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2024

HAPPY

New Year



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THE AI WARS

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TECNO-
AGENDA



Google recently announced its new AI model: Gemini. The advent of Google's Gemini and OpenAI's GPT-4 marks a pivotal juncture in the realm of artificial intelligence (AI), propelling not just a competition between algorithms but a seismic shift in the landscape of technology. This heralds the beginning of a significant AI war, where tech giants vie for dominance, innovation, and societal impact.

Google's Gemini, introduces unprecedented multimodal capabilities, transcending text interpretation to encompass images, videos, and code. Available in Nano, Pro, and Ultra versions, its potential to redefine industries and set new AI benchmarks is palpable. This versatility in handling diverse data types is poised to reshape AI applications and user experiences across multiple sectors. The emergence of Gemini and GPT-4 doesn't just signal a competition between two AI models; it signifies the onset of a large-scale AI war among tech behemoths. The integration of these models into various platforms, such as Microsoft's Bing and Google's strategic deployments, underscores the intensifying competition and quest for market supremacy. This isn't merely a battle of algorithms; it's a contest for technological dominance and innovation.

Both Gemini and GPT-4 exhibit unique strengths. Gemini's reported performance dominance on academic benchmarks and its integration into Google products demonstrates its transformative potential. Conversely, GPT-4's emphasis on creative expression and language proficiency sets a new benchmark for language models. This ongoing battle signifies an evolution where AI models vie for supremacy, each bringing distinct capabilities to the forefront. The implications of this AI war are twofold. While these advancements promise ground-breaking enhancements in user experiences, productivity, and innovation across industries, concerns surrounding monopolies, ethical implications, and biased AI developments arise. It necessitates ethical governance and regulatory frameworks to ensure responsible AI deployment, thereby mitigating potential risks and fostering ethical AI development.

The trajectory of AI hinges on the outcomes of this ongoing battle. This escalating competition is a driving force for innovation, pushing the boundaries of AI's capabilities and opening new horizons. Yet, responsible deployment, ethical considerations, and societal impacts are critical. Collaborative efforts, ethical guidelines, and responsible AI development will shape a future where AI augments humanity's progress while upholding ethical standards. In summary, the AI wars symbolise not just a technological rivalry but a pivotal moment in shaping an AI landscape that aligns with ethical considerations, societal progress, and technological innovation. It calls for a harmonious blend of innovation, responsible governance, and ethical AI development to harness AI's potential responsibly and transform the future positively. The evolving AI battlefield underscores the need for responsible deployment and ethical frameworks, steering towards a future where AI serves as a catalyst for positive societal change.





eco-agenda



A NEW LOOK AT THE CONCEPT OF MIGRATION: CLIMATE MIGRANTS

RES. ASST. BURÇİN ÇAKIR GÜNDOĞDU
THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Imagine for a moment that you run out of water, you have no access to any food, or you have no home to stay. What would you do?

We generally think that migrations are caused by wars, poverty, cultural and social reasons. However, climate change has changed the structure of the phenomenon of migration, which has been known from past to present, by causing people to have to leave their homes and living spaces. This concept, called "climate immigrants", is used for people who migrate due to natural disasters and temperature changes. El-Hinnawi, author of *The State of Environment*, defines climate migrants as "people who are forced to leave their traditional habitats, temporarily or permanently, due to a significant environmental degradation (triggered by natural processes and/or humans) that endangers their existence or seriously affects their quality of life," he defines it as. Unfortunately, there are millions of people experiencing this situation. According to the International Environmental Partnership (IEP), it is estimated that 1.2 billion people globally will be forced to migrate by 2050 due to climate change and natural disasters.

Let's talk about developments in recent years... A 2017 study in the journal *Science Advances* found that by 2100, temperatures could rise to the point where going outside for even a few hours "could result in death for even the strongest people" in some places, including parts of India and eastern China. In the hurricanes that hit Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador in November 2020, people lost their homes and livelihoods due to torrential rains and landslides. People in this region flocked across the border into Mexico and then headed for the United States. Millions of people in the African Sahel region have flocked to coasts and cities due to drought and widespread crop failures. If escape from warmer climates reaches the scale suggested by current research, this would mean a massive remapping of the world's population.





While climate migration is becoming an increasing threat, changing the balance on the maps, anti-immigrant reactions are also becoming an important problem, especially in countries with nationalist governments. Erin Sikorsky, director of The Center for Climate & Security, states that as populations move from rural areas to more urban areas, the risk of increased political instability in key countries and regions will increase and raise security concerns. In addition, taking in more immigrants may increase interstate tensions and cause social unrest and civil unrest. Erin Sikorsky concludes her words as follows. “This is not just climate change, it is climate change combined with political violence, statti corruption and existing instability.” Thus, climate migrants, who have problems in meeting their basic needs such as food, shelter and security, turn into an element of political disputes because, from another perspective, they are perceived as the source of social unrest in the countries they migrate to.

Click [here](#) for reference.





PROFESSIONS OF THE FUTURE: DIGITAL DIPLOMACY WRITING

NEW
PROFESSIONS



Res. Asst. Güçlü KÖSE

The Department of Political Science and International Relations

Digital diplomacy is the name of the diplomatic activity carried out using digital tools instead of traditional diplomatic tools. These tools include social media, blogs, websites and other digital platforms. This type of diplomacy, conducted on digital platforms regarding international relations, offers the opportunity to reach much larger audiences than traditional types of diplomacy. Digital diplomacy is a form of diplomacy adapted to the digital age. That's why it is also called diplomacy 3.0. Although digital diplomacy is described as a subtype of public diplomacy by some experts, it is also considered as a separate type of diplomacy by some experts. With this new type of diplomacy becoming widespread, a new profession, Digital Diplomacy Writing, has also taken its place in our lives. Digital Diplomacy Writing refers to carrying out diplomatic activities within a certain framework in digital media. This writing activity, which is carried out consistently and systematically, can also be practiced as a profession. Digital Diplomacy Writing, which is described as the profession of the future, is supported by various trainings and certification programs in many countries of the world. Countries now officially carry out diplomacy activities on digital platforms, where they gradually reach large audiences, and assign special institutions and personnel for this work. Thus, a brand new profession, Digital Diplomacy Writing, emerges. Digital diplomacy writers analyze current developments in international relations, offer policy recommendations and aim to raise awareness on international relations issues. They also support digital diplomacy by building bridges between different cultures on digital platforms. It is known that many countries already have digital embassies and serious studies have been carried out on this subject for about ten years. As citizen diplomats, digital diplomacy writing is encouraged and funded by some countries. Digital diplomacy, which has started to be taught as a course in universities, may begin to educate students as a university department in the future.





CULTURE-ART- LITERATURE



GISELLE

Asst. Prof. Hayriye Asena DEMİRER
The Department of Political Science and International Relations

Istanbul State Opera and Ballet (IDOB) premiered Giselle, one of the masterpieces of romantic ballet, at the Atatürk Cultural Center (AKM) on October 29. Based on the legend of Wili's, as told by the German poet Heinrich Heine in his book On Germany, Giselle is one of the most important works of romantic ballet with the choreography of Jean Coralli-Jules Perrot-Marius Petipa on the music of French composer Adolphe Adam (1803-1856), emphasizing the sublimity of love and the indispensability of passion, combining the rural lifestyle with the extraordinary world.

The plot of the work, which tells a love story set in the vintage season, is briefly as follows: Hilarion is a crazy lover who never leaves Giselle's door. Count Albrecht, who introduces himself to Giselle as a farmer named "Loys", also loves Giselle. Albrecht and Giselle are reading a daisy fortune when Hilarion intervenes. The two men put their hands on their swords. Just then the villagers return and the vintage feast begins... A trumpet announces that the Prince has returned from the hunt. Hilarion recognizes Albrecht as a nobleman by his behavior and reveals the truth to Giselle. Meanwhile, the Prince's daughter tells Giselle that Albrecht is her fiancé. Giselle, who has a sensitive nature, cannot bear this shock, gives herself to dance and after a while she loses consciousness and dies... Wili's are the spirits of dance-loving girls who die of sadness as a result of unrequited love and appear in the middle of the night, forcing the man they meet to dance until they die. Gathering in the forest by Giselle's grave, the Wili dance under the leadership of their queen Myrtha. Now Giselle has joined them. When Albrecht brings flowers to her grave, he is forced to dance by the Wili, but Giselle protects him and saves his life. Meanwhile, Hilarion appears and is danced to death by the Wili. Giselle and Albrecht continue to dance until sunrise. With the first rays of the sun, the Wili disappear and so does Giselle, leaving the lonely and unhappy Albrecht standing over Giselle's grave...

William Shakespeare and the Political Aspects of Literature

Res. Asst. Onur Kaya
The Department of Political Science and International
Relations

William Shakespeare, as a leading figure of English literature, has made significant contributions to the political aspect of literature, not only through his literary greatness, but also by providing in-depth political analysis in his works. His works emphasize the complexity of politics by dealing with the inner world of man and social dynamics.

Especially in works such as "Macbeth," "Hamlet," and "Othello," he dramatizes the destructive effects of power, betrayal, and political intrigue on human characters. In these works, Shakespeare offers an in-depth look not only at the political events of the time, but also at the universal weaknesses of human nature.

Inspired by the political events of his time, he vividly conveys the atmosphere of that period to the audience by depicting the struggle for the throne and the greed for power in works such as "Macbeth". However, these works are not only set in a historical context, but also touch on universal themes that are relevant throughout the ages, dealing with the fundamental inner conflicts of human beings and the challenges posed by the desire for power.

Through character analysis, Shakespeare reveals the effects of politics on the psychological world of the individual. "Hamlet" offers an in-depth look at human psychology by dealing with themes of inner conflicts, the desire for revenge and death, but also political intrigue and moral conflicts. "Othello" is a tragedy that revolves around jealousy, racism and manipulation; through character analysis, it makes us reflect on power dynamics and human weaknesses.

By exploring the moral complexities and contradictions of human nature, the author emphasizes that politics is not only an external phenomenon, but also penetrates deeply into the inner world of the individual. Shakespeare's works shape thinking about the complexity of politics and show how literature is an effective tool for understanding human psychology.

SOSYOCOM SHELF



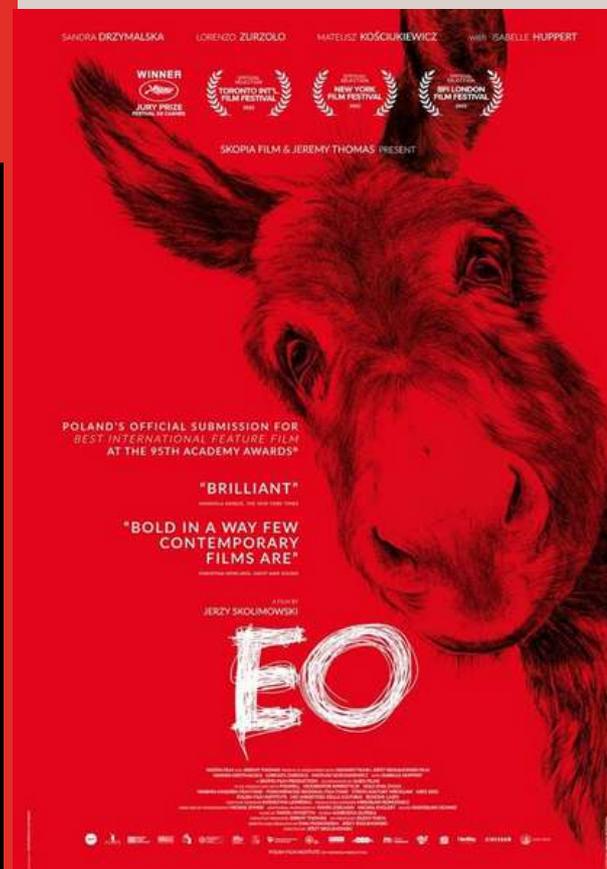
A MOVIE

EO

Poland's Oscar nominee and winner from the Cannes Film Festival is a story with a donkey in the lead role. It tells the story of a donkey's experiences and the sad state of the world through its big, beautiful eyes. After a seven-year break from the cinema, Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski meets the big screen with his first film, EO. In the film, the director leaves the audience alone with the donkey's experiences and, in a sense, the donkey's conscience. The film offers a visual feast with exquisite scenes.

The movie begins with a circus donkey show. As a result of people's protests against the cruelty of animals in the circus, the donkey was taken out of the circus' show and began to be used in different jobs. The efforts of Kasandra, who loves the donkey the most in the movie and keeps track of where it goes, do not yield results after a while. The interesting thing is that while the actions are carried out to prevent circus animals from being tortured, this situation does not change and continues in other places instead of the circus. EO stands there as a creature that misses and feels Kasandra's soft hands. EO, which found its place in the list of the most notable films of 2023, appears as a film worthy of watching.

Res. Asst. Güçlü Köse
*The Department of Political Science and
International Relations*



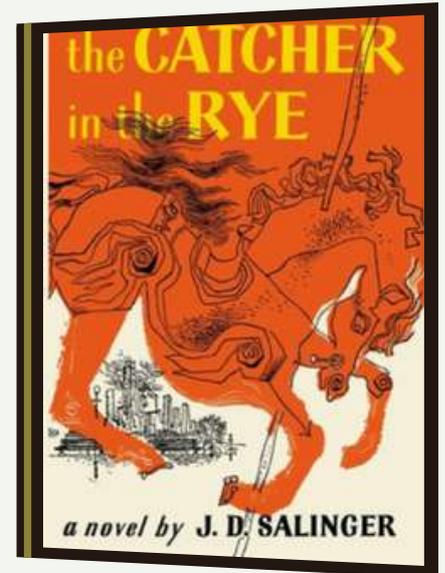
Year: 2023
IMDb: 6.5
Duration: 89 minutes
Genre: Drama



THE CATCHER IN THE RYE

Res. Asst. Elif ŞAHİN

The Department of Political Science and
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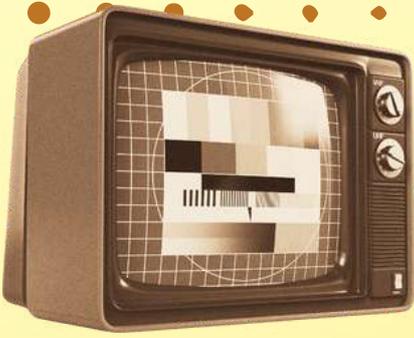


The Catcher in the Rye is a stunning novel by J.D. Salinger that is considered a classic. The book begins with the 16-year-old protagonist Holden Caulfield telling his own story. Holden recounts the few days he spent in New York after being expelled from school. Holden feels filled with a sense of alienation and believes that people lie, pretend and are insincere. Therefore, he seeks an outlet to escape the corruption and degradation of society. The development of Holden's character is central to the novel. It focuses on his inner conflicts, his boundaries between youth and adulthood, and his world of thought. Throughout the book, Holden's inner journey of rejecting the outside world and his quest to find his identity is dramatically depicted.

The main theme of the book is the degradation of society and the insincerity of people. Holden imagines himself as a shepherd to protect the "children in the rye field". This metaphor symbolizes innocence, purity and truthfulness. As Holden compares the corruption among adults to the innocence of children, he emphasizes the idea that youth must be protected. In terms of language, Salinger's writing style and Holden's subjective narration enhance the impact of the book. Holden's inner monologues allow us to witness the thoughts of a young character in an intimate way. The writing style includes teenage slang and vulgar language, which gives the book realism. The book has inspired many novels about adolescence. Holden's emotional and psychological complexity is presented in a way that deeply affects and makes the reader think.

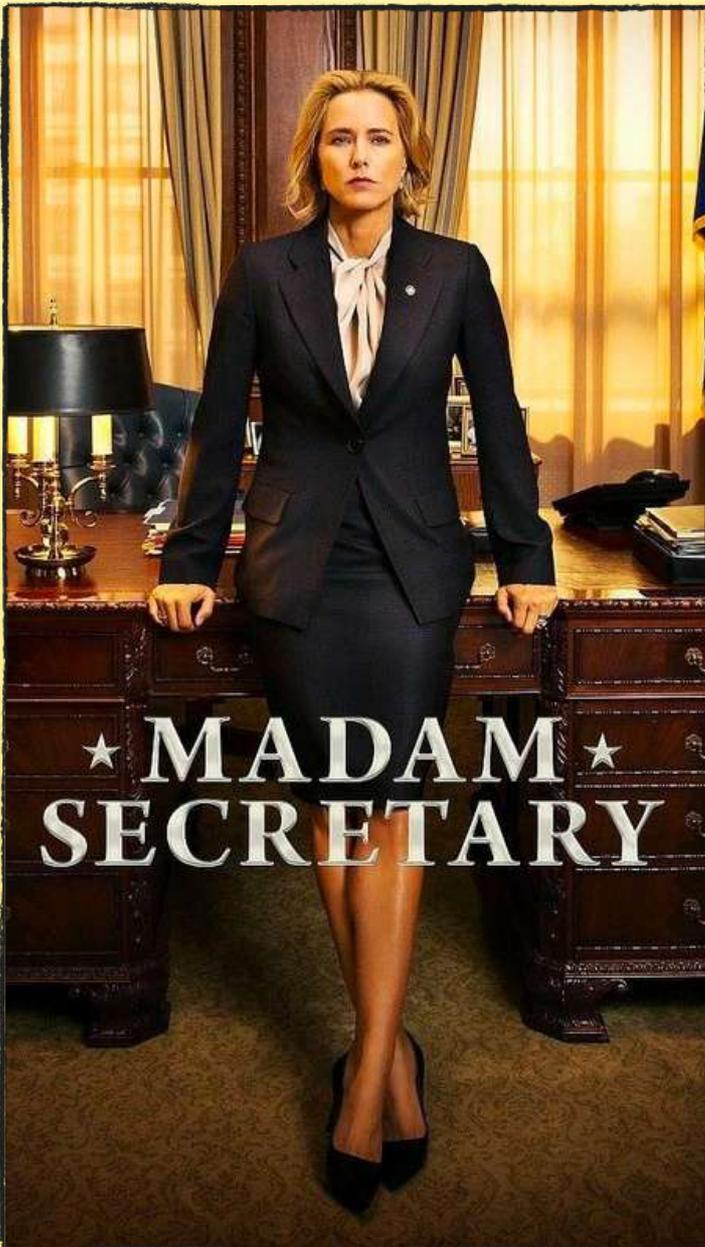
The main character, impressively portrayed by Salinger, deals with universal themes such as alienation, loneliness, growth and the search for identity. *The Catcher in The Rye* accompanies Holden Caulfield on his inner journey, offering a striking portrait of the corruption of society and the insincerity of people. The novel's themes, use of language and the development of Holden's character make it an unforgettable reading experience and an important tool for understanding adolescence.

A TV SERIES



Madam Secretary

Res. Asst. Onur Kaya
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Science and International Relations



"Madam Secretary," is a television series that aired in the United States between 2014 and 2019. The series is a successful political drama and political thriller. The lead character Elizabeth McCord, played by Tea Leoni, tells the story of a woman appointed as the American Secretary of State.

McCord has to deal with both the responsibility of managing her family and the diplomatic challenges of navigating complex international relations. The story explores in detail how a strong woman asserts her presence on the political scene and deals with international crises.

The series explores realistic political scenarios, intrigue and character relationships, as well as the various challenges faced in the international arena. McCord's people-centered approach, combined with her leadership and diplomacy skills, shows viewers how a strong female figure balances the complex political world. "Madam Secretary," offers viewers a thought-provoking drama about politics, power and moral decisions.

Movie Review of the Month

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JEAN-LOUIS TRINTIGNANT EMMANUELLE RIVA ISABELLE HUPPERT

AMOUR

A Film by MICHAEL HANEKE

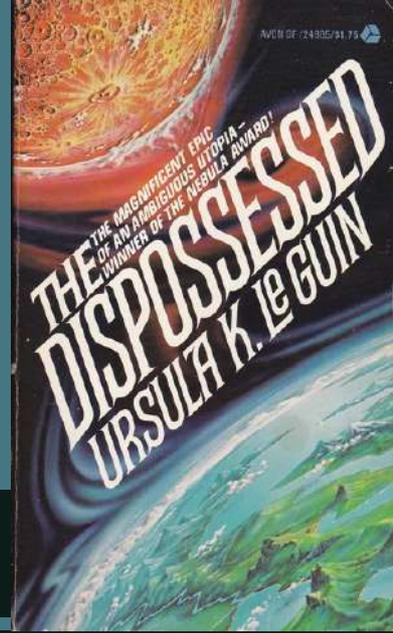
Amour (2012) is a shocking drama film directed by the famous director Michael Haneke. Amour is about an aging couple, Anne (Emmanuelle Riva) and Georges (Jean-Louis Trintignant), and the processes that profoundly affect their lives. The film focuses on Georges' love and devotion to Anne as her health rapidly deteriorates following a tragic event in their home. Haneke invites the viewer to witness the couple's difficult circumstances, while at the same time addressing universal themes such as old age, love, despair and death. The director's craftsmanship and cinematographic vision make the film unique. With a minimalist approach, Haneke creates the film's atmosphere and reflects complex emotional experiences. The visually capturing cinematography elegantly reflects the couple's home, and combined with the actors' riveting performances, conveys the depth of the film. Emmanuelle Riva and Jean-Louis Trintignant's performances are the heart of Amour. Their performances offer a moving portrait of aging and the trials of life. Riva's performance is particularly noteworthy, as she incredibly portrays an inner journey as she struggles with the physical challenges of aging. Trintignant, on the other hand, is admirable in a role he plays with sincerity.

In Amour, screenwriter and director Haneke tells an extraordinarily realistic and moving story. The film's greatest strength is its profound exploration of a human story that deeply affects the audience. Alongside emotional explorations, Haneke bravely tackles the complexities of life and human weaknesses. Michael Haneke's Amour is a powerful work of art that offers an emotionally charged cinematic experience. The story, told in a minimalist approach, captivates the audience with impressive performances and deeply explored universal themes, while the director's control over the viewer and his cinematic skills are remarkable. Amour offers an unforgettable experience for those who want to understand human nature and confront various aspects of life.





Book Review of the Month



THE DISPOSSESSED - A POLITICAL SCI-FI



Res. Asst. Onur Kaya

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Ursula K. Le Guin is a writer who emerged as one of the pioneers of science fiction and fantasy in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Her career has been marked by the diversity, depth and thought-provoking themes she has brought to the literary world. Her works, which stand out in both science fiction and fantasy, offer not only imagination but also deep philosophical thought. Le Guin's works encourage her readers to think and question by dealing with social, political and ecological themes. The author, who integrates a feminist perspective into her works, exhibits a sensitive approach to gender roles and gender issues through her characters. The author's "The Dispossessed" is a striking work that conveys this knowledge and experience.

Set in a utopian world, the novel is written through two different worlds and two different political systems and does not present the idea of an ideal society. The novel takes place on the planets Urras and Anarres, and while Anarres has an anarchist mentality, Urras is governed by a capitalist and statist mentality. The basis of the system is that a group of people from Urras leave their homeland and settle on Anarres, where they establish an anarchic order. The events in the novel take place about 150 years later and are told through the rights and wrongs of both systems.

The events are based on the visit of Shevek, a physicist from Anarres, to Urras and his experiences there after his theory on synchronicity is rejected on Anarres. Throughout the novel, Shevek's experiences on both planets are described in a comparative manner. Throughout the story, the rights and wrongs of both systems are compared. While making this comparison, an examination/questioning is carried out on the concepts and phenomena underlying both systems of thought. One of the most important features of the novel is that it does not present the sine qua non of an ideal society to the reader after this questioning.

ACADEMIC PLAYLIST



2024

Res. Asst. Tuğçe Gül BABACAN
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Literature

Welcoming the New Year

With December, the year 2023 comes to an end. December, with the winter season being felt strongly and below zero temperatures, is crowned with snowfall. Houses get decorated in a way to reflect the New Year spirit, New Year trees are ornamented, streets are illuminated with Christmas lights and thus, a miraculous atmosphere is created in December.

For this month, we have prepared a list of various Christmas and New Year songs that reflect the spirit of the new year. In this list, you can find many songs ranging from New Year classics to the theme music of the famous film Home Alone.

We hope that 2023 was a year in which you were able to fulfill your dreams and 2024 will be a year beyond your dreams.

We wish you enjoy this list and a happy new year.

Click [here...](#)

-  **Jingle Bells**
Kidzope, Paul Mardle
-  **Jingle Bell Rock**
Bobby Helms
-  **All I Want for Christmas Is You**
Mariah Carey
-  **Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!**
Dean Martin
-  **Santa Claus Is Coming To Town**
Frank Sinatra
-  **Happy Holiday / The Holiday Season**
Andy Williams
-  **Carol of the Bells**
Mykola Dmytrovych Leontovych, John Williams
-  **Holly Jolly Christmas**
Michael Bublé
-  **It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas**
Michael Bublé
-  **Last Christmas**
Wham!





EDUCATION- RESEARCH

Asst. Prof. Sibel ZENGİN
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Office of Scientific Research Projects /
Deputy Coordinator

IMPORTANT SUCCESS FROM IGU STUDENTS! TUBITAK 2209-A UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS RESEARCH PROJECTS



43 projects developed by Istanbul Gelisim University undergraduate students are qualified to be supported within the scope of the 2023/1 period call of the **2209-A University Students Research Projects Support Program** carried out by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK), Directorate of Science Fellowships and Grant Programmes (BİDEB). In 2023/1 call period, with a record number of 2209 project applications made to TUBITAK from all Turkish universities, our university has achieved success, ranked 3rd among 77 foundation universities in Türkiye. It has also shown a significant improvement by ranking 37th among all universities.

In this special year in which we welcome the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye with great excitement; as IGU progresses with its vision of becoming a "research university", it has been a great pride and happiness for us that our undergraduate students studying in different branches of science have been deemed worthy of TUBITAK support in research and development.

In line with the goals of increasing the success of our students, IGU Office of Scientific Research Projects (BAP-K) organizes project application and project execution process information events for our students and academics who volunteer to be consultants in their TUBITAK projects before each application period.

IGU students that applied to this important program, which encourages university students to participate in our country's research ecosystem, applied for projects individually or as a team together with their advisor faculty members. Then, they achieved success by going through various preliminary examination and scientific evaluation stages. IGU students continue to produce, research and develop by applying for projects in many areas within the scope of the 2023/2 period.

We congratulate our students and their advisors and wish them continued success.



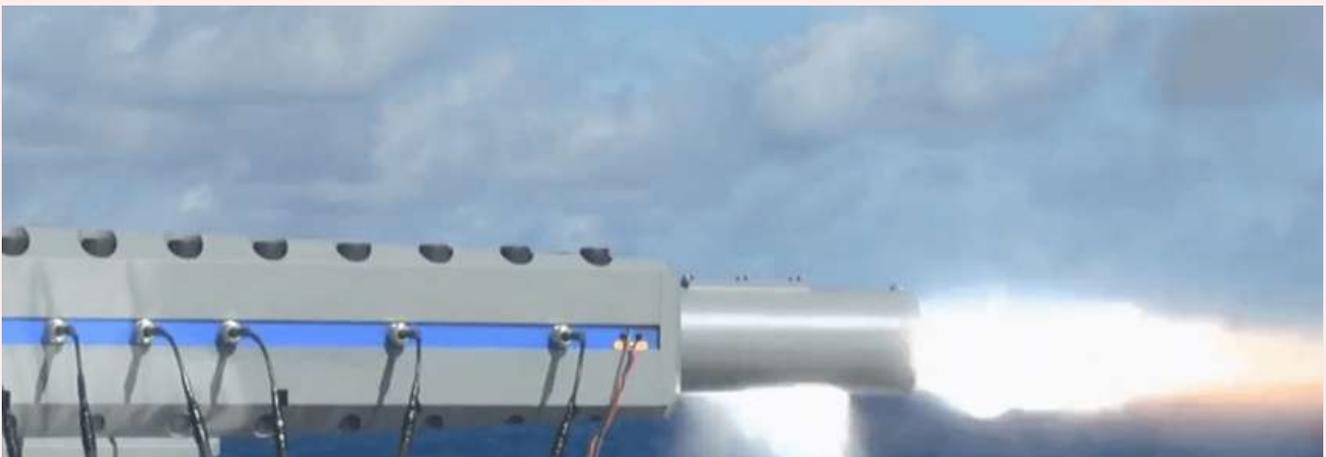


JAPAN'S MEDIUM-DIAMETER ELECTROMAGNETIC RAIL GUN FIRED FROM THE SEA

Japan, who has recently increased its defense spending significantly, plans to increase its defense budget by approximately 12% to \$52.6 billion in fiscal year 2024. By doubling its annual defense spending, Japan envisages a total budget of \$315 billion in the next five years, which, if realized, would make Japan the third largest defense spender after the United States and China.

Japan, who has started to reap the fruits of the serious budget allocated to the defense industry, has successfully tested the electromagnetic rail gun system on a ship for the first time. This success, which is considered a first in the world, is an important step forward in terms of the technology in question. This system, developed in cooperation with ATLA (Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency) and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Forces, is a weapon that can be fired even when the ship is moving and can send projectiles to their targets at seven times the speed of sound. The system in question is based on the principle of launching projectiles with a high amount of electric current passed through two parallel rails connected to each other by a moving plate. In Japan's test, 40mm steel bullets weighing 320 g were used, and these 320 g bullets were fired at a speed of 2.297 m/s using 5 million joules of energy.

At a time when regional security threats are increasing, Japan aims to improve its defense capabilities against different conventional threats, including hypersonic missiles, with this technology that it plans to use on land.





POLITICAL ***AGENDA***

THE FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE HAMAS-ISRAEL WAR

Asst. Prof. Ali SEMIN

**The Department of Political Science
and International Relations**

It is possible to say that one of the reflections of the international order that was tried to be established after the Second World War in the Middle East region was the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. The subsequent Arab-Israeli wars in the Middle East in 1948, 1967 and 1973 made the Palestinian issue an even more complicated and long-term problem. Therefore, looking at the historical background of the Palestinian issue, the fact that the borders of the State of Israel have not been demarcated since its establishment and that it aims to expand continuously within the scope of the Greater State of Israel brings with it the unresolved conflicts in the Middle East region. In this context, when the developments in the Gaza Strip as a result of the operation organized by the Izzat al Kassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, against Israel on October 7 are evaluated both in terms of regional/global balances and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, it can be stated that the Arab-Israeli conflict has entered a new phase. It can be said that one of Israel's main goals is to first depopulate the north of Gaza, then to declare it a military zone and finally to establish a buffer zone between Gaza and its border.

Therefore, Israel does not observe any rules, customs of war or international law against civilians in its intensive airstrikes and localized ground operations against Gaza. As a matter of fact, it was announced that at least 15 thousand civilians were killed and 40 thousand injured in Gaza until November 26. In terms of civilian casualties, the number of people trapped under the rubble in the attacks is estimated at approximately 3 thousand. In this process, the failure of Arab and Islamic countries to take a common and clear position on Gaza encourages Israel to intensify its attacks. On the other hand, the fact that Israel is supported by Western countries, especially the United States of America, has dragged the conflicts in Gaza into an unsolvable situation rather than a solution. As a result, if Israel turns its airstrikes on Gaza into a comprehensive ground offensive, there is a high probability of an all-out war in the Middle East region, particularly in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. In sum, after October 7, 2023, the balance in the Middle East has changed significantly, even if it may not be noticed in the short term.

The rapidly transforming geopolitical situation in the South Caucasus: "Zangezur Corridor" or "Armenia Corridor"?

ASST. PROF. KEISUKE WAKIZAKA
THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Since the Second Karabakh War in 2020, the balance of power in the South Caucasus has changed significantly, and especially after the Ukraine-Russia War in 2022, the geopolitical structure of the region has undergone a serious change. The new geopolitical structure means new possibilities and opportunities for the countries in the region, and various projects have been proposed in this context.

In particular, the "Zangezur Corridor" project, which connects Turkiye, Nakhchivan and Azerbaijan through Armenia, continues to be one of the most important agenda items in Turkiye and Azerbaijan. While Azerbaijan emphasizes that the Zangezur corridor should be opened as a condition for the opening of the Turkiye-Armenia border, Armenia states that it is impossible to give its territory to Azerbaijan for this corridor.

However, in mid-November of this year, the Armenian government announced the "Armenia Corridor" project linking Turkiye, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the fact that this project included the "Zangezur Corridor" was met with surprise by the national and international public opinion. In this context, it is possible to say that Armenia is accelerating the process of getting rid of Russian domination and integrating into the Western society, and for this purpose, it is making efforts to establish relations with Azerbaijan and Turkiye.

On the issue of opening the "Zangezur Corridor", Armenia refuses to "give up sovereignty over the region for the corridor", while it is not opposed to "reopening the road connecting Azerbaijan with Nakhchivan through Armenia, provided that sovereignty over the region is maintained". Moreover, the Armenian government proposes that Azerbaijani citizens should be able to travel overland between Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan without a visa through Armenia, thus Armenia is against the "Zangezur Corridor" insisted upon by Azerbaijan, while actively supporting the "Armenia Corridor" project.

As a result, Armenia is trying to calm public opinion by showing its own initiative in geopolitical projects in the South Caucasus and wants to get rid of the influence of Russia, Iran and the diaspora. It is possible to state that Armenia is willing to open its border with Turkiye, as this project clearly shows.

Aluminum and Alzheimer's

Health- Psychology



Res. Asst. Fatma Betül YILMAZ
The Department of Psychology

Aluminum is the 3rd most abundant element in the world. Due to its soft structure and easy processing, it has been used in the production of many items from the early ages to the present day. Until very recently, it was one of the basic cooking ingredients in most of our kitchens. Today, we can say that it is an element that we take into our bodies a lot, as it has many uses in both the food industry and the cosmetics industry. So, does the fact that it has been used so much today make aluminum innocent? Many scientific articles so far have shown that there may be a potential relationship between aluminum and many diseases, one of which is Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's is a progressive and neurodegenerative disease. It first manifests itself with memory problems. It starts with the storage of memories in the recent memory and then the remote memory is affected. Finally, the person's cognitive skills weaken and he or she becomes unable to perform daily tasks. Alzheimer's is the most important cause of dementia, also known as dementia among the public, and its cure has not been found yet. Although the reasons are not fully known, it is true that genetic predisposition is a very important factor. It has been a matter of debate for many years that aluminum may also cause Alzheimer's.

Our brains are extremely sensitive to environmental influences, and the possibility that aluminum is a neurotoxic substance has led to research into its impact on cognitive health. Aluminum can cross the blood-brain barrier under certain conditions and accumulate in brain tissues over time. Studies have detected high levels of aluminum in the brains of individuals with Alzheimer's disease; this led to the hypothesis that aluminum may contribute to the development or progression of the disease.

Campbell (2000), after his study, stated that it is necessary to avoid long-term exposure to aluminum to protect against Alzheimer's disease. A meta-analysis study has shown that 68% of the studies conducted so far include aluminum as a risk factor for Alzheimer's (Ferreira et al., 2008). As a result, although we cannot definitively say that aluminum causes Alzheimer's, reducing its place in our lives may be important for our health.





ASSOC. PROF. AHMET SAPMAZ
THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

What is the Status of the Russia-Ukraine War?

While the Israel-Hamas conflict occupies the world agenda, the Russia-Ukraine War has been relegated to the background. However, the Russian-Ukrainian War is an important regional and global conflict. The Russian-Ukrainian War is the largest war on the European continent after the Second World War in which the great powers directly (Russia) and indirectly (the United States and the United Kingdom) participated. It is also a situation that could lead the world to face the possibility of a nuclear war in the aftermath of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The war has resulted in a combination of gains and losses for both Russia and Ukraine. In Ukraine, Russia failed to capture the capital Kyiv, and overthrow the pro-Western Zelensky government. Moreover, Moscow faces severe political, military, and economic sanctions from the US-led West. Russia, indirectly engaged in a conflict with the West due to its war against Ukraine, consistently emphasizes its nuclear deterrence capabilities, highlighting its perceived weakness in conventional forces against the West. This strategy allows Moscow to thwart direct intervention by the US and other Western powers in the conflict. Facing challenges in recruiting soldiers due to demographic weaknesses, Russia delegated the fighting monopoly on certain fronts to the private military company Wagner in some regions. However, on June 23, 2023, Wagner rebelled against Russia, and the uprising was swiftly quelled within 24 hours. In the aftermath, Wagner's leader, Prigojin, and other key figures of the company were killed in a plane crash. Nonetheless, Moscow still controls around 15% of Ukraine, establishing a land link between Donbas and Crimea and effectively claiming the Sea of Azov as a Russian inland sea. Putin approved the annexation of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhia regions, which are recognized as Ukrainian territories under international law, and where a controversial referendum on annexation to Russia was held.



However, it's important to note that some parts of these regions are still under Ukrainian control. From the Ukrainian perspective, the Kyiv government initially demonstrated significant political and military resistance against Russia, resulting in extensive political, military, and economic support from the West. Kyiv managed to partially reclaim the Kherson and Kharkiv regions from Russian forces through regional counter-offensives. However, the broader Ukrainian counteroffensive, initiated in June 2023, did not yield substantial gains for Kyiv. At this juncture, Ukraine's goal is to liberate all its territories under Russian occupation, including Crimea. However, achieving this objective is contingent upon continued support from the West. Notably, Ukraine faces challenges due to Russia's air force and tank superiority. Concerns are growing within the Kyiv leadership that, as the war persists and major powers shift focus to other political-military developments, Western support may diminish. Conversely, Russia aims to maintain complete control over the Ukrainian territories annexed in the initial phase. Russia's objectives toward Ukraine may undergo changes in direct relation to the level of support the West provides to the Kyiv regime. In this context, if the West's support for Ukraine decreases, Russia's objectives in Ukraine may expand. In the current situation, the war has turned into a war of attrition for both sides. Ukraine and the West have realized that Russia cannot be easily defeated on the front line. Russia, on the other hand, realizing its political, military, and economic limitations in the unfolding situation, is trying to defend its interests in Ukraine.



Women in the Shadow of the Dark Side of War and Sexual Violence

ASST. PROF. AYŞE KÜÇÜK

THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Today, as the world once again debates war, perhaps the right thing to do is to write about the gendered nature and effects of war. Among many other effects, war and conflict are the most frequent sites of sexual violence. Rape, especially in ethnic conflicts and ethnic cleansing, is still used as a weapon of war today. In wars mostly initiated by men, the female body has become the object of objective violence. Indeed, many feminist researchers have argued that masculinity goes hand in hand with militarism and that armies and wars are in fact gendered institutions. Women and children are the most affected by wars. Again, war transforms the female body into a site of conflict. According to Enloe, rape in wars is the most extreme example of the gendered effects of war. An important dimension of war takes place on women's bodies, although not only against women.

In other words, wars are one of the areas where systematic sexual violence is embodied. The fact that the female body is identified with the symbol of homeland and motherhood causes gender to be symbolically directed to the female body. Indeed, there are countless examples of the use of rape as a form of violence in war. However, the first systematic use of rape was encountered during the Nazi regime. The Nanking rapes are one of the most important examples of systematic sexual violence against women's bodies. During the civil war that started in Bangladesh in 1971, it is reported that there were between 250,000 and 400,000 cases of rape. In fact, thousands of women have been raped in countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo during conflicts and wars. Sexual violence, which is not limited to geography, has led to mass rapes in countries such as Sudan, Rwanda, Kosovo and Colombia. However, it was the Bosnian War that brought the use of rape as a weapon of war to the public agenda. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 50,000 women were raped during the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This issue has been the subject of movies, novels and even theses. The movie "My Mother's Wound" also deals with this violence. Indeed, during the war in Bosnia, 5,000 babies born as a result of rape were abandoned by their families. According to Nadia Murad, Chair of the Nadia Initiative, 6,500 Yazidi women and girls have been sexually assaulted during the conflict in Syria. The ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war has increased sexual violence against women. According to Ukrainian Human Rights Commissioner Lyudmyla Denisova, 400 cases of sexual assault against Ukrainian women were recorded in April 2022 alone. The UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Ukraine reported in September 2023 that Russian soldiers raped and sexually assaulted women between the ages of 19 and 83 as a widespread and systematic form of torture.

In conclusion, the gendered nature of wars, especially with its effects on the female body, remains an alarming reality today. Understanding how gender is used as a symbolic tool in wars and conflicts will be one of the most important steps in building public opinion on this issue. In addition, sexual violence against women must be condemned, investigated and punished everywhere and in all situations, regardless of who the perpetrator is.





Time to Socialize

GALATA TOWER

Res. Asst. Zehra MAKAR
*The Department of Business
Administration*

When it comes to the historical buildings of Istanbul, one of the first things that comes to mind is the Galata Tower. It is the witness to the centuries-old history of the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, and the Ottoman Empire. With its majestic appearance, the tower has been observing the city for centuries and telling various stories. It offers its visitors the privilege of both learning about the history of Istanbul and enjoying the unique cityscape.

The Galata Tower is a medieval stone tower located in Istanbul. It stands at the point where the Galata district intersects with the natural harbor of the Golden Horn on the European side of the city. The tower was initially used as an observation tower by Genoese merchants in the 14th century to control the port.

Since then, it has served various purposes such as a fire lookout, prison, and communication tower. Today, the tower is a popular tourist attraction, offering panoramic views of Istanbul from its observation terrace.

Additionally, the Galata Tower, considered among the oldest towers in the world and one of the symbols of Istanbul, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage Temporary List in 2013.

We've all heard the legend associated with Galata: According to the Romans, if a man and a woman go to the tower together for the first time, they will definitely get married. However, I want to inform you that if you are avoiding it out of fear or thinking, "I want to go there with someone special," you might be making a mistake. Because life can be too precious to be postponed.



So let's continue!

Tickets are sold on the nostalgic tram on the opposite side of the entrance. If you have a museum card, you can go directly to the entrance without buying a ticket. Additionally, right next to the tower, there is a tea garden that is less crowded and more comfortable compared to other luxury cafes. You can take advantage of this space to take a break. Although the tower has 11 floors, only 8 are open to visitors. You must take the mandatory elevator at the entrance and descend again on the sixth floor. The last two floors are reached by walking. On the way down, the elevator is not used, and you descend from the sixth floor using the stairs. This way, you also get to explore the exhibition areas of the other floors.

The ground floor is used for ticket control and boarding the elevator. The first floor houses the museum shop, the second floor features a simulation area describing Hezarfen Çelebi's glide from the Galata Tower, the third floor hosts a temporary exhibition area, the fourth floor focuses on the history of Galata and its walls, and the fifth floor presents an exhibition area on the history of Istanbul and the Galata Tower. The sixth floor is a transition area and is empty. After this, the most enjoyable two floors follow. From the seventh floor onwards, you climb metal suspended stairs. When descending, you use the original and narrow stone stairs from the sixth floor. (These may be the stairs I enjoy walking the most.)

The seventh floor features a beautiful model of Istanbul. Additionally, you can enjoy Istanbul views from lovely windows. By the way, on other floors, there are windows of various sizes, and some of these windows used to house cannons for the defense of the city.

The eighth floor is used as an observation terrace and can get incredibly crowded. It might be a bit challenging to navigate around due to its narrow space and people constantly taking photos. However, enduring these difficulties is worthwhile for the experience of watching Istanbul from here and capturing memorable photos.

The tower is open for visits every day from 08:30 to 22:00. Museum cardholders can enter the tower without paying a fee, while for those who want to purchase tickets, the cost is 650 TL per person.

Wish you a pleasant visit!

Events in İstanbul

"Time of the Gypsies" musical, an adaptation of Emir Kusturica's famous 1988 film "Time of the Gypsies", is being staged by Kumbara Visual Arts Theatre. This musical brings the colourful and cheerful gypsy culture of 1980s Yugoslavia, their joys and sorrows to the stage. The musical tells the story of a grandmother who devotes her life to the children of her lost daughter; Hatica, who lives with her troubled son and his family; Perhan, a grandson who risks everything for his pure love, but whose life is changed by his grandmother's decision; and Azra, a young gypsy girl who loses her love while chasing Hollywood dreams.



**Res. Asst. Dođukan
Kartal ÇIKI**
*The Department of Tourism
Guidance*

Date: 16.01.2024

Venue: Ataköy Municipality
Yunus Emre Cultural
Centre-Müşfik Kenter
Stage / İstanbul

Production: Kumbara
Visual Arts

Written by: Emir Kusturica,
Gordan Mihic

Director: Vural Bingöl

Ticket price: 300 TL

2 Acts / 120 Minutes

Players: Andrea PRİMAVERA, Gamze METİN, Nilüfer ÖMÜRLÜ,
Şehmus KARTAL, Seymur İLHAM, Tuvana CEYLAN, Erhan YAMAN,
Vural BİNGÖL, Özden USLUSOY, Ayca ERGÜN, Kamala
MUSTAFAYEVA TABAK, Merdis UÇKAN

We have compiled some of the prominent events in Istanbul in January for you.

Res. Asst. Asel ATAÖĞLU
The Department of Business
Administration

January in İstanbul



Type of Event	Name of Event	Location	Date
Theatre	Karı Koca İşleri	Caddebostan Kültür merkezi	7 January Monday
Theatre	Çok güzel Hareketler 2	Beşiktaş Kültür Merkezi	13 January Saturday
Stand-Up	Doğu Demirkol	CKM, BKM	15 January Monday
Concert	Gökhan Türkmen	Bostancı Gösteri Merkezi	19 January Friday
Concert	Yeni Türkü	Hayal Kahvesi Beşiktaş	27 January Saturday
Concert	Sagopa Kajmer	Bostancı Gösteri Merkezi	28 January Sunday



IGU STUDENT



YELİZ ABYA

**A 4TH YEAR STUDENT
FROM THE DEPARTMENT
OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**



Hello, I am Yeliz Abya. I am a 4th year student at Istanbul Gelisim University, Department of Political Science and International Relations, as well as Department of Psychology in English. It is my 4th year at the school, but due to the disasters in our country and in the world, I was only able to study face-to-face for 4 semesters. However, I would like to talk about my very productive academic life, including the semesters we spent online.

Istanbul Gelisim University is a university that provides us with many opportunities in terms of both academic, social and future planning. Academically, I had a satisfying academic process with the course contents, the opportunities provided by the rich elective course pool and the expert faculty members. Especially the events, conferences and symposiums organized for the students of the department provided me with additional knowledge.

In addition, I am one of those who benefit from the Double Major Program offered by the university. We have a university that does not limit knowledge and supports students in terms of studying in different departments. Istanbul Gelisim University is an institution that continues the importance it attaches to academic opportunities in the social field. While preparing us academically, it is also a fact that it keeps us in social life by organizing various events and cultural activities. During my time here, I had a wide circle of friends and cultural experience thanks to the multicultural structure at the university.

In addition, my university gave me individual and social awareness. The social aid projects helped me become a conscious and responsible person. I also think that the internship and job opportunities it offers have prepared me for the future as a more experienced and equipped individual. To summarize, Istanbul Gelisim University is more than just a university for me. The friendships I made during my time here, the knowledge and experience I gained prepared me for the future I was afraid of. I firmly believe that when I graduate, I will not only be a political scientist and psychologist, but also a useful individual for society.



Halil Can ERÇIKAN

A Graduate Student from the Department of Political Science and International Relations

Hello, I am Halil Can Erçikan. I am a 2023 graduate of Istanbul Gelisim University, Department of Political Science and International Relations. I would like to talk about my academic and social experiences during my undergraduate education.

Academically, I had the opportunity to increase my knowledge by participating in conferences, symposiums, webinars and many other events organized by our department. These events, attended by well-known experts in their fields, helped me graduate better equipped academically and professionally. In addition, the national projects we developed under the guidance of our department professors contributed greatly to my academic development.

I had the opportunity to meet and make friends with people from various parts of our country and from different geographies of the world through international programs. In this way, my horizons related to my field have expanded. While I was at the faculty, I was the president of the Political Analysis Community. Our school and our professors responded to the requests and suggestions of our community as soon as possible and helped us and we organized many events together. In this way, they contributed in different ways to improve ourselves and equip us for our professional life. Throughout our education life, our professors approached us as their colleagues and friends rather than a student-faculty relationship, which enabled us to express ourselves easily and gain self-confidence after graduation.

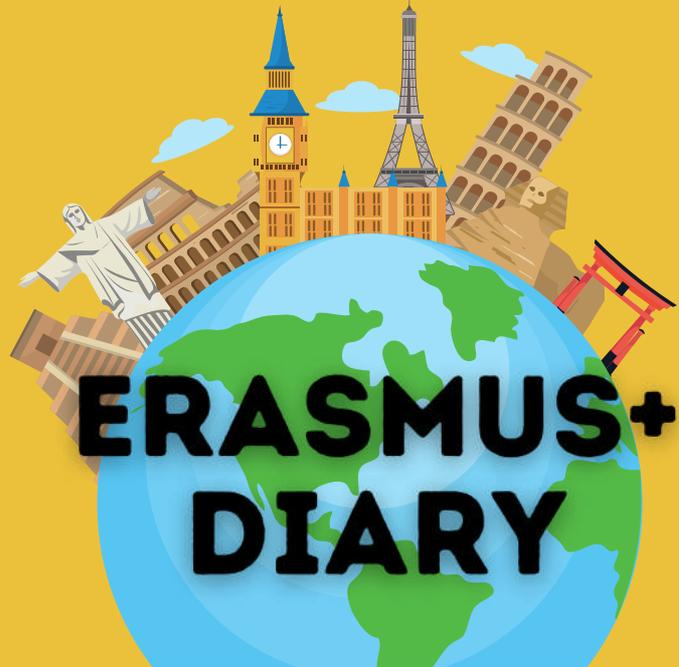
Istanbul Gelisim University has allowed us to fit beautiful friendships, adventures and hopes into our educational life. In this respect, it was not just a university, but a home for us. Our experiences in this process have given us values that we can use not only in our professional life but also throughout our lives. Even though I have graduated, my connection with my department, my friends and my professors has not been severed and although I have just graduated, I already miss my school very much.





Emre SARI

A 3rd Year Student from the Department of Political Science and Public Administration



BEYOND ACADEMICS, A LIFE EXPERIENCE: MY ERASMUS STORY

Hello Dear Readers,

I am Emre, a 3rd-year student majoring in Political Science and Public Administration. Today, I want to share with you one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life – my Erasmus adventure. As a student, this experience that I had eagerly anticipated and dreamt of was not just an academic Exchange for me; it was also a cultural journey. In the spring semester of 2022-2023, I participated in the Erasmus Study Mobility at Oradea University in the city of Oradea, Romania, for a duration of 5 months. This adventure was like a train journey with a light at the end for me.

Describing the excitement and joy I felt when I learned the results of the Erasmus exam is almost impossible. For the first time, I was going to leave my country and my comfort zone, and the thought alone both excited me and made me a bit anxious. However, to not miss the opportunity to meet new people, explore different cultures, and live in a brand new city, I decided to take this step.

When the Erasmus process began, I faced many challenges in the first few months. A new language, a different education system, trying different foods, and an unfamiliar environment... However, dealing with these challenges became an incredible opportunity for my personal development. Gradually, I started to adapt to this new world and began to feel more confident. Studying at a different university, experiencing different teaching methods, and exploring new subjects contributed to my academic development.

Speaking of Oradea, it is a charming city with its architecture, clean air, and surroundings. Although not very far from the city center, it has a library, a market, and various cafes all in one place. It doesn't have a very large population, so most people reside in the city center. The seasonal characteristics are quite similar to Turkey. The yellowing leaves and the gloomy atmosphere of autumn eventually give way to a lush green view. This becomes a factor that increases the vitality of life. If you ever get the chance to experience Erasmus, I recommend not missing out on this opportunity. It might be challenging, and change can be intimidating, but such experiences enrich you not only academically but also spiritually. Every new beginning has an end, but the Erasmus experience left me with memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.





Let December be Cookie Month!

Res. Asst. Dilek KIZILIRMAK
The Department of New Media
and Communication

Cookies are one of the preferred snacks all over the world, especially at tea time. National Cookie Day, which was celebrated for the first time in the world on Sesame Street on December 26, 1976, was celebrated by the Blue Chip Company on December 4, 1987. As a result of the development of the food industry and the increase in the awareness of the brands, this special day spread all over the world and continued to be celebrated as International Cookie Day. Cookie Day, which is very new in Türkiye, seems to gain a special place in the following years. The reason for this is that cookies have an important place in the rich Turkish cuisine.

Cookies are a snack frequently consumed on special occasions, holidays, invitations, and hosting guests. During holiday visits, hosts offer various cookies to their guests. It is a very common tradition to bring cookies when going somewhere as a guest. Cookie types in Türkiye are based on traditional recipes. Cookies prepared with various filling ingredients such as mesir paste, walnuts, hazelnuts, and almonds are popular. Each region has its own unique cookie recipes. For example, the cookie dessert belonging to Gaziantep cuisine is made with walnuts and sugar syrup. Walnuts are sprinkled into the thinly rolled dough, wrapped in a roll, and served by slicing. Acıbadem cookie, a cookie unique to Istanbul, is made from almond flour, granulated sugar, butter, and egg whites. Almond-shaped cookies are baked in the oven until lightly browned.

Cookie halva, which originates from the Trabzon region, contains semolina, butter, flour, and sugar. Cookie dough soaked in sugar syrup is mixed with walnuts and served in small pieces. Flour cookie, which is widely made throughout Turkey, is a cookie prepared with simple ingredients. It contains flour, butter, eggs, sugar, and vanillin, and is served with powdered sugar sprinkled on top. Hazelnut cookies, unique to the Black Sea region, are made with ground hazelnuts, butter, flour, and sugar. It is very important to use fresh and high-quality hazelnuts in its production. Şekerpare is a common dessert in Turkish cuisine, but it is also sometimes considered a cookie. This soft cookie, containing semolina, is usually served with sugar syrup poured over it. Kuymak cookies, which belong to the Eastern Anatolia Region, contain corn flour, butter, yogurt, and cheese. Its preparation is quite unique, and it has a different flavor profile. Talkan cookie, which contains roasted chickpea powder, white chocolate, powdered sugar, and vegetable oil, has become synonymous with Eskişehir. Kavala cookie, whose main ingredients are raw almonds, flour, and butter, is a flavor unique to Edirne.

Each region in Türkiye has produced traditional cookie recipes that stand out with their own ingredients and local tastes, and each has unique flavors. Cookie shapes also have an important place in Turkish cuisine. Cookies, especially made during holidays and special occasions, are usually cut and decorated in various ways. Motifs such as traditional figures, flowers and animal figures are frequently used. Cookie recipes are preserved among Turkish families by being passed down from generation to generation. Family elders teach their special recipes to the younger generations, and thus traditional cookie recipes are kept alive in the family. Varieties such as semolina cookies, flour cookies, salty cookies, chocolate chip cookies, kuymak, and Turkish delight cookies are popular. There are also cookies served with Turkish coffee.

It is very difficult to recommend a specific place to access these flavors in Istanbul. For this reason, pastry chefs and bakers who are known for their taste and quality can be preferred with confidence. However, it is possible to list a few suggestions as follows: Beyaz Fırın, which has branches in Kadıköy and Ataşehir, Üsküdar Tarihi Kuzuncuk Fırını, Beşiktaş Tarihi Oktay Kurabiye Fırını, Beyoğlu Divan Pastanesi and Şişli Kurabiedes.



ABOUT ACADEMIC LIFE

PUBLICATIONS

- **Asst. Prof. Oğuz Yıldız's** article titled "PLS-SEM bias: traditional vs consistent" was published in **Quality and Quantity**.
- **Asst. Prof. Uju Violet Alola and Asst. Prof. Andrew Adewale Alola's** article titled "A global perspective of the role of domestic economic, financial and political risks in inbound tourism" was published in **International Journal of Emerging Markets**.
- **Asst. Prof. Festus Victor Bekun's** article titled "Illicit financial outflows, informal sector size and domestic resource mobilization in selected African countries" was published in **Journal of Economic and Administrative Sciences**.
- **Asst. Prof. Festus Victor Bekun's** article titled "Explaining the environmental efficiency capability of energy mix innovation among the Nordic countries" was published in **Energy Reports**.
- **Asst. Prof. Festus Victor Bekun's** article titled "Exploration on terrorism, ecological footprint and environmental sustainability in countries with the most terrorism antecedent: Accessing evidence from panel fourier analysis" was published in **Heliyon**.
- **Asst. Prof. Festus Victor Bekun's** article titled "Race to carbon neutrality in South Africa: What role does environmental technological innovation play?" was published in **Applied Energy**.

ABOUT ACADEMIC LIFE



ASSIGNMENT & UPGRADE

- **Asst. Prof. Bahri Mert DEMİR** was appointed to the Department of Political Science and Public Administration.
- **Asst. Prof. Süreyya İmre BIYIKLI** was appointed to the Department of Management Information Systems.
- **Asst. Prof. Emrah DOĞAN** was appointed as “Associate Professor” to the Department of International Trade and Finance.



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metsis.gelisim.edu.tr

IGU Alumni Tracking System

The Alumni Tracking System (Metsis) has been launched to determine and follow the current status of our graduates, such as their employment and higher education careers, and to generate statistical data. Moreover, Istanbul Gelisim University aims to strengthen its relations with its graduates and contribute to their employment process through the METSİS platform. IGU alumni can subscribe to the platform for free. (metsis.gelisim.edu.tr)

Our graduates who are members of the platform can update their profiles and follow job postings.

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1. Enter the platform (metsis.gelisim.edu.tr) via internet-connected devices.
2. You can follow the job postings by clicking on the jobs.
3. You can create an account from the New Candidate section to apply.
4. After creating an account, you can see job postings from the jobs section on the top and apply for open positions.

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