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TÜRKİYE'S JOURNEY TO THE MOON: FIRST STEP IN THE CHANG'E-8 MISSION

Res. Asst. Ahmet Can Şenlik

The Department of Aviation Management (English)

Sending AI-controlled robots to the lunar surface is no longer a science fiction scenario. Türkiye's involvement in the Chang'e-8 mission marks a concrete step toward this vision, with the mission scheduled to land near the Moon's south pole in 2028. Led by China's national space agency CNSA, this mission forms a foundation for the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), planned for construction in the 2030s. It also brings together multiple international collaborations. One such partnership includes STAR.VISION, a China-based private technology firm, Zhejiang University, and Middle East Technical University (METU) from Türkiye, who jointly developed micro-exploration robots for the mission.

As part of the mission, two micro-robots, each weighing 5 kilograms, will be deployed to the lunar surface. Equipped with AI systems capable of autonomous navigation and task coordination, the robots represent a leap in small-scale robotic exploration. METU contributes expertise in mechanical design, navigation algorithms, and mobility systems, while STAR.VISION focuses on advanced AI processing components. METU's Department of Aerospace Engineering is at the heart of this mission. The project is led by Assoc. Prof. Halil Ersin Soken as principal investigator and chief design engineer. Asst. Prof. Görkem Eğemen Güloğlu serves as deputy chief designer and coordinator, while Prof. Demirkan Çöker contributes key engineering solutions.

The Chang'e-8 mission will also conduct the first experiments in 3D printing using lunar soil, aiming to test in-situ resource utilization (ISRU) for future Moon base construction. The landing site has been selected near Mons Mouton, also known as Leibnitz Beta, a plateau believed to hold water ice deposits. Türkiye's role in this project reflects more than just a technical contribution—it illustrates the country's broader vision for space exploration. When considered alongside the recently announced National Space Program and the goal of making a lunar contact by 2026, the Chang'e-8 mission stands out as a significant international collaboration that strengthens Türkiye's position on the global space stage.

This mission is a clear example of how academic-industry collaboration and scientific curiosity can evolve into a force that transcends borders. It represents not only technical progress but also Türkiye's growing capacity to contribute to interdisciplinary, multi-actor space research built on scientific knowledge production.



Res. Asst. Gökhan ÖZBİLGE
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Financial Ecosystem and Digital Transformation

In the financial sector, accelerating digital transformation to enhance customer experience and boost operational efficiency is becoming increasingly crucial. In this context, Global Finance's award program, which selects the best financial innovations of 2023, offers important tips to readers. Here are some of the award-winning innovations:

Alior Bank (Poland): The AI-powered voice assistant called "InfoNina" can understand multiple intentions and execute transactions by analyzing customer conversations. It was stated that the assistant contributed to more than 25 million Zloty in credit sales in 2022.

Bank Kombetare Tregtare (Kosovo): The "Multicurrency term deposit" product allows customers to switch between seven different currencies.

Citi: The "Citi Velocity 3.0" platform offers 24/7 pricing for more than 400 currency pairs in 74 countries and significantly increases transaction speed.

CTBC Bank (Taiwan): The AI-based platform, which performs real-time fraud risk assessment, can produce results in 30 milliseconds and protects 548 million payment customers.

As can be seen from the examples, technological integrations such as AI, blockchain, and open banking are highly functional in enhancing operational efficiency and security while also improving the customer experience. The speed, flexibility, and data-driven approach offered by these technologies make financial services more accessible and user-friendly. Therefore, similar innovations are expected to create the competitive dynamics of global markets shortly. As a result, not only is the service delivery of the financial sector undergoing radical changes, but the ways of doing business are also changing. In other words, the atmosphere of the financial ecosystem is changing rapidly!





REFLECTIONS ON THE U.S.–CHINA TRADE WAR

Asst. Prof. Emre GÜNDOĞDU
**The Department of Political Science and
International Relations**

The trade war between the United States and China reflects the complex interplay of economics and politics. The Trump administration has argued that the United States has been “exploited” by foreign actors and has claimed that tariffs would encourage American consumers to purchase more domestically produced goods while increasing tax revenues. One of the commercial pillars of the established “liberal international order” under American leadership after World War II was a set of trade regulations envisaging high standards for consumers and workers alike. The liberal internationalist view emphasizes that free trade and market access promote peace and economic efficiency by fostering prosperity, optimizing resource allocation, and enabling unrestricted access to goods and services.

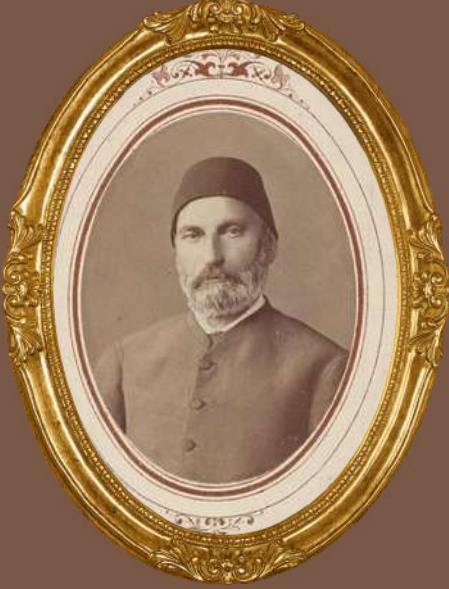
President Trump's tariff policy, however, runs counter to this understanding. It has triggered reciprocal interstate trade retaliation that is likely to lead to inflation and a scenario where consumers have access to fewer goods. Empirical studies have shown that such tariff wars reduce income and exports while diminishing consumer welfare. Even if the Trump administration may have achieved some short-term gains measurable by economic indicators, its pursuit of a populist agenda that undermines the openness of the U.S. economy could have long-term consequences. Most notably, it may shake the foundations of American hegemony by prompting a broader reassessment of the global system in which the United States plays a central role. The degree to which U.S. allies support Trump's tariff war policy remains a subject of debate. Key partners such as Japan, South Korea, and the European Union do not appear eager to be part of a tariff conflict with China. Moreover, a potential economic crisis triggered by the U.S.–China trade war risks escalating military tensions in the South China Sea, around Taiwan, and near the Philippine waters, thereby fostering instability in the medium term. Lastly, while Trump's tariff increases may allow the Chinese government to redirect public discontent over domestic economic stagnation toward the United States, the Trump administration itself will have to confront democratic domestic pressures. The political responsibility for initiating the trade war, combined with the internal regime differences between the two states, places the U.S. in a position where it may be compelled to become the “first actor to step back.”



HACI ARİF BEY IN THE WORDS OF HIS GRANDCHILDREN

Culture Art
and
Literature

Asst. Prof. Hayriye Asena Demirer
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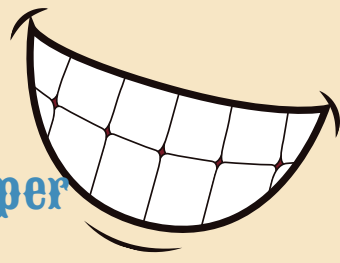


The last of the series of talks and recitals titled Portraits of Music Lovers, prepared and moderated by Hüseyin Kıyak for nearly three years under the roof of the Biography Institute, was held on May 20, 2025 at 19:30 at the Turkish Design Foundation.

In this section of the series titled “Hacı Arif Bey in the Words of His Grandchildren on the 140th Anniversary of His Death,” the portrait of Hacı Arif Bey (1831-1885), one of the most important classical Turkish music composers of the 19th century, was examined. The guests of the program were Derya Köroğlu, soloist of the Yeni Türkü Group, Mehmet Ziya Başak and Hamit Doğan Başak. Mehmet and Doğan Başak’s grandfather’s mother is Hayriye Hanım, Hacı Arif’s daughter from Nigarnik; Derya Köroğlu’s grandfather is Hacı Arif’s uncle’s granddaughter. Mehmet Bey is a lawyer like his grandfather Hamit Bey, while his brother Doğan Bey is a physician who continues the profession of his great-great-grandfather Ömer Paşa. During the program that lasted nearly two hours, the guests shared some parts of Hacı Arif’s life accompanied by photographs. In the program where Ayşe Ebru Şahinbaş played the kemençe, Baran Çalkan played the kanun and Hüseyin Kıyak played the tambur, Hüseyin Kıyak and Ayşe Ebru Şahinbaş performed examples of Hacı Arif’s works. During the interview that took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, the audience occasionally asked questions to the guests. At the end of the program, Derya Köroğlu sang some of his beloved songs and there were emotional moments with the participation of the audience.



Meçhul Paşa: The Fabled Resistance of a Satirical Newspaper



Res. Asst. Onur KAYA

The Department of Political Science and International Relations

On the stage of Tiyatro Hayali, words become weapons and satire transforms into a shield...

In a country where even laughter was considered a crime, a journey unfolds—armed with three pens, one cartoonist, a typewriter, and a pile of subpoenas. Meçhul Paşa invites you into the fabled story of Marko Paşa, the legendary satirical newspaper that collided with the censorship walls of the Recep Peker government in 1946—only to rise again each time.

Ignited by the courage of Sabahattin Ali, Aziz Nesin, Rıfat Ilgaz, and Mustafa Mim Uykusuz, this spark became the sharpest voice that dared to laugh in the face of power, despite thick case files, fugitive presses, and state scrutiny. With every line they wrote, they pushed the state's nerve endings and handed satire into the hands of the people.

Now, Tiyatro Hayali follows in the footsteps of these daring writers:

"Imagine a newspaper—77 issues, 16 lawsuits, 10 addresses, 9 printing presses, 8 owners, and 10 editors-in-chief..."

A bastion of satire that broke records in changing locations, resisting under the looming shadow of censorship.

In an age where today's "sense of humor" is confined to 280 characters, this play reminds us of the 280 days spent in prison for speaking truth to power.

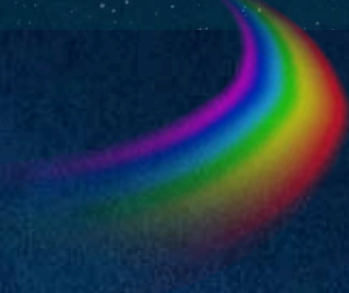
"If you're not laughing, you're in hell."

Because sometimes, the greatest resistance begins with a laugh.

And perhaps the most "unknown" is the one who dares to speak the truth.

Meçhul Paşa is a historical reminder, a political gesture, and a rebellious burst of laughter.





CROSSING

Res. Asst. Selin YALÇINTAŞ

The Department of International Trade and Finance (English)

Cinema is sometimes a way to explore a city, and sometimes a way to journey through a person's inner world. Levan Akin's 2024 film *Crossing* masterfully weaves these two paths together. Beginning in the coastal Georgian city of Batumi and continuing through the bustling streets of Istanbul, this journey is not only a geographical passage but also a story of deep personal transformation. Centered around themes of identity, belonging, and human connection, the film offers a layered narrative about crossing boundaries, both visible and invisible.

The film follows Lia, a retired history teacher, as she sets out to find her niece Tekla, who became estranged from the family years ago. Accompanying her on this search is Achi, the younger brother of one of her former students. Though they come from different generations and perspectives, they are united by a shared sense of curiosity born from loss. Their journey eventually leads them to Istanbul, where they meet Evrim, a lawyer and LGBTQ+ rights activist. Evrim not only helps them in their search for Tekla but also guides them toward a deeper understanding of themselves.

Crossing tells more than just the story of a physical journey from Batumi to Istanbul, it explores the passage between tradition and freedom, repression and acceptance, past and future. Each character represents a different kind of transition; Lia attempts to bridge a generational gap, Achi questions patriarchal expectations and Evrim fights to maintain her identity in the shadows of the city.

The director intertwines the social fabric of a place with the inner struggles of individual identity, while also positioning Istanbul not just as a backdrop, but as a character in its own right. Through narrow streets, nightlife, moments of solidarity within the LGBTQ+ community, and archives full of the lost, this vast city becomes both a place that conceals and one that reveals. At first, Lia describes Istanbul as "a city people come to in order to disappear". But as the story unfolds, the city transforms into one where you may lose yourself, yet also find yourself again.

At the same time, the film subtly touches on themes such as the isolation of the elderly, the pressures faced by youth, and the evolving definition of family. The camera never judges the characters; instead, it walks beside them. In doing so, the film doesn't merely tell a story, it makes you feel like you're part of the journey. Sometimes on a ferry, sometimes in a quiet alley and sometimes in the emotion on someone's face...



Megali Idea

Esra Özsüer, Megali Idea: 1821 Mora İsyanı'ndan 1922 Küçük Asya Bozgunu'na (İstanbul: Kronik Kitap, 2025). (960 sayfa)

Yunanistan'ın bağımsızlığını kazanmasından sonra Rumların yaşadığı Osmanlı topraklarını ele geçirmek, Rum kardeşlerini özgürleştirmek ve sonunda İstanbul'u ele geçirmeyi amaçlayan siyaseti -Megali Idea- yalnızca bir "büyük ülkü" değil aynı zamanda ülkenin kimliğinde kurucu bir mit ve tarihsel hedefi olarak bilinir. Ancak Türkiye'de Megali Idea daha çok temel bir varsayım olarak okunur. İçeriğine, gelişimine, topluma nasıl nüfuz ettiğine çok da odaklanılmaz. Bununla birlikte Türkiye'de ise herkesin ifade ettiği ancak içeriğine, en azından Yunan iç politikasında ne anlama geldiğine, nasıl örüldüğüne ve inşa edildiğine yer verilmeyen de bir süreç. Bu açıdan Megali Idea bir büyük ülkü hatta Yunanistan'ın "kızıl elma"sıdır. Bu "kızıl elma" nasıl bir kimlik krizine dönüştü? Esra Özsüer "Megali Idea:1821 Mora İsyanı'ndan 1922 Küçük Asya Bozgunu'na" isimli kitabında tam da bu ülkünün gelişimi, yükselişi ve Anadolu'nun işgalinin başarısızlığa uğramasının ardından çöküşünü ele alıyor. Aslında kitap Yunan siyasal düşüncesinde nasıl Megali Idea'nın söylem ve sembollerle örülü bir yapı ve çok katmanlı bir sürecin ifadesi olduğunu okurlarıyla bütün çıplaklığıyla paylaşıyor.

Bu kitap asker mektuplarından, diplomatik yazışmalardan, propaganda metinlerine, ülkenin iç ve dış siyasetinde bu ülkünün nasıl adım adım inşa edildiğine odaklanıyor. Oldukça kapsamlı bir çalışma olduğunun özellikle altını çizmek gerekiyor. Çünkü 960 sayfalık bir temel kaynak ve başucu eseri. Aslında daha önce hiçbir Türk araştırmacının girmesinin mümkün olmadığı Yunanistan Genelkurmay Arşivi'ni ve Dışişleri Bakanlığı Arşivi'ni de içerisine alıyor. Dolayısıyla belki de bir siyasi tarihçinin olmazsa olmaz arşivleri üzerinden hazırlanmış olduğunu belirtmek gerekli. Bunun yanı sıra Megali Idea: 1821 Mora İsyanı'ndan 1922 Küçük Asya Bozgunu yaklaşık on yılı aşan uzun erimli bir çalışmanın ürünü. Kitabın en önemli bölümlerinden bir tanesi 1919-1922 arasında gerçekleştirilen Yunan işgalinin topluma nasıl nüfuz etmesini sağlamayı ve rıza üretimini gerçekleştirmeyi amaçlayan kurumsal mekanizmaları derinlemesine ortaya koymasından kaynaklanıyor. Bu kapsamda İyonya Üniversitesi'nin anlatıldığı bölüm ile Yunanistan Ulusal Bankası'nın İzmir Şubesi'ne yer verilmiş olması, kitabı diğer çalışmalardan ayırarak farklı bir yere yerleştiriyor. Zira, işgalin kalıcı olması için aslında topluma da yerleşmesi gerektiği ve işgal bölgesinin ulusal ekonomiye kazandırılma çabasını Esra Özsüer derinlemesine inceliyor. Bu kapsamda birçok kurumsal yapı inşa edilmiş olması Anadolu'nun işgaline başka bir açıdan bakabilmek için elzem...

Okuyucusu bol olsun...

Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Ayşe KÜÇÜK
Siyaset Bilimi ve Uluslararası İlişkiler Bölümü



Asst. Prof. Ayşe KÜÇÜK
The Department of Political Science and
International Relations

Esra Özsüer, *Megali Idea: From the 1821 Morea Rebellion to the 1922 Asia Minor Catastrophe* (Istanbul: Kronik Kitap, 2025). (960 pages)

Following Greece's independence, the policy of seizing Ottoman territories inhabited by Greeks—under the banner of "liberating Greek brothers" and ultimately capturing Istanbul—known as Megali Idea, has been regarded not just as a "grand ideal," but also as a founding myth and a historical objective embedded in the national identity. However, in Türkiye, Megali Idea is often interpreted as a basic assumption. Its content, evolution, and how it permeated society have not been thoroughly examined.

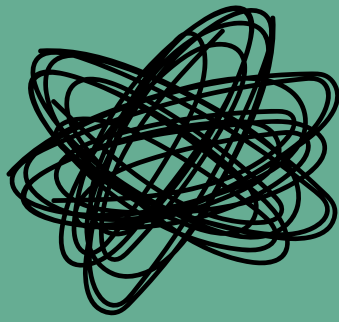
Despite being a term frequently mentioned in Türkiye, what it truly meant within Greek domestic politics—how it was constructed and cultivated—has received little attention. In this sense, Megali Idea can be considered Greece's version of the "red apple," an elusive national aspiration. How did this "red apple" transform into a crisis of identity?

In her book *Megali Idea: From the 1821 Morea Rebellion to the 1922 Asia Minor Catastrophe*, Esra Özsüer addresses precisely this trajectory—its development, rise, and eventual collapse following the failure of the occupation of Anatolia. The book compellingly reveals how Megali Idea became a complex, multilayered process, woven into Greek political thought through discourse and symbolism.

This work draws from soldier letters, diplomatic correspondences, propaganda texts, and other materials to examine how this ideal was gradually constructed in both Greece's domestic and foreign policy. It is necessary to emphasize that this is a particularly comprehensive study—960 pages long and a fundamental reference work. Notably, it includes access to sources previously unavailable to any Turkish researcher, such as the Greek General Staff Archive and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive, making it essential reading for political historians.

Moreover, this book is the product of over a decade of long-term research. One of its most striking chapters reveals in depth the institutional mechanisms intended to embed the 1919–1922 Greek occupation into society and generate public consent. In this regard, the chapters on Ionian University and the Izmir Branch of the National Bank of Greece set the book apart from other works. Özsüer explores in detail how occupation needed to take root socially and how the occupied region was gradually integrated into the national economy. Many institutional structures were built as part of this effort—providing a vital perspective on the occupation of Anatolia.

May it find many readers...



Epepe

Hungarian writer Ferenc Karinthy's *Epepe* (2024) is a novel that questions the limits of language and communication, with existential themes at its center. The protagonist Budai's arrival in a city where he will be trapped in an uninterrupted obscurity in terms of both language and life practices, instead of the international conference he will attend as a linguist, places the novel in the middle of a fundamental dilemma; it emphasizes the regulatory role of signifier/signified relations through the alienation experience of the protagonist. Indeed, in *Epepe*'s narrative, language ceases to be merely a means of communication and turns into a fundamental element that determines the existence of the individual. Budai's inability to grasp the language of the city despite all his efforts emphasizes the arbitrariness of language and the continuous slippery ground of meaning throughout the novel; it allows the limited moments of communication to be revealed through a language game.

Moreover, the spatial fiction of the novel brings the uncanny, which reflects the mental state in which Budai is in, to the reader through snapshots detached from the motion of the public space and detailed descriptions of the architecture of the city. In this context, the city in which the Buddha is forced to live turns into both a physical and a mental labyrinth; the streets, buildings and people become increasingly chaotic, while the Buddha's loneliness deepens. Karinthy strikingly shows how vulnerable an individual can be in an alien environment, uprooted from his roots, and how his identity can melt away. For this reason, even later in the book, the attempt to mark a common emotional space is overcome by Karinthy's renewed restlessness, her formlessness as a mass of images.

In conclusion, with *Epepe*, Karinthy questions the role of language in building a common world, while at the same time strikingly revealing how contemporary societies render the individual vulnerable and de-identified. Karinthy's literary sensibility prompts her readers to think deeply about their own existence, communication and belonging. In this respect, *Epepe* has a multifaceted and lasting value not only in the field of literature but also in disciplines such as linguistics, philosophy and sociology.



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The Department of Political
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AKADEMIC PLAYLIST



A SELECTION FOR THE 90S

Res. Asst. Mustafa Nurkan Bitlisli
The Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Turkish pop music of the 90s retains its vitality even today with its colorful music videos, unforgettable melodies and nostalgic lyrics. The songs of this era still hold a special place in the hearts of many people. For you, we have prepared a playlist of 10 unforgettable songs that reflect the spirit of the 90s and promise a pleasant journey. We wish you a pleasant listen.

Please click here to access the [playlist](#).

81		Benimle Oynama Burak Kut	Benimle Oynama / Çılgınım
82		Ceylan Ayna	Gittiğin Yağmurla Gel (Ceylan Remixes)
83		Adam Sibel Alaş	Adam
84		Gir Kanıma Harun Kolçak	Beni Affet
85		Sakin Ol Sertab Erener	Sakin Ol
86		Zalim Levent Yüksel	Levent Yüksel'in 2. Cd'si
87		Eğlen Güzelim Ajda Pekkan	Ajda Pekkan
88		Aynı Perde Taner	Affetmedim Kendimi
89		Sevdik Sevdalandık Reyhan Karaca	Sevdik Sevdalandık
90		Hovarda Emel Müftüoğlu	Hovarda





A Bridge Between Cultures at Our University: Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme

Asst. Prof. Sibel ZENGİN

The Department of Political Science and International Relations

The Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) is a hybrid learning initiative organized by higher education institutions in Europe through collaboration under the Erasmus+ Programme. The programme combines online courses with short-term in-person (physical) mobility.

This year, our Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) hosted its first Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) from March 18 to May 2, 2025, welcoming 32 students from leading European universities while also integrating our own students into a global learning experience. A total of 7 students from various departments of IGU, including the Department of Political Science and International Relations, actively participated in the programme. Throughout the programme, the Department of Political Science and International Relations also contributed by conducting online sessions of the Programme and organizing physical workshops at Istanbul Gelisim University campus.

Under the Erasmus+ BIP, a total of 39 participants—32 students from 10 different European universities and 7 students from our university—received training on "Research Project Planning and Proposal Writing" over 7 weeks. As part of the programme, students developed innovative projects based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which our university strongly emphasizes and implements across various fields. This initiative not only facilitated academic knowledge exchange but also strengthened students' collaboration and teamwork skills through interdisciplinary group projects focused on sustainability (addressing topics such as health, education, economic growth, production-consumption, climate change, etc.).

During the physical mobility phase, education was enriched by Istanbul's captivating atmosphere. Participants embarked on a cultural exploration with visits to the historic peninsula and museums in Istanbul. Additionally, they enhanced their project-writing skills through collaborative workshops held on our university's campus and had the opportunity to present their creative ideas in the final project presentations. The programme concluded successfully with a Certificate Ceremony held on May 2, 2025, following the student presentations. Among the most significant outcomes of this process were: an enriched learning environment through intercultural exchange, the active participation of our university's students on an international platform, and the hands-on experiences that contributed to participants' academic and personal development. Our university remains committed to supporting the global perspective that such collaborations provide for our students.





JAPAN'S DEFENSE INDUSTRY AND INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN UNMANNED SYSTEMS

Prof. Emine AKÇADAĞ ALAGÖZ

The Department of Political Science and International Relations

Japan's defense modernization program has placed Japanese innovation at the heart of Indo-Pacific defense technology development. This modernization program is focused on advanced capabilities in the areas of uncrewed systems, hypersonics and space. While pursuing ambitious technology goals, Japan is also actively seeking to build technology-driven international partnerships.

Today, Japan is a leader in the field of unmanned systems and has invested significantly in the development of these systems. Unmanned systems are one of the seven core capabilities detailed in the National Defense Strategy, and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force has successfully deployed these systems in several recent multinational exercises.

The AI-guided unmanned aircraft developed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which will make its first flight in November 2025, is a demonstration of this effort. Mitsubishi has developed two AI-powered prototypes: an agile reconnaissance model for reconnaissance missions and a stealth aircraft model optimized for air-to-air combat. Test flights are planned for 2025, with fully autonomous operations by 2035.

In partnership with the US, Japan is jointly developing AI and machine learning through the 'Overwhelming Response through Collaborative Autonomy' project to enable drones and manned jets to share real-time data and adapt missions autonomously.

Japan is increasing its spending on autonomous research and development, prioritizing research with allied countries, particularly in drone communications, data streaming and sensor coordination. This includes the development of secure communication protocols and advanced autonomous decision-making capabilities.



MILITARY CRISIS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Asst. Prof. Rahmat Ullah
The Department of Political Science and
International Relations

Last May, the most significant military crisis in South Asia took place between India and Pakistan in recent times. The conflict began with a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Indian-occupied Kashmir, on April 22, 2025, in which 26 Indian tourists were killed (Anupreeta vd., 2025). India blamed the Pakistan-backed militant groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad for the attack, although Pakistan denied the allegations. India expelled Pakistani diplomats and suspended the Indus Waters Treaty. In retaliation, Pakistan closed its airspace to India and suspended the Shimla Agreement. Meanwhile, India prepared for military intervention inside Pakistan and launched air and missile strikes on nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir on May 7. The campaign was named "Operation Sindhur." Pakistan claimed that 31 civilians were killed in this attack.

In response, Pakistan launched "Operation Bunyan al-Marsous," involving drone and missile strikes on Indian military bases. Pakistan claimed to have shot down six Indian fighter jets, three of which were Rafale jets (Latif, 2025). However, India did not release any specific information about the extent of the damage. Both sides extensively used drones and missiles in the conflict for the first time. India used SCALP missiles and HAMMER bombs from its Rafale jets, while Pakistan used Fateh-I and Fateh-II missiles (Clary, 2025). On May 10, 2025, India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire brokered by the United States. After the truce, both countries began the process of reducing troop numbers along the border. This military crisis has profoundly impacted the security situation and nuclear deterrence policies in South Asia.



COULD THERE BE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN CHINA AND RUSSIA IN THE CAUCASUS?

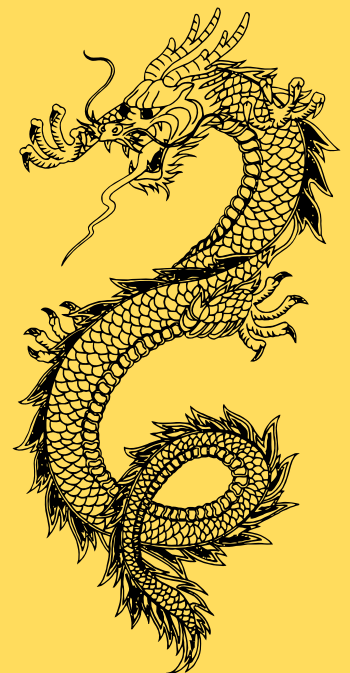
Asst. Prof. Keisuke WAKIZAKA

The Department of Political Science and International Relations

When examining current political developments in the South Caucasus, one of the most prominent issues is the debate surrounding the Zangezur Corridor. This issue closely concerns not only Armenia and Azerbaijan but also global and regional powers such as Türkiye, Iran, Russia, and Western countries. Moreover, China and Russia have adopted differing positions on the opening of the corridor, making a potential conflict of interest between these strategic allies in the Caucasus increasingly likely.

Behind Russia's stance on the corridor lies its aim to maintain its influence over the Caucasus. Following the war in Ukraine, Russia's influence in the region has begun to wane, and Armenia—once Russia's most important ally—has opted to move closer to the West and Türkiye. Within this framework, while Russia seeks to preserve its dominance in the region through the Zangezur Corridor, it opposes Armenia's proposed "Peace Corridor" project.

China's approach to the issue, on the other hand, is primarily economic in nature. China views the region from the perspective of economic interests and supports the "Peace Corridor" project—which Russia views unfavorably—within the context of the Belt and Road Initiative. Although close relations between Russia and China continue today, China has been expanding its economic influence in the former Soviet geography against Russia, and this increases the likelihood of a conflict of interest between the two in the Caucasus in the medium term.



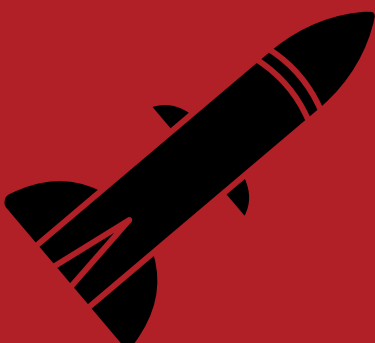
WILL THE U.S.–IRAN NUCLEAR TALKS YIELD RESULTS?

Asst. Prof. Ali SEMİN

The Department of Political Science and International Relations

With the inauguration of the U.S. President Donald Trump on January 20, significant developments have unfolded both in the international system and particularly in the Middle East. The developments in the region have been especially noteworthy. While it was widely expected that Trump would adopt a confrontational stance toward Iran upon taking office, on April 12, indirect talks on Iran's nuclear program were surprisingly initiated in Muscat, Oman, between the U.S. and the Iranian government. These negotiations differ from the 2015 nuclear agreement between the U.S. and Iran. The current talks are being held indirectly with Omani mediation, unlike the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) of 2015, which involved the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—plus Germany). Back in 2015, Iran had agreed to enrich uranium at a level not exceeding 3.67%. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s February 2025 report, Iran currently possesses a stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60%, with quantities reaching approximately 275 kilograms. Some international assessments even claim that Iran has enriched uranium to as much as 83.7%. If Iran reaches enrichment levels of 90%, it will effectively possess the capability to produce nuclear weapons. In terms of the current negotiation dynamics, the U.S. demands that Iran eliminate its enriched uranium stockpile entirely, place all nuclear facilities under IAEA supervision, and provide guarantees that it will refrain from engaging in any future nuclear activity. Iran, on the other hand, insists on its right to pursue uranium enrichment for peaceful purposes and sets the complete lifting of sanctions as a precondition for any agreement. Despite positive rhetoric from both sides, it is evident that no tangible progress has been achieved in the negotiations thus far.

In conclusion, when evaluating these developments, it is worth noting that negotiators in international diplomacy often seek to break down complex issues into manageable components, proposing direct solutions and mechanisms accordingly. In this context, the talks between the U.S. and Iran have largely focused on uranium enrichment and the permissible level of enrichment. To summarize: up to this point, no one has seriously questioned why Iran might seek to turn its nuclear program into a weapon rather than using it solely for civilian purposes such as electricity generation or powering air conditioning systems. Therefore, it can be argued that the Tehran–Washington talks are more strategic and tactical in nature than genuinely result-oriented.



Visible but Untouchable: Rethinking Belonging in the Age of Liquid Modernity

HEALTH- PSYCHOLOGY



Res. Asst. Meryem SARIKÖSE
The Department of Sociology

As we move through the digital age, we find ourselves in a society exhausted by the constant demand to stay connected. In a time when establishing contact has become so effortless, we have paradoxically grown lonelier. Among the endless streams of social media, the faces and names that pass before our eyes rarely result in meaningful encounters. As everyday life becomes confined to screens, the simple acts of looking one another in the eye, of sharing a moment of silence, or even just being silently present with someone, have been replaced by the noise of notifications. This crowd-filled silence may be what isolates us the most. Social isolation is no longer merely a physical separation; it has become a mental, emotional, and even existential rupture.

Sociology does not treat this loneliness as a new issue; for while humanity's relationship with society has shifted across history, the consequences of social disconnection have always run deep. In his classical study *Suicide*, Durkheim demonstrates with compelling examples how the weakening of bonds between the individual and society is closely linked to psychological collapse (Durkheim, 2002, p. 209). Today, though these connections may seem more abundant on the surface, the nature of these relationships often renders such abundance meaningless. Interactions devoid of substance do not foster a sense of belonging; they only deepen the feeling of detachment. Durkheim's concept of anomie eerily mirrors the state of today's digital individual, drifting in a fog of uncertainty.

Georg Simmel described the mental fatigue of individuals lost in the crowds of modern cities, noting that people developed a kind of emotional numbness as a way to protect their minds from overstimulation (Simmel, 1997, p. 179). Today, this same numbness is being reproduced within digital metropolises. When our eyes are locked onto screens, it's as though our spirits become motionless. Numbness becomes a survival mechanism. Everything seems too much, yet nothing ever feels whole. Sherry Turkle points to a similar phenomenon: people are no longer truly present with those around them, but constantly connected to those who are far away; face-to-face interactions are replaced by short messages and instant replies (Turkle, 2011, p. 13). Yet these "connections" often fail to build real social bonds. A true relationship involves more than the exchange of information; it includes emotions, silences, and even disagreements. Digital spaces, however, strip these layers away. The individual floats like a ghost among the crowds visible, yet untouched.

Zygmunt Bauman's portrayal of "liquid modernity" offers a key to understanding this transformation. In today's world, relationships have shifted from stable and enduring bonds to transient and fragile ties (Bauman, 2003, p. 14). This fragility makes belonging to a community nearly impossible. When every bond is temporary, none feel truly safe. In the absence of trust, the soul remains constantly alert — a kind of mental exhaustion sets in. This exhaustion is not merely personal; it reflects the loosening fabric of society itself.

This form of social isolation goes far beyond personal withdrawal. Sometimes, even within society, the individual can remain profoundly outside of it. One can feel alone amidst the crowd. Sociologically, this is not just a matter of mental health — it is the result of structural transformations. As communities weaken and shared spaces lose their function, individuals are distanced from support systems. Mental health, therefore, must not be seen solely as a psychological issue, but as one deeply embedded in the organization of society. What we need today are not strategies that tell the individual how to cope, but approaches that question the very social structures that produce this loneliness. Reimagining society, revitalizing solidarity, and creating spaces for shared meaning, these may well be the only true remedies in an era so fatigued by disconnection.

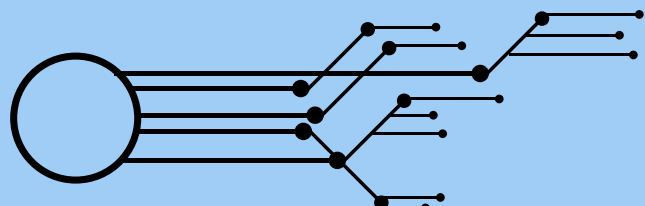
Sources:

Bauman, Z. (2003). *Liquid love: On the frailty of human bonds*. Polity Press.

Durkheim, E. (2002). *Suicide: A study in sociology* (J. A. Spaulding & G. Simpson, Trans.). Routledge

Simmel, G. (1997). The metropolis and mental life. In D. Frisby & M. Featherstone (Eds.), *Simmel on culture* (pp. 174–185). Sage.

Turkle, S. (2011). *Alone together: Why we expect more from technology and less from each other*. Basic Books.



UNCERTAINTY AND FUTURE

Asst. Prof. Elif ŞAHİN

The Department of Political Science and International Relations



We are confronted with the reality that migration is one of the most important dynamics of humanity. Within this phenomenon, the post-migration process holds critical importance.

Migrants face challenges related to their acceptance in host countries, status uncertainty, and, most importantly, the difficulties of living together. According to Glossary of Migration by International Organization of Migration, integration is defined as, "the two-way process of mutual adaptation between migrants and the societies in which they live, whereby migrants are incorporated into social, economic, cultural and political life of the receiving community". During this process, negative attitudes by the host community such as being in precarity and being exposed to discrimination leads migrants to experience a fragile and uncertain acceptance process. The effort to learn the language is perhaps the most critical component of this integration process.



The language learning efforts of migrants are vital not only for communicating with the host community but also for cultural exchange and strengthening social ties and social connection. All these dynamics pose additional barriers and challenges, particularly for women migrants. They often struggle to be seen as active agents capable of sustaining their lives while dealing with social, economic, and cultural challenges. Women typically bear the responsibility of household care, which often places them in a secondary position when it comes to actively participating in the integration process within new societies.

Economic difficulties encountered in the host community remain significant issues for both women and male migrants. Structural inequalities concerning participation in the public sphere raise discussions on gender inequality, particularly for women migrants. Therefore, addressing status uncertainty and increasing support for migrants are of great importance for both host and migrant communities. New approaches that focus on human rights and recognize migrants as individuals capable of taking control of their own lives will render the future of migrants more hopeful, both in academic literature and in practice.



On Hidden Cameras and the Loss of Privacy

Res. Asst. Tünay ARAS

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Today, while technology makes human life easier, it also threatens the boundaries of individual rights and freedoms. Hidden camera scandals in vacation accommodation areas stand out as one of the most disturbing examples of these threats. These private spaces, chosen for rest, escape, and personal time, are turned into surveillance tools by some individuals, trampling on one of the most fundamental human rights: privacy. This situation not only reflects individual perversions but also reveals distortions deeply rooted within modern society.

The modern individual has become accustomed to being watched. Every moment shared on social media, every piece of content followed, and every bit of data collected by smart devices is under someone's scrutiny. However, this "voluntary surveillance" is now being replaced by compulsory monitoring through hidden and unauthorized camera recordings in vacation accommodations. People can no longer assume they are completely alone in a hotel room, an Airbnb home, or a short-term rental apartment. This state of distrust damages the mental health of individuals and fundamentally shakes the collective sense of security in society.

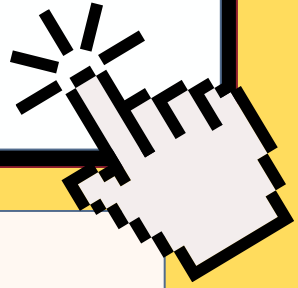
Hidden camera incidents in vacation areas are not only a "violation of private life" but also a reflection of the commercialization of privacy. Most of these recordings are shared on illegal platforms for viewing, turning them into objects of consumption. The human body and private moments become entertainment material for anonymous users. The dignity of the individual is reduced to a marketable commodity under the name of "content."

One of the main reasons for the increase in such incidents is the lack of effective oversight mechanisms and the absence of deterrent sanctions. Many accommodation providers operate with a profit-driven approach, sidelining values such as security, privacy, and ethics. The responsibility of the state, platforms, and society in this area cannot be ignored. Modern society needs to achieve a level of awareness that allows it to benefit from technological advancements while protecting human dignity. Therefore, as a society, we must be more sensitive, more demanding, and better organized in response to these violations. These incidents reflect a society that evolves with technology but deteriorates just as rapidly. If serious steps are not taken, tomorrow any of us could be the "watched" person recorded on those videos.

TIME TO SOCIALIZE

Res. Asst. Zehra Makar

The Department of Business Administration (English)



Club

Theatre Club

We welcome those who are interested in theatre and are curious about being on stage to the Theatre Club. You can follow this very active club on social media:

Instagram: igutiyatro



Agenda At İGU

Summer is coming!

Now that we have gotten through the finals, we think most of us have made holiday plans. Would you prefer a seaside holiday, a cultural holiday, or a holiday where you can stay home and relax? 😊 We are eagerly waiting for your comments on our İİSBF social media accounts:

Instagram: iguiisbf

Twitter: iguiisbf

Let's Socialize

Onion Cafe & Restaurant

We are taking you to a cafe where garlic bread, pizza, and beyti kebab are famous. The place is 5 minutes walking distance from Üsküdar Marmaray station. I am sure that it will be remembered with its caring staff, relaxing and stylish decoration. Enjoy your meal 😊

Instagram: iguiisbf

Twitter: iguiisbf



JULY IN ISTANBUL

Res. Asst. Asel ATAÖĞLU

The Department of
Business Administration

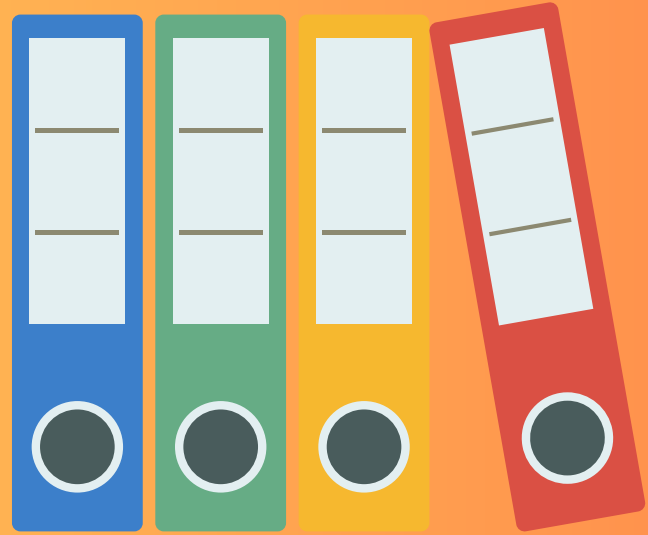


We have compiled some of the prominent events in Istanbul in
July for you.

Type of Event	Name of Event	Location	Date
Concert	Melike Şahin	Maximum Uniq Açık hava	4 July Friday
Stand Up	Entel Maganda	Kadıköy Sineması	5 July Saturday
Concert	Levent Yüksel	Harbiye Cemil Topuzlu	8 July Tuesday
Stand Up	Ali Rıza Tanyeli	Kadıköy sineması	12 July Saturday
Theatre	Mahşeri Cümbüş	Trump Sahne	19 July Saturday
Theatre	Masumiyet Müzesi	BAOB Sahne	26 July Saturday



stand up!



Nazlıcan BOLAHEK

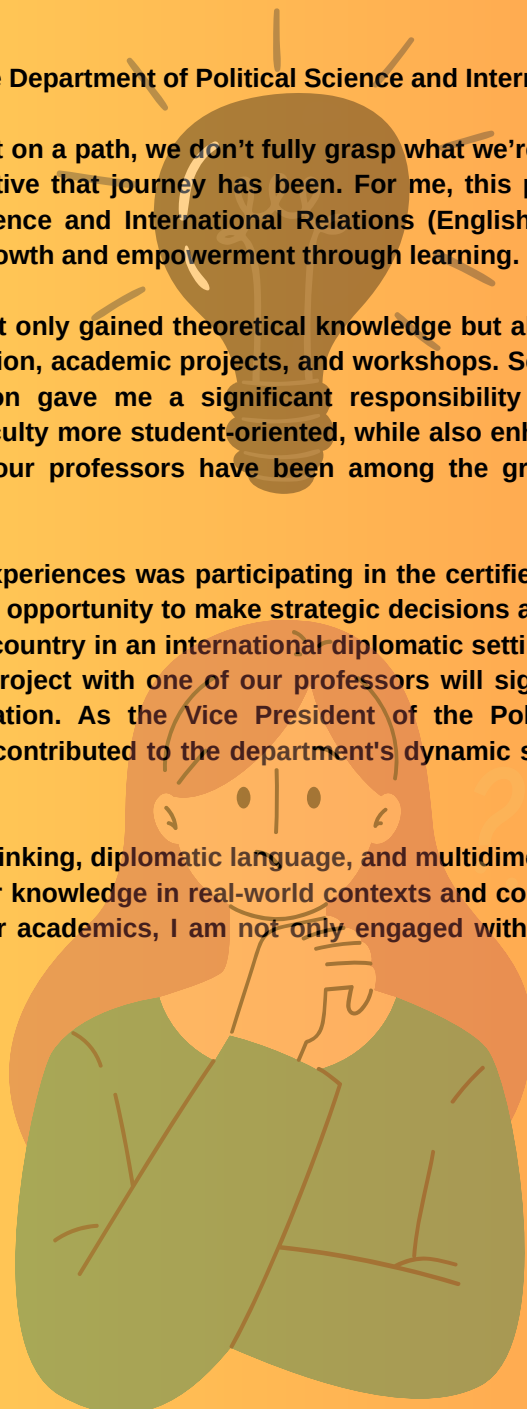
A 2nd Year Student from The Department of Political Science and International Relations

Sometimes, when we set out on a path, we don't fully grasp what we're stepping into; yet over time, we realize just how transformative that journey has been. For me, this path has been my studies in the Department of Political Science and International Relations (English), where completing my second year has been a period of growth and empowerment through learning.

In my department, I have not only gained theoretical knowledge but also acquired practical experience through student representation, academic projects, and workshops. Serving as the Chair of the Faculty Student Quality Commission gave me a significant responsibility to amplify student voices and contribute to making our faculty more student-oriented, while also enhancing my leadership skills. The sincerity and guidance of our professors have been among the greatest supports throughout this journey.

One of the most valuable experiences was participating in the certified departmental event "Statecraft Simulation," where I had the opportunity to make strategic decisions and engage in negotiations as the representative of a utopian country in an international diplomatic setting. Moreover, being involved in a TÜBİTAK-funded research project with one of our professors will significantly enhance my academic development before graduation. As the Vice President of the Political Science and International Relations Club, I have also contributed to the department's dynamic structure by organizing academic and social events.

In our department, critical thinking, diplomatic language, and multidimensional analysis are central. The emphasis is on applying our knowledge in real-world contexts and continuously producing ideas. With the trust and support of our academics, I am not only engaged with the present but also part of the ideas shaping the future.





Merve Yılmaz

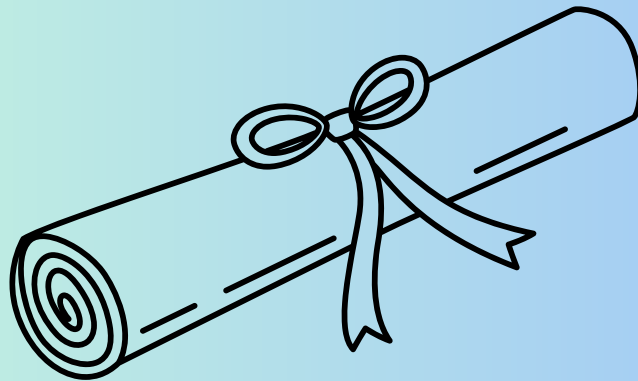
A Graduate Student from The Department of Political Science and International Relations

Hello, I'm Merve Yılmaz. I am a graduate of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Istanbul Gelisim University. Currently, I am continuing my education at the same university as a senior student in the Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Gastronomy and Culinary Arts, after being accepted into the double major program.

I am very happy to have completed my sixth year at Istanbul Gelisim University and to have had the opportunity to study a different field that I am deeply interested in, thanks to the double major program. I believe that throughout my years at the university, I have grown both socially and academically. Through numerous academic and social events, I have experienced a truly fulfilling educational journey.

The courses and projects offered at our university enabled us to develop skills in various fields, while social activities and student clubs helped us expand our social networks and learn teamwork. Additionally, internship opportunities made possible through our department's collaborations with research centers and non-governmental organizations allowed us to gain professional experience even before graduation.

I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude to my professors, who have continued to support us even after graduation and whom we are always happy to visit at every opportunity.





Double Major Program

Zeynep Aydın

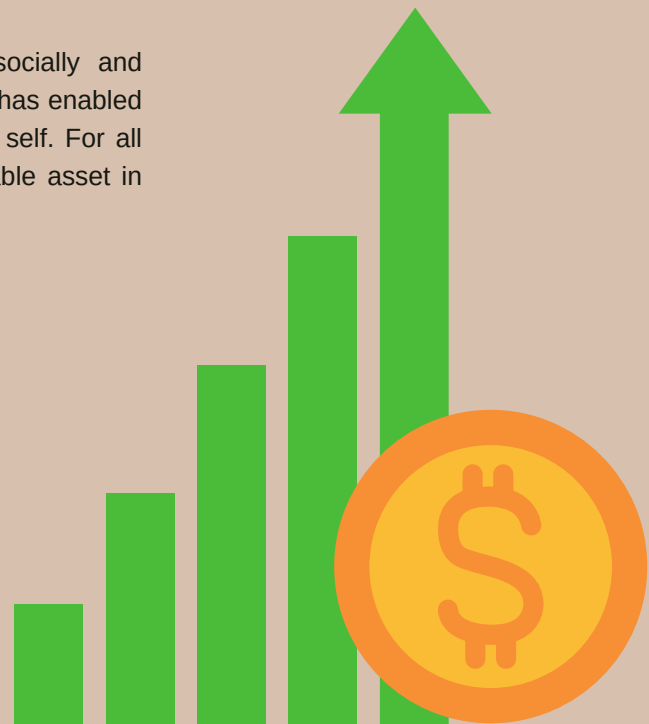
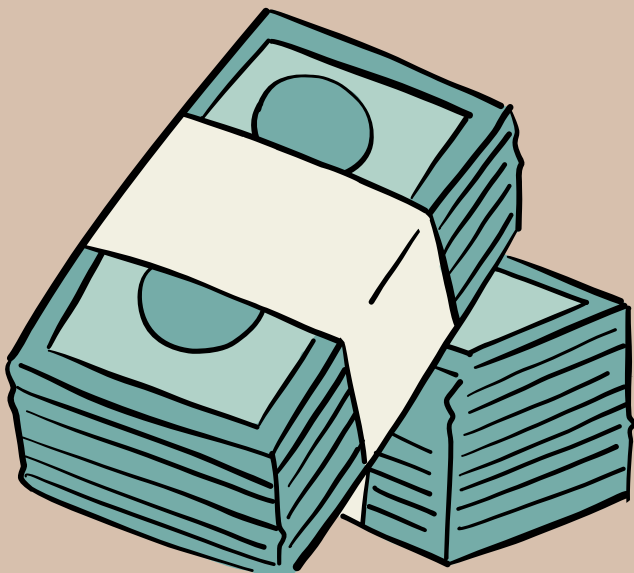
A 4th Year Student from The Department of Political Science and International Relations

Hello, I'm Zeynep Aydın. I am a senior student in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Istanbul Gelisim University. At the same time, I am pursuing a double major in Economics and Finance.

Through personal experience, I have learned that the double major program (DMP) has provided me with more than just academic gains; it has also helped me develop essential skills such as time management, self-discipline, and multidimensional thinking. Of course, this process requires considerable effort and determination. However, the connection between the two disciplines has significantly contributed to both my academic growth and broader perspective.

The double major program has offered me not only a second diploma but also the ability to evaluate different disciplines in an integrated way. In addition to enhancing my analytical thinking skills, it has taught me to approach events from a wider viewpoint.

This journey has made me a more well-equipped individual, both socially and professionally. Although the path of a double major can be challenging, it has enabled me to push beyond my personal limits and develop a stronger sense of self. For all these reasons, I believe that pursuing a double major has been a valuable asset in achieving my career goals.





Muhammed Bozan

A 3rd Year student from The
Department of Political Science and
International Relations (English)

One of the most beautiful periods of my university life was my Erasmus experience in Lublin, Poland. During the spring semester of my sophomore year, I studied Political Science at John Paul II Catholic University and stayed there for a total of five months. Although the beginning of my Erasmus journey was filled with excitement and uncertainty due to the unknown, it gradually turned into one of the most enjoyable and enlightening times of my life.

Academically, I noticed clear differences between the education systems in Poland and Türkiye. While the Turkish system is stricter and more disciplined, the Polish approach is more flexible and student-centered. This contrast allowed me to experience different ways of thinking. In addition, since I studied in English, my language skills have improved significantly. We also received basic Polish language training, and it was quite enjoyable to use the language in everyday situations, such as at the market or on the street.

Many locals in Lublin did not speak English, so I overcame this communication barrier using voice translation apps. Although I initially felt lonely during the first week, I soon formed wonderful friendships with people from various countries. Thanks to these connections, my Erasmus journey quickly became unforgettable. From the second week on, I wished it would never end.

One of the greatest benefits Erasmus offered me was the opportunity to travel. During this period, I visited a total of six countries and fifteen cities. Sometimes I traveled with friends, and other times on my own. Traveling solo helped me gain confidence and flexibility by solving problems independently, navigating unfamiliar places, and engaging directly with different cultures.

Looking back, I can confidently say that Erasmus enriched me not only academically but also personally and culturally. This experience broadened my perspective on the world and played a significant role in helping me better understand myself.





A Spring Delicacy from Sivas: Madımak

Res. Asst. Onur Kaya

The Department of Political Science and
International Relations

One of the distinctive flavors of Sivas cuisine, madımak is a wild herb that awakens with the earth each spring and holds both nutritional and cultural significance for the region's people. Naturally grown, this greenery is foraged from hillsides and meadows during April and May and brought to the table with care. While also consumed in Tokat and Yozgat, madımak has become an integral part of Sivas' culinary identity.

The traditional madımak dish is prepared by finely chopping the herb and sautéing it with onion, tomato paste, and a small amount of meat, usually cured beef or lamb. In some recipes, bulgur is added to enhance its texture and make it more filling. Served with yogurt, the dish stands out for its lightness and distinctive flavor.

In earlier times, village women would gather madımak together and prepare it communally—a practice that reflects seasonal living, collective labor, and local tradition. Even today, in many households in Sivas, madımak is cooked as a herald of spring, representing a cherished tradition that connects nature with the table.



ABOUT ACADEMIC LIFE

PUBLICATIONS

- Asst. Prof. Serkan akmak's article titled "Exploration of multivalent harmonic functions: Investigating essential properties" was published in Hacettepe Journal of Mathematics and Statistics.
- Asst. Prof. Gizem Uzuner's article titled "Environmental and economic dimensions of material recycling and energy efficiency in the European Union" was published in Journal of Cleaner Production.
- Asst. Prof. Gizem Uzuner's article titled "Fossil fuel efficiency as a pathway to decarbonisation and the role of international trade: A perspective of the LCC hypothesis" was published in Environment, Development and Sustainability.
- Res. Asst. Kartal Doęukan ıkı's article titled "Applying self-determination theory to understand cultural tourists; behavioural intentions" was published in Anatolia-International Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Research.

STAFF AGENDA



ACADEMIC STAFF APPOINTMENTS

- Dr. Bahri Sarp YILMAZ has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration.
- Research Assistant Çağrı Selman İĞDE has been appointed to the position of Research Assistant in the Department of International Trade and Business Administration.



IGU
KARYON
Career Guidance
Application and Research Center



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MMK
Mesartar ve Mesnuplar
Huzur Bilkir IGU

Dear IGU Alumni and Students,

A NEW ONLINE RECRUITMENT PLATFORM

that matches the skills of alumni with
qualities requested by employers has opened.
You can reach out and apply for open
positions by subscribing to the platform.

Please scan me for more
information and to application.



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.

How to subscribe to the METSİS platform?

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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