, context, intention, and evidential value. Digital hermeneutics additionally asks how a source is transformed, segmented, normalized, linked, and made queryable through media-specific, algorithmic, and infrastructural operations. Following Michel Serres, every transmission of information can be understood as a passage through channels, noise, mediation, and translation. Data do not exist outside these mediations; they are produced through them. What is preserved in the archive as document, finding aid, shelfmark, map, register, or object is not simply represented in digital space. It is transferred into new relations, formats, and regimes of queryability. Digital hermeneutics makes these translations visible and relates them back to the demands of historical source criticism.

The talk focuses on three technical and methodological operations: AI-assisted enrichment of historical texts and metadata, the extraction of structured information from archival sources, and the design of controlled Retrieval-Augmented Generation systems. Technically, this involves the interaction of OCR and HTR, entity extraction, entity linking, authority data integration, knowledge graphs, semantic indexing, and RAG architectures. The decisive point, however, is not the accumulation of individual technologies, but their integration into a verifiable research design. Scholarly RAG systems must not be designed as mere answer machines. They must be able to show which sources were used, which transformations these sources have undergone, what evidence supports a generated answer, and where the source base remains uncertain, contradictory, or insufficient.

The practical example is ActivEnvironment, an archival implementation of the RECONTEXT approach. The project addresses scattered, multilingual, and heterogeneously described GLAM collections related to historical resource extraction in Central Europe. Information on mining, landscape transformation, resource management, environmental impact, and regional economies is preserved in archives, libraries, museums, geological databases, and local collections, but is rarely queryable across institutional and media boundaries. Through semantic metadata modelling, entity linking, knowledge graphs, and Retrieval-Augmented Generation, these materials are transformed into a connected evidential space. ActivEnvironment thus demonstrates how archival materials can be enriched without being detached from their provenance: additional ecological, geographical, mineralogical, technical, and societal layers of context extend the source while preserving its evidential status.

The talk argues for a digital hermeneutics in which libraries, archives, and research infrastructures act as active media of translation, stabilization, and control. AI does not replace source criticism; it makes its infrastructural preconditions more visible and more demanding. Archival data become visible through digitization, queryable through enrichment, structured through extraction, and synthesizable through RAG systems. They become scientifically reliable, however, only through curatorial control, methodological evaluation, and institutional responsibility.

Martin Gasteiner is a historian, cultural scholar and librarian at Vienna University Library. He studied History at the University of Vienna and has long been concerned with the methodological and epistemological transformations brought about by digital technologies in the historical and cultural disciplines.
In 2010, together with Peter Haber, he edited the volume *Digitale Arbeitstechniken für Geistes- und Kulturwissenschaften* (*Digital Research Methods for the Humanities and Cultural Studies*). Since then, his work has combined the conceptual development of digital research methods with the establishment of the services and infrastructures required to support them. His current interests encompass Digital Humanities, the digital processing of historical sources and research data management, with a particular emphasis on handwriting recognition, machine learning and generative artificial intelligence in historical research.
A central focus of his current work is the development of source-grounded and curated Retrieval-Augmented Generation systems. Rather than merely supplying language models with large quantities of text, these systems are intended to incorporate historical sources, their material and textual transmission, provenance, uncertainties and scholarly modelling into the production of knowledge in a transparent and traceable manner. Through research projects including RASPE and

ActiveEnvironment, he contributes to the development of digital research environments that combine transcription, data modelling, semantic enrichment, visualisation and AI-assisted interpretation.
Alongside his work on digital research infrastructures, Gasteiner develops concepts and formats for scholarly and cultural communication. These include communication and discussion formats created in the context of the Vienna Festival, as well as the *Research Library Podcast* produced by Vienna University Library, which he devised, produces and hosts as an interviewer. In conversations with researchers, cultural practitioners and those responsible for scholarly institutions, he brings specific research questions into dialogue with a critical examination of digital transformation, research infrastructures and the societal role of universities and memory institutions. His work thus lies at the intersection of historical scholarship, technological development, research infrastructure and public engagement with research.

Özgür Sevgi Göral

Witnessing and Documenting as Forms of Engagement: The Making of (Counter-)Archives in Turkey and Kurdistan

The sustained efforts to establish "(counter-)archives" in relation to the violent pasts and presents of Turkey and Kurdistan, undertaken by various political and social movements as well as by civil society actors, intellectuals, and scholars, marked the first two decades of the 2000s. These activist and community archives were organically intertwined with documentation initiatives carried out by NGOs. Following the partial awakening of the 1990s, an archive fever became pervasive throughout the 2000s, emerging as an alternative mode of knowledge production, as an attempt to generate new regimes of truth, and as a democratic perspective aimed at fostering human rights–based and more inclusive practices of archival production.

Taken together, the trajectory of these efforts offers crucial insights into the forms of state violence, the persistence of impunity, the mechanisms of truth-making, and the positionality of the intelligentsia in Turkey. Drawing on my experience at Hafıza Merkezi, an NGO established in Istanbul in 2011 to document grave human rights violations in Turkey from a transitional justice perspective, I will examine the heterogeneous and at times contradictory terrain of (counter-)archiving by considering, in a holistic manner, the initiatives of different movements, NGOs, and civic actors.

Özgür Sevgi Göral is a researcher at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) and holds the UXIL-ICM Chair at the Centre d'études turques, ottomanes, balkaniques et centrasiatiques (CETOBaC), where she leads the research project Waiting for Godot: Different Regimes of Migrant Temporalities from Turkey within the European Space. Her work explores the intersections of law, political violence, memory, affect, and migration, while foregrounding the experiences and political agency of political and social movements, with particular attention to the Kurdish conflict. She is a co-founder of the Truth Justice Memory Center (Hafıza Merkezi), where she directed the Memory Studies Program from 2010 to 2018. She has taught at several universities in Turkey and subsequently conducted postdoctoral research at Université Paris 8, was a visiting researcher at the University of Cambridge, and taught at Sciences Po and INALCO. She has published several articles and books, and is the author of *Yaramız Derindir: Hafıza Sahası ve Sömürgeci Afazi* (İstos, 2023).

Janina Karolewski

Preserving Alevi Cultural Heritage: Family Archives, Private Collectors and Academic Initiatives

Within the broader framework of archival politics in the Republic of Turkey, this lecture examines the case of Alevi cultural heritage and the practices of its preservation, collection, and archiving. After an overview of the relevant source materials, I will first show that archival activities have long been embedded in Alevi communal practices, gaining additional momentum in particular during the Republican period. I will then discuss concrete examples of Alevi private individuals who—often extending beyond their own family histories—began to safeguard both material and immaterial sources. Finally, the lecture will focus on a selected set of academic initiatives in Turkey and abroad that seek to archive resources from Alevi communities. These include, but are not limited to, manuscripts and documents as well as oral history records and oral literature. The talk will conclude with an introduction to the recently launched 'Alevi Archive' project, outlining its research programme, methodological approach, and conceptual understanding of 'archive.'

Janina Karolewski is research associate in the project 'Alevi Archive' at the Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig, Germany. She has been working on the social history and manuscript culture of Alevi villages in Anatolia. Her current research interest is the development of Alevi groups, with a focus on their written transmission, social and religious hierarchies, and relationships to non-Alevi communities and institutions.

Matteo Legrenzi

From PhD to Postdoc and from Postdoc to job: Navigating the MSCA Global Application

The seminar will explore post-doc funding opportunities with a particular focus on the MSCA Global fellowship program run by the European Research Agency (ERA). This particular fellowship projects the winner on the global academic job market proving to prospective employers the threshold has been reached to attract ERA funding, an important marker in European academia. Furthermore, in a number of countries, the fellowship opens the possibility of a direct hire.

Matteo Legrenzi is Professor of International Relations at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. He holds a D.Phil. in International Relations and a M.Phil. in Modern Middle Eastern Studies from St. Antony's College, Oxford where he is now a honorary Antonian. He served as President of the Italian Association for Middle Eastern Studies (SeSaMO) and he is a member of International Advisory Council of the World Congress for Middle East Studies (WOCMES) and of the European Association for Middle Eastern Studies (EURAMES) Council as well as the Middle East Studies Association of North America's (MESA) Committee for Undergraduate Middle East Studies. He helped to establish and served as inaugural coordinator of the undergraduate program in Philosophy, International Studies and Economics (PISE) and its Double Degree with the University of Groningen. He was founding director of the Master in Strategic Studies and International security (SSSI) and coordinator of the Research Institute for International Studies. He is member of the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and Research Fellow at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies. He served as Rector's Delegate for the Middle East and he sits on the editorial board of the Elements in Middle East Politics series of Cambridge University Press. He studied

Arabic at the American University in Cairo. He published numerous articles and book chapters on the Arab monarchies and the international relations of the Gulf. Before returning to Venice, his hometown, he taught in Oxford, Ottawa and Seoul winning the Capital Educators' Award in 2009 in Canada. He is honorary research fellow at the University of Exeter and sat on the Advisory Board of the Middle East Institute of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). He currently supervises numerous Marie Curie Global Individual Fellowships, and in the past, he supervised three Marie Curie COFUND, seven Marie Curie Europe Individual Fellowships and five young researchers under the NextGenerationEU program. At the Italian level he is P.I. of the "New dimensions of regional security in the broader Middle East" national research project (PRIN).

Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal

Curating Archives: The Perils and Promise of a Multivocal Approach to Public History

Exhibitions offer the tantalising possibility of liberating oneself from the constrictions of academic writing and reaching a broader audience through the immediate and affective power of visual immersion. The curation of images, documents, and material objects, however, lacks the precision of written argumentation, leaving the viewer with significant leeway for interpretation. In the high-stakes political atmosphere of contemporary Turkey, such ambiguity can prove both a help and a hindrance in challenging prevailing narratives and introducing the public to alternative historical experiences and interpretations. The seminar explores such issues with reference to my experience of co-curating the recent exhibition "Occupied City/Meşgül Şehir", held at the Istanbul Research Institute from 2023-2024.*

*A VR tour of the exhibition is available at: MEŞGUL ŞEHİR / OCCUPIED CITY - Dream Reality / VR Bilişim

Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal is a research fellow at the Scuola Superiore Meridionale in Napoli, Italy, where he researches the social history of the inter-war Eastern Mediterranean. His first book, *Britain's Levantine Empire, 1914-1923,* and related articles explored the impact of military occupation on the social and cultural life of wartime Istanbul, Alexandria, and Thessaloniki, demonstrating the pervasive impact of military administration and the comportment of Allied soldiers on the organization of urban space and circulation, entertainment and nightlife, and law and policing of daily life. More recent publications investigate the global entanglements of the Istanbul opium trade, showing how the rise of black markets in the drug simultaneously offered opportunities to profit while further entrenching the criminalisation and marginalisation of minority populations within the nation states that emerged from the collapsing Ottoman Empire. His current work, supported by a 2026 visiting fellowship at Princeton University Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies, examines the exile of Constantinopolitan Greeks following the establishment of the Republic of Turkey and their frustrated efforts to return to and assert their rights in their home-city. Together with Gizem Tongo, he curated the exhibition "Occupied City: Politics and Daily Life in Istanbul, 1918-1923", which was open at the Istanbul Research Institute in 2023-2024.

Nazan Maksudyan

Lives, Narratives, and Archives: Microhistorical and Biographical Approaches to Ottoman History

This seminar explores biographical sources and first-person narratives—including autobiographies, diaries, memoirs, letters, and family archives—and examines how they can be utilized, contextualized, and interconnected in the construction of historical narratives. The first part of the session draws on my own research to demonstrate how individual lives and personal narratives can illuminate broader historical processes in the late Ottoman Empire. By focusing on ego documents and other self-narrative sources, I will explore the connections between microhistorical experiences and larger social, political, and global transformations.

The second half of the session will take the form of a workshop. Together, we will explore the specific characteristics, advantages, and limitations of biographical and self-narrative sources, paying particular attention to questions of intersectionality, representativeness, and narrative coherence. Drawing on historiographical and ethnographic approaches to life-story reconstruction, biographical methodologies, and a range of first-person narratives, we will engage critically with the methodological challenges and possibilities these sources present for historical research and writing.

Nazan Maksudyan is a Senior Researcher at the Centre Marc Bloch in the ERC Starting Grant Ottoman Auralities and the Eastern Mediterranean: Sound, Media and Power, 1789–1922 (EP/X032833/1) and a visiting professor at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her research mainly focuses on the social and cultural history of the late Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey, with a strong commitment to global historical approaches. Her work foregrounds marginalized and minoritized actors – such as orphans, non-Muslims, the Deaf, exiles, politically persecuted individuals – whose experiences illuminate broader structures of power, political violence, and racialized difference. She is the author of Türklüğü Ölçmek (Metis, 2005), Orphans and Destitute Children in the Late Ottoman Empire (Syracuse UP, 2014); Ottoman Children & Youth During World War I (Syracuse UP, 2019); Lives in Fragments: Self-Narrative Sources and Biographical Approaches to the Armenian Genocide (ed. with Eren Yetkin, Adnan Çelik, Berghahn, 2026).

Alice von Bieberstein

Between states and statelessness: archival sites relations in a securitized transnational space

Introducing two very different cases or constellations, this session explores how archives emerge and grow along transnational networks particularly in contexts of political violence, struggles over sovereignty and state-formation and resulting migratory routes. It particularly focuses on how such transnational or diasporic archives become sites of political contestation and intervention.

The two cases are related by a shared history of sovereign state violence, but they take very different forms and raise different questions. The first takes us back to the late Ottoman period, when the Empire opened up to international markets and Western insurance companies started selling their products, amongst them life insurances sold disproportionally to the urban, non-Muslim

segment of the Ottoman population. These life insurances later turned out to become the only asset that was not appropriated by the Young Turk government in the context of the Armenian genocide. A hundred years later the insurance companies' archives became the object of legal-institutional efforts of commercial liability and historical justice. The second case concerns the closure of a Kurdish publishing house and music distribution company in the late 2010s in Germany in the name of fighting 'terrorism'. The case reveals how archival heritage efforts can be targeted by politics of criminalisation within transnational securityscapes that extend Turkey's anti-colonial warfare into liberal-democratic states that nominally continue to uphold freedoms of opinion and expression while severing these from a material base of actual social relations.

Departing from a presentation and discussion of these two cases or constellations, we will explore Turkey's 'related archival geographies' through the lens of Kurdish and Armenian experiences of dispossession, displacement and struggles for autonomy and redress. We will think about the different logics, practices and institutional networks through which archival relations emerge and extend transnationally and how these different contexts and relations both facilitate and foreclose struggles for liberation and historical justice. Students are invited to bring their own research topics or fields to the room and map how their spatial traces and multiple contexts enable or hamper particular political processes or how they link political actors in related or novel struggles.

Alice von Bieberstein is guest professor at the Institute for European Ethnology, Humboldt-University of Berlin. Her work is concerned with political violence, state formation and political economy with a focus on the afterlives of the Armenian genocide through land and property in Turkish Kurdistan. She has co-edited the book *Reverberations: Violence across Time and Space* (UPenn Press, 2021) and her articles have appeared in various journals, including Anthropological Theory, Subjectivity, Social Research, and the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute. Her book *Temptations in Ruin: Sovereign Accumulation and the Making of Post-Genocide Turkey* appeared 2025 with University of Pennsylvania Press and received honorable mention by the Wulf Kansteiner award of the Memory Studies Association.

Students' Projects

Below are the draft papers submitted by the students as summaries of their work in progress, as required for participation in the Summer School. In some cases, the titles are intended only as a general indication of the topic.

Aldinç Emirhan

Scouting in the Ottoman Empire and the Early Republican Period

Following the first Scout camp on Brownsea Island organized by Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell in 1907, Scouting quickly spread worldwide and attracted the interest of youth.

In the Ottoman Empire, the Scouting movement emerged in the second decade of the 20th century, primarily in educational institutions in Istanbul and other major cities and later expanded throughout the entire country. While the scouting activities that commenced in the final decades of the Ottoman Empire did not achieve the same level of popularity or organization in Turkey as they did in Britain, they continue to exist to this day. Despite the severe obstacles posed by insufficient instructional personnel and financial constraints, both the Ottoman Empire and the republican authorities meticulously monitored scouting initiatives and exerted considerable effort to advance and proliferate them.

Through an in-depth study of the late Ottoman and early republican periods from multiple perspectives having the scouting movement at its focus, this study aims to; investigate the phenomenon of scouting and its relation to the concept of ideal citizenship; to evaluate the increasing emphasis on Turkish nationalism and militarism in intellectual discourse in relation to scouting movement; explore the construction of gender roles within the scouting organizations; and focus on early republican policy ideas such as peasantism and public hygiene from the perspective of scouting.

The study seeks to elucidate the changes and continuities throughout the transition from empire to republic by examining the phenomenon of scouting from a distinct perspective in each chapter. The initial chapter will examine the scouting movement through the lens of citizenship and its related practices. The second part will analyze the scouting movement through the lens of nationalism during the late Ottoman and early republican eras. It will address the relationship between scouting and nationalism, focusing on the evolution of the scout organization from its origins in Ottoman educational institutions to an ethnic-based model, culminating in the republican period when only Turkish citizens were permitted to participate. In the third part of the study, the scouting movement will be analyzed from the perspective of gender. Shortly after the beginning of the scouting movement in 1910 'Girl Guides' were started to be formed by Agnes Baden-Powell, sister of Robert Baden-Powell. Analyzing the institution of scouting as a field where gender roles are reproduced is very important in terms of revealing the similarities

and differences between the late Ottoman and early republican eras. The fourth and final section will examine the parallels between the ideology of peasantism and the scouting practices during the early republican period, followed by an exploration of the connection between public health and positive eugenics practices within the context of scouting.

Almomani Rahaf

Photography in the Ottoman Empire

This PhD project examines the early photography of Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries under Ottoman rule. As the three holiest cities in Islam, these sites were not only central to religious life but also deeply embedded in the political and administrative structures of the Ottoman Empire, which positioned itself as the guardian of Islamic heritage. This study explores how these sacred spaces were visually documented at a moment marked by technological change, imperial transformation, and the emergence of modern forms of representation.

The project focuses on photographs produced by Ottoman photographers, including figures such as Muhammad Sadiq Bey, Al-Sayyid ʿAbd al-Ghaffar, and Garabed Krikorian, among others working in Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem. By examining their work, the project investigates how local actors engaged with the medium of photography to document, interpret, and circulate images of sacred space. In doing so, it shifts attention away from dominant Eurocentric narratives of early photography and foregrounds the perspectives and practices of Ottoman subjects.

At its core, the project is concerned with the relationship between visual culture and archival structures. Photographs of the holy cities survive today through a range of archival formations, including state collections, imperial albums such as the Yıldız collections of Abdülhamid II, and increasingly, digital repositories such as the Qatar Digital Library and the Library of Congress.

These archives do not simply preserve images; they actively shape the conditions under which images are accessed, categorized, and interpreted. The project therefore approaches archives as sites of power that mediate historical knowledge, privileging certain visual narratives while marginalizing others.

The research is guided by four main questions: how Ottoman photographers documented the holy cities; what motivations and cultural contexts shaped their work; how these images contributed to the construction of religious and cultural identities; and how Ottoman-produced images differ from those created by foreign photographers. Through these questions, the project explores the interplay between image-making, imperial authority, and the formation of collective memory.

Methodologically, the study combines archival research with visual and comparative analysis. It draws on multilingual sources in Arabic, Turkish, and Ottoman Turkish, and engages with a wide range of photographic materials, including military, architectural, and social imagery. Visual analysis is used to examine composition, framing, and aesthetic choices, while comparative approaches highlight differences in perspective between local and foreign photographers. An interdisciplinary framework, informed by history and cultural studies, enables a broader understanding of how photographs functioned within the social and political contexts of the late Ottoman Empire.

By addressing the relative lack of scholarship on early photography in these regions, this project contributes to the growing field of Ottoman visual history. More importantly, it interrogates the archival and historiographical conditions that have shaped the study of the Middle East, offering a critical perspective on how visual records of sacred space are produced, preserved, and mobilized in the construction of historical knowledge.

Birer Biray Anıl

Archival Narratives and the Limits of State Authority: Compulsory Labor in Wartime Turkey

This working paper argues that the compulsory labor regime implemented in Turkey's coal and lignite basins during the Second World War—specifically in the Garp Linyitleri İşletmesi (GLİ) and the Değirmisaz basin—was not a uniformly imposed, centrally controlled system. Instead, it contends that state authority was enacted, negotiated, and, at times, limited in practice. This claim is supported by an analysis of how different types of archival materials construct competing narratives about the same regime. For clarity, 'compulsory labor regime' refers to state-mandated work assignments enforced by law, and 'coal and lignite basins' designate areas of concentrated mining activity.

The paper brings together three primary sources: state inspection and administrative reports, Turkish newspaper coverage from the period, and oral histories from former residents and their families. Each source emerged under different conditions, served distinct purposes, and reflects particular narrative structures. Rather than treating them as complementary parts of a single historical truth, this study approaches them as distinct archival formations that shape how the compulsory labor system is knowable.

State archives, particularly ministerial inspection reports such as that of Labor Minister Sadi Irmak in 1945, offer detailed accounts of implementation and frequently reveal inconsistencies, abuses, and local deviations from official policy. These documents illuminate the limitations of centralized authority by highlighting uneven enforcement and the significant influence of local actors. In contrast, newspaper coverage typically frames compulsory labor within narratives of national necessity and wartime mobilization, emphasizing

legitimacy and collective responsibility while downplaying local tensions and coercion.

Oral histories introduce yet another layer of complexity. Narratives vary significantly depending on the social position of the speaker: while some accounts—particularly those from families of higher-ranking officials—reproduce frameworks of order and necessity, others indirectly reveal the mechanisms through which the system functioned on the ground. These include the role of local elites, personal networks, and intermediaries in recruiting or enforcing labor obligations. In this sense, oral accounts not only reflect memory but also provide insight into how state power relied on cooperation, negotiation, and embedded social relations.

Through systematic analysis of the construction of each source and the ways it frames the regime, this study demonstrates that the compulsory labor regime is best understood not as a monolithic expression of authoritarian power, but as a fragmented system reliant on local mediation and constrained state capacity. The active participation of local actors is central to explaining both the operation of the regime and its diverse impacts.

More broadly, the paper contributes to ongoing debates on the nature of state power and authoritarianism by demonstrating the analytical value of treating archives not merely as repositories of information but as sites of knowledge production. Through this approach, it seeks to move beyond binary models of state and society, offering a more nuanced account of how authority is constructed, contested, and experienced in a historical context.

Dalyanoğlu Duygu

Reconstructing the Armenian Actress through a Counter-Archive (1860-1900)

This research, currently being developed from my doctoral thesis into a book manuscript, explores the lived experiences and professional agency of Armenian actresses during the formative years of European-style theater in the Ottoman Empire.

While traditional theater historiography has largely relied on state-centric records or male-authored memoirs that aestheticize the actress as a "divine talent," this study adopts a feminist and critical archival approach to uncover the "embodied labor" that these women exerted under heavy political and social constraints.

The project is structured around the professional biographies of Arousyak Papazian, Yeranouhi Karakashian, and Azniv Hrachia. By utilizing a "dialectical engagement" between different theoretical lenses—such as Mulvey's "male gaze," Phelan's "ontology of disappearance," and Butler's "performativity"—I examine the tension between the live, three-dimensional presence of the actress on stage and her two-dimensional, often distorted "registration" in the archive.

A central focus of the "work in progress" is the politics of the archive itself. I argue that the archival gaps concerning Armenian actresses are active patriarchal interventions.

For instance, when an actress like Arousyak Papazian is forced to leave the stage upon marriage, the resulting archival silence is not a void but a "private bracket" that needs to be "unbracketed" to understand the gendered hierarchies of the 19th-century public sphere. The research introduces a diverse range of primary sources—including biographies and autobiographies, Armenian-script Turkish newspapers like Münadîyi Erciyas, and journals such as Masis and Luys—to construct a "counter-archive" that acknowledges the agency of the actress within the very "voids" of traditional history.

Furthermore, the study tracks the geographical mobility of these actresses through tours in Adrianople and Tbilisi, exploring how their "habitus" and acting styles (transitioning from Istanbul's melodrama to Tbilisi's realism) were continuously renegotiated. This transnational perspective allows for a critique of how different "archival centers" (the Ottoman vs. the Caucasian/Russian Armenian intelligentsia) sought to colonize the female body as a site of cultural reform.

As I prepare this work for publication as an English-language book, my current focus is on expanding "Politics of Emotion" (Sara Ahmed) within the archive. I am analyzing how feelings of "anxiety," "jealousy," and "professional desire" recorded in memoirs function as a form of resistance against the "frozen image" produced by the male gaze.

The goal is to produce a historiography that does not merely "retrieve" knowledge but produce a new understanding of the actress as a professional subject who claimed jurisdiction over her own body and labor. This project aims to contribute to the broader debates on archival access and the boundaries of permissible knowledge in the late Ottoman and early Republican eras.

Doğanok Kaan

The Thresholds of the Archive

My PhD research, entitled The Necrotopographies of Neoliberal Urbanisation: The Cemeteries of the Anonymised in Istanbul and Ankara, examines how the Turkish state produces and manages anonymous death through its cemeteries for the destitute. Supervised by Constance de Gourcy (Aix-Marseille University / MESOPOLHIS) and codirected by Jean-François Pérouse (University of Toulouse II Jean Jaurès / IFEA), this thesis investigates how the neoliberal restructuring of Turkish cities since the 1980 military coup has transformed burial practices into a technology of exclusion. This technology targets the urban poor, undocumented migrants, transgender people, political dissidents and other groups coded as surplus by the state.

The thesis is structured around three intertwined analytical axes. The first axis, the necropolitical axis, traces the genealogy of the state's sovereign power over dead bodies from the Ottoman 'garîb' burials through the republican break, and on to the post-1980 regime of enforced disappearance and anonymous burial. Drawing on Achille Mbembe's concept of necropolitics and Banu Bargu's work on necroresistance, I examine how the dichotomy between glorified death (the martyr) and erased death (the anonymised) functions as a mechanism for the construction of citizenship. The second axis, the necrotopographic axis, analyses cemeteries as spatial formations where absence is materially organised. Drawing on Bożena Shallcross's concept of necrotopography and Julia Kristeva's theory of abjection, I argue that these burial grounds function as the city's abject boundary - a place where the neoliberal metropolis accumulates that which it refuses to recognise. The third axis, the relational axis, utilises Constance de Gourcy's sociology of absence and Abdelmalek Sayad's concept of double absence to theorise the rupture between the 'absence-as-relationship' enacted by the anonymous cemetery and 'social death-as-isolation'.

The empirical core of the research focuses on Istanbul and Ankara as complementary fields where state rationality and neoliberal urbanism intersect in the management of death. I am currently in the first year of my fieldwork. I have conducted exploratory visits to numerous cemeteries in Istanbul, including Kilyos, Altınşehir, Habipler, Yukarıbaklacı and Feriköy; I have documented the material conditions of the anonymous burial sections through observation and photography. I have also begun exploratory interviews with actors from various institutional backgrounds: a rabbi working at a Jewish cemetery, a Catholic cemetery worker at a Latin cemetery, a queer activist involved in trans burial advocacy, a forensic pathologist, and a human rights activist. These initial interviews are shaping the interview guide for the approximately fifty semi-structured interviews I plan to conduct in both cities. Concurrently, I am constructing a unique dataset by extracting burial records from Turkey's e-Government funeral tracking system. This system classifies the deceased under categories such as 'nameless', 'identity-less' and 'unknown identity'. This digital archiving project has already revealed systematic misclassifications and overlapping burial patterns that traditional archival sources fail to capture.

The methodological design combines multi-site ethnography, critical cartography inspired by Forensic Architecture and the "Map of the Absentees"[1] project, with a media archive archaeology that cross-reads mainstream and counter-media sources.

Elhan Nail

Alternative Archives and the Politics of Knowledge: Alevi Periodicals as Sites of Archival Production in Turkey

This study aims to examine Alevi periodicals published in Turkey since the 1960s not merely as sources of historical information, but also as alternative

archives that produce, organize, and circulate knowledge. Rather than viewing these publications as passive documents, the research conceptualizes them as active archival spaces where Alevi identity, collective memory, and political discourse are constructed.

Drawing on Ann Laura Stoler's approach to archives as "sites of knowledge production," this study focuses on the following questions: How do Alevi periodicals function as alternative archives? What kinds of information do these publications produce, and what do they exclude? How do editorial choices, thematic priorities, and classification practices define the boundaries of knowledge regarding Alevi identity and history?

The study focuses on Alevi journals published since the 1960s; it treats this period as a critical turning point during which Alevi identity became visible and processes of urbanization and political mobilization accelerated. These publications have, on the one hand, reproduced the historical narratives of the Alevi community, and on the other hand, played a significant role in the formation of collective memory by documenting reactions to the political developments of the era. At the same time, these publications have contributed to the emergence of an internal discourse within the Alevi community regarding identity, belonging, and political orientations.

Methodologically, the study combines qualitative content analysis with an archival analysis approach. Periodicals are treated not merely as texts, but also as archival structures characterized by specific logics of organization, classification, and selection.

In this context, the study examines which topics are foregrounded, which are marginalized, and which narratives are reproduced, thereby revealing the internal logic of archival production processes. In addition, interviews conducted with editors and authors, as well as fieldwork experience, are incorporated into the analysis.

A significant dimension of the study is the process of digitizing these publications. This process is approached not merely as a technical transformation, but as an epistemological shift. While digitalization increases the accessibility of information, it also reshapes which forms of knowledge become visible and how they are organized.

Accordingly, the study examines the impact of digital archives on processes of knowledge production.

In conclusion, this research seeks to contribute to the literature on the relationship between archives, knowledge, and power by positioning Alevi periodicals as alternative archives. It demonstrates how marginalized communities construct their own archival formations and how they establish distinct regimes of knowledge through these archives. In this respect, the study argues that archives are not neutral entities, but rather dynamic sites situated at the intersection of knowledge production and political struggle.

Kasapoğlu Serkan

Hep Vardık *(We Were Always Here): The Politics of Archiving Queer Media in Turkey*

Hep Vardık is a multi-modal research and archival project that investigates the systematic "de-queering" of Turkish television history from the 1970s to the present. By cataloging the audiovisual history of iconic queer figures—such as Zeki Müren, Huysuz Virjin, and Bülent Ersoy—this project interrogates how archival access, censorship, and the digital dissemination of cultural heritage intersect with the Turkish state's current project of national identity-building.

Archival Politics and Erasure

Following Ann Laura Stoler's conceptualization of archives as sites of knowledge production, this research addresses the recent political trend of rewriting Turkish history through a lens of conservative nationalism. While the era between 1970 and 2015 saw queer performers become mainstream national treasures, the last decade has been characterized by the state-sanctioned erasure of these narratives. Hep Vardık serves as an act of counter-archiving, bridging the gap between fragmented, disappearing private collections and institutional records that remain largely inaccessible due to political pressures.

Methodology and Research Goals
This project employs a dual methodology:

1. Archival Collection: By negotiating access with broadcasting channels, independent archivists, and personal estates, the project aims to establish the first comprehensive, open-access digital catalog of Turkish queer broadcast history.

2. Diasporic Engagement: The research utilizes this archive to facilitate community seminars within the Turkish diaspora in the Netherlands. By presenting archival evidence of queer visibility in the decades preceding migration, the project challenges the perception that queerness is an "alien, Western imposition." Instead, it asserts a historical continuity of queerness within Turkish and Islamic contexts, from the Ottoman köçek dancers to prime-time television stars.

Significance

By documenting the transition from vibrant visibility to incremental erasure, Hep Vardık provides a sociological map of Turkey's democratic backsliding and political Islamization. The project aims to produce both a scholarly publication (forthcoming with Routledge) and a public-facing, accessible digital archive. Ultimately, it seeks to shift the discourse from a narrative of "Western influence" to one of indigenous queer history, providing a critical resource for scholars of media, politics, and archival studies who are grappling with the boundaries of permissible knowledge in increasingly autocratic settings.

Koca Ayşegül

Producing the Ottoman Officer: Archives, Silence and the Politics of Knowledge in Military Records (1878–1950)

This dissertation offers a comparative analysis of twelve Ottoman staff officers who graduated from the Imperial Military Staff College in 1902. The cohort includes both central decision-makers and high-ranking field commanders, most notably Enver Pasha, who served as the de facto commander-in-chief during the First World War, as well as Hafız Hakkı Pasha and Mahmud Kamil Pasha, who held key positions within wartime command structures. The cohort also includes lower-ranking officers such as Sabit, Nuri and Emrullah, who died early and left little trace in the historical record. Among those who survived into the Republican period, the group displays striking diversity: Fahrettin [Altay] became a leading military commander; Kazım [İnanç] and Hakkı [Erdener] pursued bureaucratic careers; Fuat [Aktan] entered diplomacy; Selahattin [Adil] left the army for commerce, and Kemal [Şenkıl] was stripped of citizenship for political reasons.

This internal diversity makes the 1902 cohort analytically distinctive, as it brings together individuals who occupied both central and peripheral positions within the military and political elite.

The study is methodologically grounded in a dual approach that combines a large prosopographical dataset with in-depth biographical analysis. A dataset of 586 staff officers, comprising all graduates of the Staff College between 1878 and 1918, provides the structural framework within which individual trajectories can be contextualized. This dataset includes variables such as regional origins, ranks, postings, and modes of leaving the army. It allows for the identification of broader patterns within the officer corps, as well as for distinguishing between typical and exceptional trajectories. The close analysis of twelve officers, functions as a magnified lens through which contingency, personal choice and abrupt rupture become visible.

The dissertation is structured into three main chapters, each corresponding to a distinct phase in the twelve officers' lives. The first chapter (1880–1902) examines military education as a formative process, focusing on institutional structures, social backgrounds, and the transformation of peer networks. It argues that military schools did not simply produce technically trained officers, but cultivated a specific habitus characterized by discipline, competition and the internalization of loyalty to the state. The second chapter (1902–1922) analyzes the professional careers of these officers during a period marked by almost continuous warfare. It highlights the role of experience accumulated through frontline service, staff appointments and organizational responsibilities as a key factor shaping career advancement and survival. The third chapter (1922–1950) explores the post-imperial trajectories of those who survived, demonstrating the fragmentation of military careers in the Republican period and the emergence of highly diverse professional paths, ranging from high command to commerce and political marginalization.

By bringing together structural analysis and individual trajectories, the study seeks to move beyond linear narratives of modernization. Instead, it offers a more nuanced account of the military elite as a heterogeneous and dynamic group, whose members were shaped by institutional constraints, wartime pressures, and contingent personal decisions. In doing so, it contributes to a broader understanding of how professional elites are formed, differentiated and transformed in periods of crisis and state transition.

Mostić Emina

The Material Trajectories of Ottoman Chronicles in Bosnia and Herzegovina

My ongoing doctoral research examines the construction of the Bosnian borderland (*serhad*) and its society in Ottoman historiography during the late 16th and early 17th centuries, focusing primarily on narrative chronicles (tevārīkh) by prominent authors such as Selânikî, Peçevî, and Solakzâde. While my dissertation primarily analyzes these sources for their discursive, political, and ideological content to understand the imperial production of knowledge about the periphery, my engagement with these texts has revealed a compelling parallel narrative concerning their materiality.

During my research, I observed that several manuscript copies of these crucial Ottoman chronicles were historically preserved in archival collections, libraries, and private endowments within Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The work-in-progress I intend to develop for the CEST Summer School shifts the methodological focus from the textual narratives of these chronicles to their physical existence, circulation, and archival trajectories.

This project aims to trace the physical journey of these manuscripts. I will investigate how these imperial texts arrived at the Ottoman periphery, how they were utilized, annotated, and preserved by local scholars, and, crucially, what their current preservation status is. By tracing which manuscripts have survived to the present day and which have not, the research inevitably intersects with the tragic history of archival destruction in the Balkans. A central aspect of this study will address the profound vulnerability of archival heritage, epitomized by the targeted destruction of the Oriental Institute in Sarajevo in 1992, which resulted in the irrevocable loss of invaluable manuscripts (such as the unique copy of Cevâhiru 'l-menâkıb).

This research problematizes how the physical loss—or survival—of these documents dictates contemporary historical research. When a physical manuscript disappears, a specific avenue of knowledge production is foreclosed. Conversely, the manuscripts that did survive and are now subject to modern cataloging and digitization efforts in local institutions offer insights into how the materiality of the text (including marginalia, ownership stamps, and copyist notes) served as a dynamic "living archive" where local intellectuals interacted with the imperial center. This localized case study will

demonstrate how the fate of physical archives continuously shapes the boundaries of permissible and accessible historical knowledge.

Al-Munayer Luzan

Re-Sourcing the Rift: Tracing Water, Memory, and Colonial Rupture in the JordanRift Valley

In contested geographies where borders are ever-shifting and spatial violence is ongoing, preservation begins with keeping a record. Re-Sourcing the Rift examines the Jordan Rift Valley; once a connective waterscape and continuous ecological and administrative corridor, now a transboundary site fractured by colonial partition, militarisation, and environmental depletion.

The project builds a participatory digital repository and linked Memory Map that assembles, georeferences, and recontextualises visual and documentary materials related to the Valley's waterscapes, tracing its north-south corridor from the upper Jordan and Hula basin down the Jordan River to the Dead Sea.

The Valley's current condition — divided between five governments, classified as a transboundary site, and subject to competing national narratives — makes it difficult to apprehend as the coherent geographic and administrative unit it once was. For centuries under the Ottoman Empire, the Jordan river system functioned as a largely unified corridor; its fragmentation is a product of colonial border-making, not of the landscape itself. It is here that archives become analytically indispensable: Ottoman administrative and visual records allow the Valley to be read across its natural continuous geography, recovering spatial and environmental histories that post-partition frameworks systematically obscure. The project's engagement with the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye State Archives is central to this recovery, situating the Valley within broader Ottoman and post-Ottoman circuits of knowledge that extend across the geographies this summer school addresses.

The research draws on a heterogeneous body of sources: state and military archives, national and research libraries, film and photographic collections, institutional special collections, private materials, and community oral history platforms. This heterogeneity is itself an object of inquiry. The archival landscape of the Valley is uneven: certain institutional collections are well-digitised and remotely accessible, while community and family archives remain fragmented, inaccessible, or in many cases undocumented. This unevenness reproduces existing hierarchies of knowledge even as digitisation appears to democratise access. Working across these sources has made visible not only what has been documented, but also the gaps and absences that reveal what the archive was never designed to preserve.

The Memory Map, currently in development, georeferences materials across the Valley's corridor and enables the spatial recomposition of fragmented records. A significant finding of this process has been the revelatory power of absence: when materials are plotted spatially, lost local and regional networks

become legible. These networks cannot otherwise be recovered through direct engagement with the Valley itself, given it is a transboundary site where physical access is constrained by military infrastructure and ongoing political rupture. Documentary and oral history sources are also in productive tension: they do not always tell the same story, and these contradictions have become an important analytical resource for understanding how the studied geographies have been inhabited, used, and remembered.

The project is developing toward multiple outputs: a publicly accessible open-source repository, a publicly accessible Memory Map, and a PhD research proposal. It sits at the intersection of spatial history, critical archival practice, heritage studies, anthropology, and digital scholarship. At its current stage, I have compiled three essays from the collected archival material, each aligned with a recurrent thematic cluster: infrastructures of passage, local crafts and their ecologies, and spiritual and tourism practices along the Jordan. These clusters were selected for their documentary richness, geographic spread, and capacity to surface shared forms of collective memory through which broader networks can be traced.

Onaylı Kutay

Resituating the First 'Ottoman' Nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature: Satire, Censorship, and Popular Reading Between Athens and Istanbul (1876-1919)

My submitted work is a 6,000-word excerpt from an article I am currently writing, titled "Resituating the First 'Ottoman' Nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature: Satire, Censorship, and Popular Reading Between Athens and Istanbul (1876-1919)". The paper reconstructs a hitherto entirely forgotten chapter in the history of literature and popular readership in the late Ottoman Empire: the Ottoman reception of Georgios Souris (1853–1919), the Hellenic satirical poet-publisher who was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature five times between 1907 and 1912, and whose nominators included, on two occasions, the Greek Literary Society of Constantinople — making Souris the first and only "Ottoman" nominee for the prize. That a Greek institution of the Ottoman imperial capital would nominate an (often nationalistic) Athens-based satirical poet for the Nobel Prize poses a double historiographical puzzle: How did Ottoman Greeks read, circulate, and engage with a publication that was repeatedly banned by the Hamidian state? And what does the existence of this engaged, enthusiastic Ottoman Greek readership tell us about the relationship between Hellenic nation-state and polyethnic empire at the level of popular print culture?

The paper addresses these questions through the extensive and largely untapped trail that Souris and Romios left in the Ottoman imperial archives from the 1880s through the 1910s, read alongside Greek-language Ottoman periodicals, the pages of Romios itself, and the Turkish-language Ottoman press. Drawing on this multi-archival and multilingual corpus, I argue that the conventional picture of the Hamidian press regime as an apparatus of blanket,

top-down censorship requires substantial revision — at least with regards to the Ottoman governance of "foreign" publications in the Empire's non-Muslim languages. Rather than a static system of prohibition, the relationship between the Ottoman state and Souris' political satire was dynamic, dialectical, and on occasion surprisingly intimate: Romios moved repeatedly between legality and criminalization, with the sultan himself intervening personally on multiple occasions, and Souris negotiating directly with the Ottoman state.

The paper argues that both the Hellenic Kingdom and the Ottoman imperial government perceived significant soft-power stakes in the legal circulation of Souris' popular satire amongst Ottoman Greeks, a perception that shaped the otherwise ad hoc and often contradictory governance of his readership. It further shows that Ottoman Greek readers, booksellers, and smugglers navigated and subverted state policy with remarkable tenacity.

The question of archives and their politics –what the Ottoman imperial record or the Turkish and Greek literary-journalistic canons preserve or render invisible– are central to the paper's structure, priorities, and arguments: The official Ottoman archival documentation I use, for example, captures the bureaucratic life of censorship and the anxieties of the imperial state; but it is far less forthcoming about the reading practices of ordinary Ottoman Greeks that it sought to control. This has shaped my methodology of delving into alternative journalistic, literary, and social 'archives' –from the contents of and advertisements in Romios to legal notices in Turkish-language Ottoman newspapers–, which, in this case, themselves fully make sense and yield their load of historical data only when read against the imperial archives. Even as the question of archives, their politicized friction, and their interplay is at the crux of the paper, however, it remains an implicit and assumed feature of the work rather than a fully conceptualized or problematized aspect. It is my hope that participating in the CEST Summer School can afford me the toolkit to make the archival politics and tensions an explicit and systematized dimension of the paper's methodological framework, and of my broader research practice going forward.

Stogiannou Elli

Ordinary Subjects and Overlapping Authorities: Legal Practice in Chios, Naxos, and Syros, 1645–1699

In my project, I intend to explore how common people on three Aegean islands navigated overlapping legal regimes in the period from the outbreak of the Cretan War (1645) to the conclusion of the Morean War (1699). I focus on a period of inter-imperial expansion and confessional rivalry which played out differently on Chios, Naxos, and Syros from the perspective of legal actors. Local populations had access to representatives of different political authorities and documentary cultures. These ranged from local professional notaries and scribes, Orthodox and Catholic ecclesiastical authorities at the

local (parish and island-wide), regional (Metropolitans), and highest level (Patriarchate of Constantinople, Roman Curia), Ottoman and Venetian and to a lesser degree French imperial officers (beys, governors, kadis, emins, dragomans, and consuls) and their representatives, who most often came from the local elite. What did justice look like in the three islands under these concurrent authorities? I study paperwork, composed mostly of Greek-language notarial documents and some court records and letters in Greek, Italian, French, and Ottoman, as a lens to everyday legal practice. These documents illustrate the engagement of ordinary actors, and importantly women, with authorities near and far, and offer a prism for the study of how local administration worked under shifting configurations of power.

Diverting from the conventional views of Ottoman pluralism and Christian autonomy, this dissertation focuses on the local circumstances that made enforcement of (an) order possible. It builds on recent scholarship that has shown how confession- and state-building in the Ottoman Empire was shaped by comparison, mimicry, vertical, and lateral pressures, and has stressed the high degree of entanglement between Muslim, varying Christian, and Jewish communities. The perspective of common subjects on the connections between legal, imperial, and religious authority, however, remains insufficiently explored, largely because of the normative nature of available sources. The premise of my project is that the combination of different types of sources allows us to catch glimpses of how subjects understood justice and order and engaged with competing regimes. Centering on three distinct island settings with competing jurisdictional and documentary regimes, I show how through paperwork, ordinary and elite actors contested and affirmed claims to legal, imperial, and religious authority. Doing so, I argue that documentary practice was part and parcel of jurisdictional politics.

Tufan Mustafa Ceyhun

Politics of the Campus: Struggle over the Universities in Turkey, 1967-1980):

1 - Identifying the main questions and argument of my thesis

In my PhD project I will analyze how politicized students from both left-wing and Ülkücü movements experienced the political struggle over the university space between 1967 and 1980. The literature on the student protest during this time have a tendency to underline the salience of armed conflict and "street terror" and overlook campus activism. I argue that the university experience is at the center of the politics of contestation these students show during this period.

My argument is a three-step process of how politics of contestation was disseminated in the 1970s in Turkey:

1. University students contest and transform campuses and this experience came in many ways and forms.

2. They then codified these experiences into transferrable and transportable objects of knowledge

3. After dropping out or graduating, these ex-students practiced and shared the same (or adapted) forms of contestation in different places, communities, or institutions they were a part of.

2 - Identifying possible interviewees

Through archival research and secondary sources, I have listed almost 930 Ülkücü students between 1967 and 1971. I am also in the process of listing the students who participated in ideological struggle between 1967 and 1980 on both Ülkücü and left-wing student organization. I have been in contact with a number of associations in Ankara, whose members were mostly in TÖS and TÖB-DER and graduates of faculties or colleges of education.

3 - Preparing for the interviews

I am in the process of preparing visual and textual material of higher education institutions that were active in Ankara between 1960 and 1980 to use during the interviews. I have noticed that interviewees tend to give more detail from their past if they were presented with names, events, and institutions that they had personally encountered during their time in the universities. Accordingly, I am preparing a "interview file" for each higher education institution that include details and images from the period.

4 - Locating university archives

I have been in contact with a number of administrative personnel from Ankara University, METU, Hacettepe University, and Gazi University in order to locate their respective archives. I have found out that while these four universities have in possession the personnel files and disciplinary reports in their archives, the Turkish Presidency State Archives have collected senate decisions and documents of faculty bodies in 2019. As per their policy, the documents in this institution is not open to public access if they are not digitalized. I have been informed that postgraduate students may gain access to these non-publicized documents through a petition.

5 - Locating pamphlets produced by students in the 1970s

I have in possession almost 200 student pamphlets published between 1974 and 1978. These documents have been fortunately made available to me by Prof. Hakan Kırımlı at Bilkent.

Tuğrul Selen

Remembering Antakya: Digital Archiving Practices and the Reconstruction of Cultural Memory After the Disaster

This study examines the emergence of community-driven digital archiving initiatives in Antakya following the catastrophic earthquakes of February 6, 2023. The disaster caused unprecedented physical destruction to the city's

historic urban fabric and triggered a profound crisis of cultural memory. The subsequent post-disaster planning processes which are marked by rapid debris removal, demolition of partially damaged structures, and top-down reconstruction decisions, have intensified this loss by rendering the community's layered heritage invisible in official decision-making. Against this loss, the study investigates how grassroots digital archives function as acts of cultural resistance and political assertion, rather than mere instruments of heritage documentation.

The central argument is that these initiatives occupy a distinctly political register. They do not simply preserve what has been lost. They contest the terms under which loss is defined, challenge official reconstruction narratives, and reclaim the community's right to determine what counts as heritage. The study focuses on three cases, each representing a distinct archival modality. Nehna is a platform dedicated to documenting the cultural and religious heritage of Antakya's Arab Orthodox community, operating at the intersection of minority identity and archival practice. Beledna is an interactive memory mapping project that mobilizes crowdsourced photographs and personal narratives to construct a collective spatial record of the city as it was. Bellek Antakya is an oral history initiative operating through a website, collecting the testimonies of local artisans and traditional producers whose knowledge risks disappearing entirely. Together, these three cases illuminate how communities use digital archiving mediums across different intentions to assert their continued presence in a city being physically reconstructed around them.

The research employs a qualitative multiple-case study design. A preliminary phase, already completed, consisted of content analysis of the three platforms alongside informal consultations with their founders during fieldwork conducted for Phd thesis. The core phase, involves in-depth semi-structured interviews with the founders and key actors behind each initiative which will be conducted. These interviews aim to move beneath the visible surface of digital content and uncover the politics of selection at work, why certain materials are selected and others excluded, how founders negotiate the transition from private memory to public archive, and how they position their work in relation to state-led reconstruction. This study will contribute to broader scholarly conversations on the politics of archives, heritage conservation, and community resilience in post-disaster contexts.

Yalçınkaya Tolgahan

Digital Newspaper Archives in Turkey: Access, Discontinuities, and the Limits of Historical Corpus Research

Digital newspaper archives in Turkey are far from offering researchers an equal, continuous, and standardized universe of data. Some periods are relatively dense and accessible, whereas certain years remain fragmented, irregular, or almost invisible. This situation does more than complicate archival use. It also determines which questions can be asked, which methods can be

applied, and which historical continuities can be constructed. The issue, then, is not simply digital access itself, but the form access takes, its technical quality, its searchability, and its distribution across time.

This study examines how the non-standardized, fragmented, and technically unequal structure of digital newspaper archives in Turkey shapes corpus-based research on modern Turkish history. Its central argument is that digital archives do not function as neutral platforms. Rather, they operate as epistemic structures that shape the past researchers can reach in accordance with institutional and technical limits. For that reason, digital archives are treated here as research environments that affect the conditions under which historical knowledge is produced.

The text focuses in particular on regimes of access, OCR quality, display formats, and chronological inequality. It discusses the effects of different presentation formats such as full-document display, page-image view, and clipped-image display on processes of corpus construction, while emphasizing that some archives, despite appearing functional for phrase search, remain highly limited when it comes to building structured datasets. In this context, the study draws on examples such as the Milliyet newspaper archive, Istanbul University's Gazeteden Tarihe Bakış project, and the digital archive of the National Library in order to make archival inequality in Turkey more concrete. The contrast between relatively strong open-access examples covering the 1928–1942 period and the contraction of access after 1956 reveals how uneven the data foundation of historical research remains.

Methodologically, the study brings together debates on historical corpus research, OCR, phrase search, context search, and corpus construction. It further argues that OCR quality constitutes a fundamental methodological problem, one that shapes the reliability of search results, frequency analyses, contextual readings, and, more broadly, the limits of historical interpretation. From this perspective, the disordered character of digital newspaper archives makes visible the fact that data are not simply given as a complete whole; they are selected and captured within specific tools, filters, and access regimes.

The study is still in progress and has been conceived as a draft paper. Its aim is to open the technical and institutional limits of digital newspaper archives in Turkey to discussion, while also drawing attention to the need for more integrated, searchable, and methodologically processable historical corpus infrastructures for Turkish. In this sense, the paper seeks to show that digitization is a transformation that reshapes the conditions of historical knowledge production.

Excursions

Pio Monte della Misericordia

Founded in 1602 by seven young Neapolitan noblemen, the Pio Monte della Misericordia is one of Naples' oldest charitable institutions. Its historic headquarters, in the heart of the city, combine art, architecture, philanthropy and archival heritage. The complex is best known for Caravaggio's The Seven Works of Mercy, painted in 1606–1607 and still displayed above the main altar in the chapel for which it was commissioned. The institution's Historical Archive preserves over four centuries of records documenting its charitable work and the social history of Naples, alongside several important private and family archives.

https://piomontedellamisericordia.it/en/

Il Cartastorie – Museum of the Historical Archives of the Banco di Napoli

ilCartastorie is the museum of the Historical Archives of the Banco di Napoli, housed in the sixteenth-century Palazzo Ricca. The archive preserves the records of the ancient Neapolitan public banks, spanning more than four centuries of economic and social life. Its banking documents contain millions of names and extraordinarily detailed accounts of payments and their purposes, offering vivid glimpses into the lives, professions, businesses and everyday activities of people in Naples and Southern Italy. Through multimedia installations, exhibitions and creative projects, ilCartastorie transforms this vast documentary heritage into an engaging collection of stories and voices from the past.

https://www.ilcartastorie.it/en/

SIBA– Museum of the Historical Archives of the Banco di Napoli

Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection – University of Naples L'Orientale

Housed in the Sala Gerini of Palazzo Corigliano, the Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection forms part of the University Library System and Historical Archives (SiBA). It reflects L'Orientale's long tradition of teaching and research on the languages and cultures of Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean. The collection includes approximately 350 manuscripts relating to the Middle and Far East, alongside early printed books, rare editions and volumes originating from the historic library of the Collegio dei Cinesi, founded in Naples in 1732. Particularly significant are its manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Ethiopic, which preserve works spanning a wide range of religious, literary and scientific traditions. Today, the collection supports research, teaching and specialised training in the study, cataloguing and preservation of oriental manuscripts.

State Archives of Naples

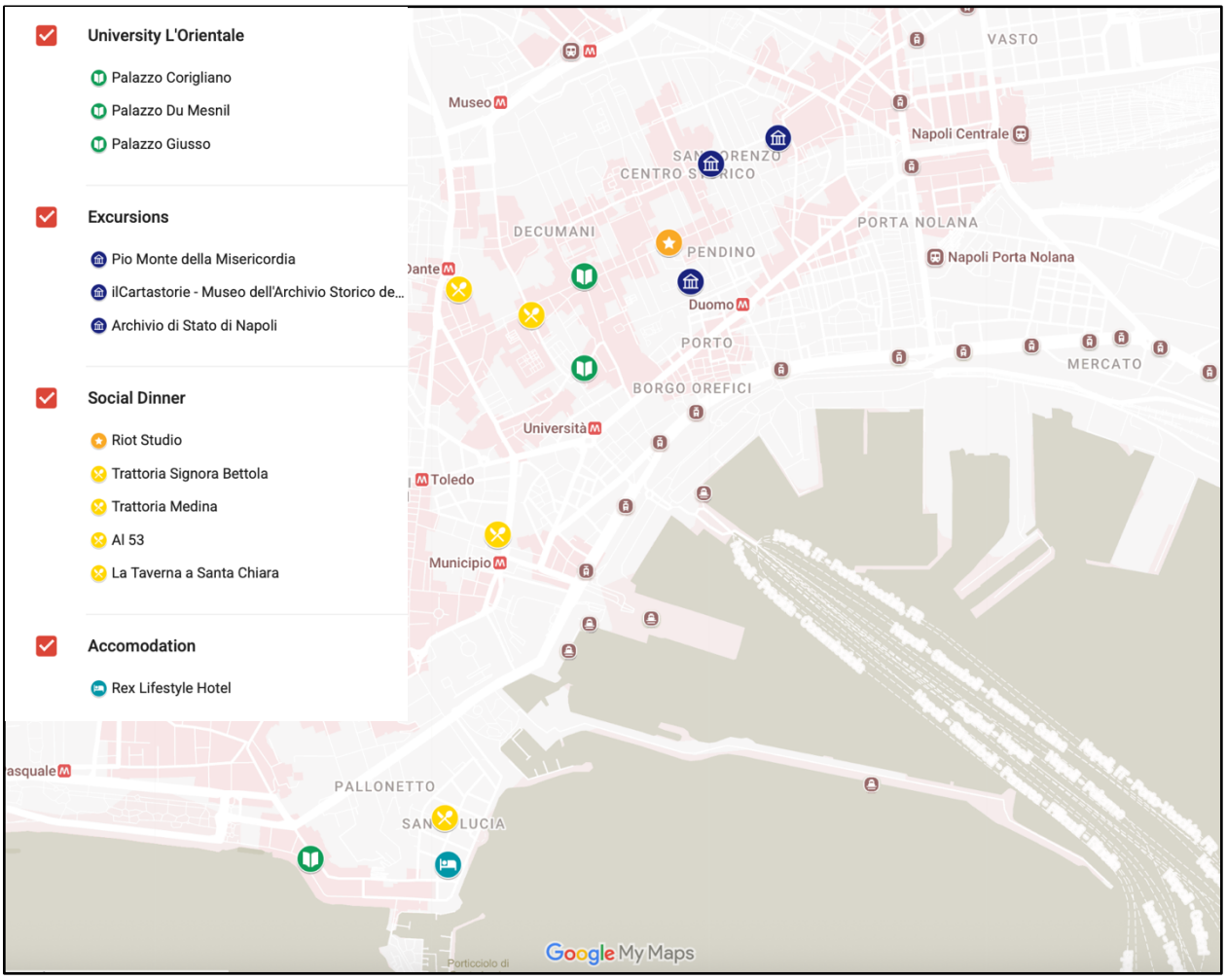
The State Archives of Naples were established in 1808 to bring together the records of the institutions of the Kingdom of Naples. Since 1845, they have been housed in the monumental former Benedictine monastery of Santi Severino e Sossio, one of the oldest and most significant monastic complexes in southern Italy. Its holdings—extending over approximately sixty kilometres of shelving—include documents produced by dynastic governments, royal and administrative bodies, courts, public offices, notaries and private families. The Archives constitute an essential resource for the study of the medieval, early modern and modern history of Naples, southern Italy and the Mediterranean.

Information and Maps

The Summer School will take place across several venues, including historic buildings of the University of Naples L'Orientale, archives around the city, and various locations for the social dinners.

All venues are located between Naples' historic centre—the oldest part of the city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the seaside district of Santa Lucia, overlooking the Bay of Naples and Castel dell'Ovo. The programme will therefore offer participants an opportunity to explore different parts of Naples on foot and discover some of its most distinctive streets and neighbourhoods along the way.

The map below shows the main locations.



Venues

📍 University of Naples L'Orientale

Palazzo Du Mesnil
via Chiatamone, 61
Sala De Giovanni ex Archivio (3rd floor)

Palazzo Giusso
largo San Giovanni Maggiore, 30
Aula Dottorato (3rd floor)

Palazzo Corigliano
piazza San Domenico Maggiore, 12
Sala Conferenze (2nd floor)

📍 Workshop, Excursions and Events

Riot Studio
via San Biagio dei Librai, 39

Pio Monte Della Misericordia
via dei Tribunali, 253

Museo dell'Archivio Storico del Banco di Napoli
via dei Tribunali, 214

Archivio di Stato di Napoli
piazzetta del Grande Archivio, 5

🏨 Accommodation

Hotel Rex
via Palepoli, 12

🍽️ Social Dinners

Trattoria Signora Bettola
via Raffaele De Cesare, 27

Trattoria Medina
via Medina, 43

La Taverna A Santa Chiara
via Santa Chiara, 6

Al 53
piazza Dante, 53

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