



Netherlands Institute in Turkey

Annual Report 2019



THE NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE IN TURKEY IN 2019

The Netherlands Institute in Turkey fosters the scholarly study of Turkey through the ages and stimulates academic dialogue and cooperation between the Netherlands and Turkey.

Based in the center of Istanbul, NIT conducts research and hosts students and researchers in an inspiring environment for study and exchange of ideas. It also offers education programs and fellowships and organizes conferences and public events.

This annual report aims to give you an impression of the diverse activities organized by NIT in 2019. Several programs that were begun in 2018 gained focus and momentum. In collaboration with the Netherlands Consulate General, NIT organized a series of public meetings discussing social and cultural diversity in the urban space: Meetings on Diversity and the Livable City. Working together with four other research institutes based in Istanbul, joined in the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative, NIT continued its efforts to document and preserve the unique heritage of the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery.

Few of NIT's activities were organized by NIT alone, and much of its work is possible only because of the partnerships, structural and ad-hoc, that the institute engages in both in the Netherlands and in Turkey. The NIT board and staff are very grateful for the generous hospitality and support of Koç University and especially its Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations ANAMED and to the Netherlands Consulate General in Istanbul and Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities for the financial support that helps the institute carry out its programs.

At the time of finalizing this Annual Report, in April 2020, much of the world finds itself seriously impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. Like universities and other institutions, NIT is switching to online teaching and virtual academic meetings. We hope to be able to see all of you in person again soon, at our public events, in our library, at our fieldwork projects and in our courses. Until then, we hope that you stay healthy and safe.



RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research at NIT is conducted by staff, affiliated researchers and short-term fellows. In addition to conducting projects aimed at scholarly output, NIT also engages in collaborative projects that focus on cultural heritage and contemporary urban issues.

Barcın Höyük Research Project Fokke Gerritsen

Following NIT led excavations between 2007 and 2015, the Barcın Höyük Research Project currently focuses on the analysis and publication of the finds from this Neolithic settlement in northwestern Anatolia. Work in 2019 included a two week period in the excavation depot in Yenişehir, Bursa, where many of the finds are stored, and in the Iznik museum depot that houses the ‘museum quality’ artefacts that were uncovered during the excavations.

Whereas the first thing that comes to mind as ‘products’ of an archaeological excavation are physical artefacts, from beads to buildings, digital datasets have become a major output of any archaeological fieldwork project. In the case of Barcın Höyük, this includes over 50,000 photos, thousands of drawings, hundreds of digitized plans, and numerous reports and specialists’ databases. This

archive is currently used by the members of the Barcın Höyük Research Project to prepare their publications, but these publications will never be able to replace the primary documentation. In other words, to ensure that researchers in future years can continue to explore the site, digitally speaking, to ask new questions to the material, the long-term curation of this digital archive is necessary.

In 2019, a major step was made in this respect with the inclusion of the Barcın Höyük digital archive in a project of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. This offers a research data management platform called Yoda (‘your data’) that allows researchers to work together on centrally stored dynamic datasets. Moreover, at a future stage, it will be possible to make these datasets generally accessible in line with the so-called FAIR principles for research data: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable.



Two ceramic bowls found in the Barcın Höyük excavations (c. 6200 BCE). Photo Fokke Gerritsen

In 2019, several publications appeared on Barcın Höyük:

Balcı, H., R. Cappers, F.A. Gerritsen, R. Özbal, 2019: Barcın Höyük'te bitki seçimi: 2013-2015 yılı arkeobotanik sonuçlarının değerlendirilmesi, *Arkeometri Sonuçları Toplantıları* 34, 333-352.

Gatsov, I., P. Nedelcheva, 2019: Lithic production and social transformations in the Marmara Region during the 7-6th mill. BC, *Eurasian Prehistory* 15, 265-278.

Gerritsen, F.A., R. Özbal, 2019: Barcın Höyük, a seventh millennium settlement in the Eastern Marmara region of Turkey, *Documenta Praehistorica* 46, 58-67.

Özbal, R., F.A. Gerritsen, 2019: Barcın Höyük in Interregional Perspective: An Initial Assessment, in A. Marciniak (ed.), *Concluding the Neolithic. The Near East in the Second Half of the Seventh Millennium BC*, Atlanta (Lockwood Press), 287-305.

Özbal, R., F.A. Gerritsen, 2019: Farmer-Forager Interactions in the Neolithisation of Northwest Anatolia: Reassessing the Evidence, in M. Brami, B. Horejs (eds), *The Central/Western Anatolian Farming Frontier: Proceedings of the Neolithic Workshop held at 10th ICAANE in Vienna, April 2016*, Vienna (Oriental and European Archaeology, 12), 181-209.



Working on the finds from the Barcın Höyük excavations.
Photo Rana Özbal

Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative

The activities of this collaborative effort of six international research centers continued and intensified in 2019. The aims of this initiative are to preserve, document, and study Istanbul's main Protestant cemetery as an important local historic landmark. The Feriköy Protestant Cemetery is unique as it is co-governed by the diplomatic missions of six countries in Istanbul. First opened in the 1850s and continuing in use to this day, it is

the final resting place of many of the notable members of the 'Frankish' communities (the term used for Christians of western origin), as well as of thousands of whom we know little more than their name. It is a testimony to the historically cosmopolitan character of Constantinople/Istanbul and it is a small green, tranquil area in a bustling part of the city.

In 2019, the efforts of the initiative were directed primarily towards two goals: documenting the extant grave monuments, and creating a database with information from the funerary records. Through the hard work of several interns, from the Netherlands, the US, Hungary and Germany, about half of the graves were recorded over the course of June and July. Their locations were mapped, shape and type described, and their (often hard to read) inscriptions were copied. This documentation helps us with some basic questions: whose graves are currently present in the cemetery, and who is buried where? In a next step, the cemetery documentation and the database of funerary records will be linked. Moreover, it will help the Initiative and the governing board with addressing questions related to the preservation of the cemetery: which graves are most in need and deserving of restoration?



Interns Henry Brink and Yiğit Özden working hard to decipher the inscription on a headstone.



Tryn (Bulgaria), Church of the Archangel, late 16th century, photographed by Machiel Kiel in 1969.

The Balkans in the Ottoman Period

NIT Senior Research Fellow Machiel Kiel

Machiel Kiel kept up a busy schedule of research activities throughout the year, focusing on his work on the Ottoman Period in southeastern Europe. Based in Bonn, Germany, he made several trips to Turkey, to consult archival materials in Istanbul and Ankara and to present a series of invited lectures. His travels also brought him to Izmir and Manisa, as well as to Greece and to the Netherlands.

Machiel Kiel spent considerable time working on a study of the district of Kalavrita in the Peloponneses in the Ottoman Period (1465-1830). This is part of a larger archaeological and historical project by the Austrian Archaeological Institute.

In the autumn Machiel spent several weeks at NIT in Istanbul to work on the documentation of his photographic archive. Several years ago, a major part of this archive was described and made available online through NIT's website. This concerned Ottoman architectural remains throughout the Balkans. Currently, the second major section of the archive is being described and documented, concerning the churches and monasteries from the Ottoman Period. The photos were taken by Machiel Kiel from the 1960s onwards and represent a unique visual archive of this cultural heritage. The photos will be made available online through the NIT web pages once information on the photographed buildings has been recorded.

Publications:

Kiel, M., 2019: Patras (Balya Badra) and the Mosque of Sultan Bayezid II. An Early Classical Ottoman Mosque on the Peloponnese. Historical Background and Reconstruction. In: S. Ağcagül, H. Sievert (eds), *Kitāb-ı Hedāyā. Studien zum Osmanischen Reich und seinen Nachbargebieten, zu Ehren von Hedda Reindl-Kiel*, Bonn, 51-81.

Fethiye Camii as a Cultural Heritage Site

NIT Research Fellow Mariëtte Verhoeven

Istanbul's religious cultural heritage includes the material remains of some thirty former Byzantine churches and chapels which have survived in different conditions, forms and functions. The building that is called Fethiye Camii, located on the fifth hill of the city's historic peninsula in the neighbourhood of Çarşamba, was built in the 12th century as the Church of the Pammakaristos and was transformed into a mosque in the late 16th century. While the main building is still in use as a mosque, the side chapel (an early 14th century addition), and a part of the ambulatory that enveloped the church was restored between 1949 and 1963. These sections now function as a museum showing Byzantine mosaics.

NIT Research Fellow Mariëtte Verhoeven has been studying the Fethiye Camii/ Church of Pammakaristos since 2015. She investigates the built fabric in its current state, including decoration, liturgical objects, and inscriptions. Moreover, she surveys the historical data to establish which of the surviving parts of the building belong to which construction or restoration phase. A further aim of the project is to expose the memories and meanings that are attached to the building by different groups that engage(d) with it.



Fethiye Camii/Pammakaristos Church under a protective roof during the restoration process.

In July 2019, Mariëtte visited the site, which has been closed for restoration. The architect in charge, Şirin Akıncı, briefed her about the restoration project which is planned to be by the end of 2020. At the moment the building has been completely stripped and all plaster and concrete layers as well as the wall between the mosque and the museum were removed. During her on-site visit, Mariëtte was able to examine the Byzantine and Ottoman brickwork and other details that had not been visible before.

Currently, Mariëtte continues, with the help of her assistant Aksa Boyraz, to develop a digital application that will show visitors the history and transformations of the building through the centuries.

FELLOWSHIP REPORTS

Recipients of 2019 NIT Fellowships report on the projects that they conducted at NIT and elsewhere in Turkey.

Illicit Antiquities in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Turkey & Cyprus)

Jeevan S. Panesar (Leiden University)



Jeevan S. Panesar

During the month of January 2019, I was fortunate enough to be selected as a Research Fellow. I spent the month to compliment my research with on-site experiences, museum visits, and discussions with fellow academics in and out of the Institute. My time at the Institute was nothing short of enlightening; the Institute's library and colleagues helped me really nail down a direction and a set of concrete research questions.

My thesis focuses on Illicit Antiquities from the Eastern Mediterranean. I was able to witness provenance research undergone

by Turkish museums, hear stories of what the culture is of Turkish archaeological excavations, and even allowed a much firmer grasp on late Ottoman and contemporary Turkish history. I will be following three separate artifacts from the region and trace their acquisitions to museums in three different countries (the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, as well as Turkey).

As for the Institute itself, the guest rooms were spectacular. With 24-hour access to the library, less than 30 seconds outside my room's door, all shades of sleeping schedules can be accommodated to exist alongside study and research. Istanbul is a beautiful city, with both blatant and deep hidden histories. Studying, reading, and writing in such an atmosphere brings an explicitly different result than similar actions in other capital cities.

Understandings and Use of the “Çanakkale Spirit” Narrative in Contemporary Turkey

Laura Brouwers (Maastricht University)

How does Turkey's imperial legacy live on in contemporary Turkish politics and society? I decided to zoom in on it by focusing the First World War Battle of Çanakkale. One interpretation of this victory, argues that a shared 'fighting spirit' enabled Ottomans to obtain a victory against all odds over the



Laura Brouwers

Allied forces. In my master's thesis I dived into the use and understanding of this 'Çanakkale Spirit' in modern-day politics of Turkey. The fellowship provided me with a fantastic working environment to convert my master's thesis into a journal article.

During my stay at the NIT in March 2019, I received valuable advice from an audience of NIT staff, Turkish Studies students of Leiden University, and other researchers to whom I presented my work during a seminar organized by the NIT. It was a great experience to be part of the institute's larger academic network, and establish new connections. The constructive discussions I had with peers during my stay helped me to concretize a topic for my PhD proposal.

Staying at the NIT in March made it possible for me to finally witness a commemoration of the Çanakkale Naval Battle and Martyrs Day in person. I was also able to join a 'memory

walk' organized by Turkish NGO Karakutu together with the NIT that disclosed a variety of other narratives of the past woven into Istanbul's urban fabric. Staying at the NIT residence also allowed me to improve my Turkish language skills by following an intensive, B2-level Turkish course. Hence, I am more than grateful to the NIT team for granting me this wonderful starting point for a career in academic research.

The Deconstruction of National Images via Contemporary Art in Turkey from 1990s to the Present

Erdem Çolak (University of Amsterdam)

My 15-day stay at the NIT was very helpful in tackling critical issues in my research. I was able to conduct interviews with Istanbul-based artists who question the wrongdoings of public institutions by deforming nation-state symbols in their art. This deepened

Erdem Çolak



my understanding of the subject. These interviews also allowed personal connection with the artists and helped me get hold of the information I needed after I returned to my institution.

Furthermore, I had the opportunity to access sources from both ANAMED and SALT Galata libraries that I was unable to access from abroad. NIT organized a talk to discuss my work with a greater audience. The feedback I received during and after the talk entitled *The Challenging of National Images by Contemporary Artists in Turkey* allowed me to see the gaps in my work. In sum, thanks to NIT I was able to conduct a very effective field-work. I am grateful for NIT staff that provided me with this opportunity.

Coping with the New Empire: Aphrodisias as the Provincial Capital

Banban Wang (Leiden University)

How was a free city transferred into a provincial city, how did the local political culture change, and how did governors gradually take the central role of the province and the city? I am not talking about things happening in 21st-century Hong Kong, but in 3rd-century Aphrodisias. Thanks to the research stay at the NIT, I visited the site of Aphrodisias to examine the relevant inscriptions in situ. I started a new chapter for my thesis which will show the shift of



Banban Wang at Aphrodisias

local elites' political focus from local affairs to the participation in imperial governance, and the change of identity from the city of Aphrodisias to the province of Caria. Furthermore, I prepared a PhD proposal, submitted a paper, and discovered many interesting points that might lead to more researches.

During my stay in İstanbul, I have also met scholars and researchers based in the 'Imperial Capital'. I would like to thank Prof. Mustafa Sayar and Ms. Selin Önder

(İstanbul Üniversitesi) and Dr. Ivana Jevtic (Koç University) and the staff at Aphrodisias. It was also a pleasure to meet the group of archaeologists from Leiden, led by Prof. Miguel John Versluys who gave a lecture at the NIT during my stay. Beyond antiquity, Erdem Çolak's presentation on Turkish arts and the IFEA-NIT-OII conference on Turkish music and dance enabled me to know more about today's Turkey.

İstanbul is full of intellectual debates, but also full of ideas and lives. As a lover of cooking and food, I enjoyed Turkish cuisine so much that after returning to Leiden, the first thing I bought in Leiden Market was two simits and a small box of Turkish spice. The touching distance to the NIT and ANAMED library is very helpful: leaving my room is important for me to keep on reading and writing! The facilities in the building is also awesome: special thanks to the cleaning attendants and security guards for their works.

Urban Patronage and Social Welfare in the Early Byzantine Mediterranean

Joost Snaterse (Radboud University)

In June and July 2019, the NIT provided me with a home away from home to work on my PhD project on early Byzantine urban history, poverty, and social welfare provisions. It was a great experience to be able to stay in the heart of Beyoğlu, so close to the incredible

Byzantine (and Ottoman) heritage of the old city. Following my two-week stay at the NIT, I transferred to Boğaziçi University to attend their intensive three-week Byzantine Greek Summer School. It was a wonderful opportunity to combine the training of this summer school programme with a period of focused research on my own doctoral project.

The unlimited access to the library collections of the NIT as well as the extensive Byzantine holdings of the ANAMED library were of great help for my research, allowing me to consult specialized literature and catalogues often not available in Dutch library collections. During my stay I was able to make progress in two distinct areas of my research: the topography



Joost Snaterse at the Hagia Sophia

of early Byzantine Constantinople and sigillographic evidence of Byzantine charity. Working on my database of charitable loci in late antique and early medieval Constantinople, I considerably expanded my overview of urban spaces and places related to poverty and social welfare.

Additionally, I was able to review the archaeological data for some important examples of seals and weights related to practices of charitable transactions in the Byzantine Empire. Besides the many fruitful hours in the library, I also visited several important Byzantine archaeological sites and the Byzantine collections of the Istanbul Archaeological Museums, as well as several afternoons of wandering through the city trying to get a sense of the urban landscape.

The generous NIT-fellowship thus provided with the ideal circumstances to experience and submerge myself into the cultural and academic life of Istanbul.

No Seat at the Table

Minem Sezgin (Stimuleringsfonds/ Creative Industries Fund Recipient)

I stayed at the NIT twice for my project *No Seat at the Table*, a graphic novel about residential displacement during and after urban transformation in various cities of Turkey and The Netherlands. I worked on a part of my literature review and did my field



Minem Sezgin

trips for Istanbul's story. The field trips that I did together with the illustrator of *Istanbul*, Rajab Eryiğit, were incredibly crucial because they were our inspiration to create the story of *Istanbul*.

In addition, we co-organized two events. First one was a portfolio talk by me during my first stay in April. The second was in September, a presentation and a very special conversation afterwards by me and Rajab about our project and (visually) creating our story. We received very interesting questions and positive reactions to our project, we still cherish it.

In both of my stays, Fokke and Ülker were very helpful for my project. They connected me to interesting people and organizations. It was a great advantage to be able to use the library, my stay was very comfortable. Also, the staff of the building were very kind and friendly. I'm very grateful for their hospitality

and collaboration. As our project continues, I look forward to the future possibilities of working together on new events.

**“Belonging” to the Hellenistic World:
The “Galatian” Fortifications of Central
Anatolia in the Local and Global
Hellenistic-Roman Context**

Marijn Mannien (Leiden University)

My current academic interests are ancient cultures, associated identities and the way these are interconnected in the wider world. I believe that understanding national or local (pre)histories in a wider global context can positively change contemporary thoughts on the world, especially concerning multiculturalism and diversity. My stay in at the NIT helped me to establish and develop this vision on the world and its archaeology and history.

I experienced Istanbul as a melting pot in which numerous different people with different backgrounds are living together. It was an inspiring place – being located in the centre of Eurasia – to study ancient cultures, which definitely helped me develop the ideas relating to my research. Moreover, its fascinating (pre)history, which illustrates connectivity throughout different periods, and of which the remains can be found throughout the country, helped me to

broaden my perception about the past and its relationship with the present.

My research at the NIT was specifically focused on the Galatians, the ancient people from Western Europe that migrated to Central Anatolia in the early third century BCE. They are often stereotypically depicted as warlike barbarian migrants that plundered their way through Greece and Anatolia and finally adapted themselves to the customs of the superior “Greeks” of the Hellenistic world. My research aimed to change this conventional paradigm through the investigation of their fortifications. I had the opportunity to visit one of those, Tabanlıoğlu Kalesi, thanks to the fellowship provided by the NIT. Since I could examine the fortification ‘in its own right’, without being blurred by the ethnocultural labels it received in the past, I could better



Marijn Mannien at Tabanlıoğlu Kalesi

place the site within the wider global context. Through combining my field observation with literature research I could expose that the fortifications were probably used as active agents to express the notion of ‘belonging’ to the wider global Hellenistic world.

In sum, the stay at the Netherlands Institute of Turkey was a great experience that broadened my academic but also personal point of view.

Collecting Sculptures, Displaying Identities: Roman Archaeological Heritage in Asia Minor Against the Background of Nation-Building Dynamics
Ketty Inannantuono (Radboud University)

One of the reasons why I’ve always wanted to become a Roman archaeologist is my passion for walking through anciently inhabited landscapes, while trying to figure out how people in different eras could have differently experienced those places. Despite this huge passion, until this last autumn, I never had the occasion to travel in Turkey, famously hosting some of the most stunning Roman remains in the world. In October and November 2019, however, a fellowship offered by the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden and the Netherlands Institute in Turkey helped me coronate this dream of mine.

Besides offering me the possibility to finally visit many marvelous archaeological sites, this



Ketty Iannantuono at the Izmir agora

fellowship allowed me to approach a research theme crucial for the further development of my PhD: namely the interpretation, use and appropriation of ancient monuments from Roman Asia Minor. During my research-stay, I examined different strategies of display of Roman monumental remains adopted by European and Turkish museums between the end of the 19th and the early 20th century, during the heyday of nationalism. I was able to meet specialists working on the subject in Turkey, and to work in some of the archives documenting the dynamics of formation of such institutes.

The Institute was the perfect residence from where to get to know the vivid cultural scene of Istanbul, inevitably falling in love with the city while still being able to focus on research. Besides being an ideal working space, the

NIT library, together with the collection of the ANAMED library, was of great help, granting me access to many catalogues and specialized literature often not available in the Netherlands.

The friendly support of the staff of the NIT, last but not least, has been a constant point of reference for me, and contributed immensely by making me feel at home in Istanbul. I'm very much looking forward to coming back to the Institute and to the city of the world's desires, of three empires and two continents.

The Anxieties of Modernity: Literary Subjectivities, Temporality and Identity in the Turkish novel

Ahmed Nuri (University of Amsterdam)

In my doctoral project, I investigate the relationship between the notions of modernity and literature in the context of Turkish modernization through selected literary works of three prominent Turkish authors, Ahmet H. Tanpınar, Adalet Ağaoğlu, and Orhan Pamuk. I undertake an analysis of Turkish modernity which takes into consideration Westernization/Occidentalism, nation-building process, secularization as essential categories.

Being awarded a grant by the NIT was highly valuable for my dissertation and inspirational



Ahmed Nuri

for me as a young scholar, if considering staying at the heart of Istanbul that provides innumerable cultural and literary activities in such a historical environment.

The fellowship at the Institute helped me to revise some of my theoretical arguments and literary analyses. In the meantime, I took an initiative to organize a panel "Reframing the Turkish Novel: New Perspectives on Literary Narratives" at the Institute. The panel consisted of two talks presented by two scholars from Boğaziçi University, Erol Köroğlu and Arif Tapan, apart from my presentation on literary modernism and narratology.

Apart from the combination of these academically inspiring and productive processes, the Institute with its academic activities and network offered me a terrific opportunity to meet scholars with a common interest in literature and Turkey.

CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

Throughout the year, NIT organizes and hosts lectures, workshops and conferences where scholars share their ideas with colleagues and the public.

April 26: Urban Encounters: Everyday Experience of Diversity in the City Panel Discussion

This event addressed the everyday experience of urban diversity through an ethnographic lens. It was the opening act of the "Meetings on Diversity and the Liveable City", co-organized by the NIT and the Netherlands Consulate General in Istanbul. The panel discussion included presentations by Şule Can (University of Waterloo), Kristen Biehl (Sabancı University), and Jan Rath (University of Amsterdam) and was moderated by Didem Daniş (Galatasaray University).



Urban Encounters panel discussion

May 10: Staging the Past in Contemporary Turkey Workshop

The NIT co-organized this workshop together with the Orient Institut-Istanbul (OII) and the French Institute for Anatolian Studies (IFEA). An international group of researchers, who specialized on the cultural and artistic performances of past traditions of Anatolia and the Ottoman era, presented their studies and discussed their findings around the themes of authenticity, nostalgia, memory and identity politics, and cultural heritage. The renowned cultural historian Arzu Öztürkmen (Boğaziçi University) was the discussant for the workshop.

May 20: Hellenistic-Roman Commagene: New Research and Perspectives Symposium

An international group of researchers convened at NIT for a symposium on Commagene, the small kingdom in the Upper Euphrates region during the Hellenistic-Roman period that produced the famous site of Nemrud Dağ. The archaeology of the region is currently being studied within a large research project directed by Miguel John Versluys of Leiden University, titled 'Innovating Objects. The impact of global connections and the formation of the Roman Empire (ca. 200-30 BC)'.

May 24: **The Challenging of National Images by Contemporary Artists in Turkey** by Erdem Çolak (University of Amsterdam)

This lecture addressed the construction of nationalist symbols in Turkey and demonstrated how they have been re-interpreted by contemporary artists over the past three decades. Starting in the 1990s, various contemporary artists in Turkey began to question Turkish nationalism and tackle the question of national image. Using irony and deconstruction, artists pushed the boundaries of national image and scrutinized what it represents. Erdem Çolak discussed how artists in Turkey draw attention to political deficiencies in the country through re-constitutions of nationalist imagery.

July 3: **Music of the Streets: Diversity and Claiming the Public Space** Public Talks and Live Performances

This was the second event of the “Meetings on Diversity and the Liveable City” series co-organized by the NIT and the Netherlands Consulate General in Istanbul. The event explored the socio-cultural diversity of Istanbul through the lens of street music, and combined presentations with musical performances. Evrim Hikmet Ögüt (ethnomusicologist, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University) gave a talk on her research about

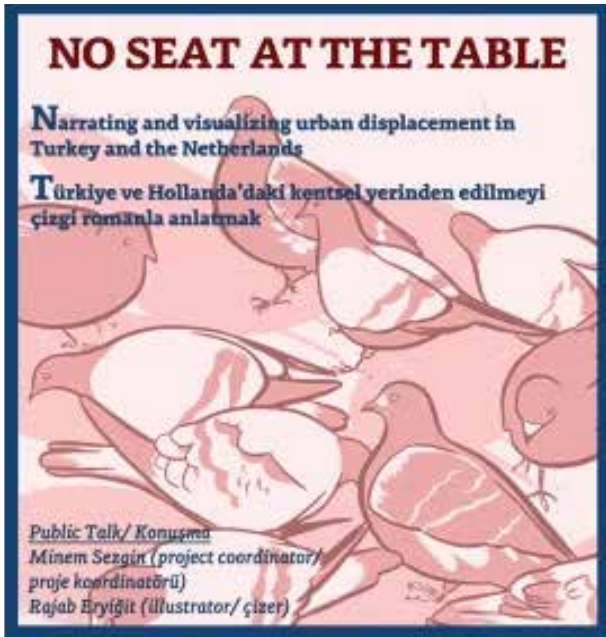


Musicians and organizers at the Music of the Streets event in the garden of the Netherlands Consulate General

the Syrian street musicians of Istanbul, and the migrants’ strategies for place-making through musical expression in public space. Wim Selles (composer and photographer), who has been documenting the street musicians of Istanbul for nearly five years, shared his insights from the field and a selection of the photos he produced. Street musicians with Turkish, Romani, Iranian, and Syrian origins performed at the event and shared their experiences with the audience providing a glimpse of the variegated musical landscape of the city.

September 20: **No Seat at the Table: Narrating and Visualizing Urban Displacement in Turkey and the Netherlands** Lectures by Minem Sezgin and Rajab Eryigit

As part of their collaborative project to create a graphic novel on displaced communities in gentrifying neighbourhoods in cities in Turkey and the Netherlands, cultural entrepreneur Minem Sezgin and illustrator Rajab Eryigit presented their ongoing work. This was the third event in the “Meetings on Diversity and the Livable City” series. Minem talks about her project elsewhere in this annual report.



No Seat at the Table event poster

November 1: **The Declining Appearance of Turks and Turkey in Historic Board Games** Lecture by Ömer Fatih Parlak

Inspired by theories of Dutch cultural historian Johan Huizinga on play and games, Ömer Fatih Parlak (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) discussed the declining uses of the figure of ‘the Turk’ in historic board games from Dutch, Flemish, French and British collections. Images of ‘the Turk’ in historic board games produced in Europe declined in numbers after the 19th century. During the period of imperialism, newly colonized territories and peoples took the attention of board game designers.

November 8: **Water, Waqf and Philanthropy in Ottoman Cities (18th-20th century)** Workshop

This workshop, convened by Nicola Verderame (University of Naples “L’Orientale”), brought together Alexander Wielemaker (Leiden University), Antonis Anastasopoulos (University of Crete & Institute for Mediterranean Studies/FO.R.T.H.), and Shirine Hamadeh (Koç University). The presenters discussed water supply in Ottoman cities from the angle of pious foundations which had been tools to display generosity, legitimate political power, and accumulate political and symbolic capital for



Fountain of Sultan Ahmet III (built 1728) on an historical postcard.

the court and the elites. Water supply, with its ideological scaffolding based in Islamic philanthropy, had offered the Ottoman ruling elite the opportunity to showcase their care for the well-being of the subjects, and had crystallized the hierarchies of power within the court.

November 20: **“Cosmopolitan” Beyoğlu and Its Diversity in Historical Context** Workshop

The fourth event in the “Meetings on Diversity and the Livable City” series concentrated on how socio-economic and cultural forms of diversity in Pera/Beyoğlu unfolded, from the district’s rise to prominence in the late

19th century as an international center of commerce and culture, to the period of 1950-1990 when there had been a perceived decline, and finally to the post-2010 era when the parts of the district transformed according to the tastes of Arab tourists and consumers. Edhem Eldem (College de France & Boğaziçi University), Mine Eder (Boğaziçi University), K. Mehmet Kentel (Istanbul Research Institute) and Enno Maessen (University of Amsterdam) were the presenters in the conference. The presentations took issue with the positively-charged label “cosmopolitan” frequently used to nostalgize the 19th century Pera and touched upon how the changing diversity patterns in the district have been perceived by the public in negative and positive terms.



A full house for the Beyoğlu event. Beyoğlu is also the Istanbul neighborhood where NIT is located.

November 27: **Antiquities in the Modern Age: Power, Appropriation and Display**

Lectures by Mariëtte Verhoeven en Ketty Iannantuono

This event featured two lectures by Ketty Iannantuono (Radboud University/ NIT&RMO fellow) and Mariëtte Verhoeven (Radboud University). Iannantuono's lecture focused on the processes of selection, acquisition, and display of Roman monuments from Asia Minor by the museums in Turkey and Europe between the late 19th and the early 20th century. She discussed how different strategies of collecting and displaying shaped the modern understanding of these ancient monuments within the context of emerging nationalisms. She argued that the perception(s) of what

classical - and specifically Roman, meant has been biased by these varying strategies of collection and display.

Verhoeven presented her research about the Venetian Doge Enrico Dandolo, a nobleman who participated in the Fourth Crusade and was buried in Hagia Sophia in 1205. Allegedly, his grave had been destroyed by the Ottomans after the conquest of Istanbul, however the memorial plaque that bears his name still stands in Hagia Sophia. Verhoeven discussed probable explanations on who wanted to commemorate the Venetian doge Dandolo in Hagia Sophia, when this was done, and who gave permission for this act of appropriation.



Ketty Iannantuono presents her research.



The alleged grave stone of Dandolo, now set into the floor of the Hagia Sophia. Photo Mariëtte Verhoeven.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Part of NIT's mission is to provide exceptional educational opportunities to students. Here two of the educational activities that took place at NIT in 2019 are highlighted.

NIT Turkish Studies in Istanbul Semester

The third edition of the NIT Turkish Studies in Istanbul Semester started in early February. This year, we had four bachelor's students from the Leiden University Middle Eastern Studies Program, two of them from the Turkish Studies track and the other two from the Modern Middle East track.

The NIT offered three undergraduate level courses on the society, culture, and politics of Turkey, taught by Istanbul-based academics. In addition, three levels of intensive Turkish language classes were offered, structured according to the students' differing prior knowledge of the language. The courses were designed to immerse the students in numerous aspects of Turkish life and culture, history and contemporary issues, and taught by selected associates of reputable universities in Istanbul.

Furthermore, the students followed a diverse program of educational and recreational activities in Istanbul such as guided tours to old neighborhoods covering the multicultural

past and present of the city, visits to museums and cultural landmarks, attending concerts, and exploring the colorful cultural life of the city. The location of the institute in Beyoğlu contributed to their experience of life in Istanbul at the hearth of the city.



Leiden University students Robin Hill, Marjolein Koekoek and Jolle Root.

Apart from the programs inside Istanbul, the NIT team organized an excursion to Bursa, the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, and Ankara, the current capital of the Turkish Republic, showing the students the multi-faceted history and cultural heritage of Turkey. The excursion program was composed of sightseeing tours, visits to museums, and lectures.



Above: in class with instructor Umut Azak (left);
below: Ankara visit with (in the middle) semester coordinator Ülker Sözen and instructor Başak Özdoğan.



Leiden University student Robin Hill shared the following recollection of his time in Istanbul:

“I made memories that I won’t forget for the rest of my life. The NIT was very helpful during the whole of my semester and they provided me with great education. Especially the Turkish language course with Banu was always fun. I had to work really hard together with Jolle, but after I was always able to practice new things on the streets. All teachers very sweet

and good. Living in Istanbul is the best thing as there is always something to do. I walked 10 km on average a day and it was really nice to explore the city. Our midterm trip to Bursa and Ankara was really fun and well organized. I would definitely recommend everyone to have a semester at the NIT in Istanbul.”

Radboud University Nijmegen “Edges of Europe” Honours Course

Between April 29 and May 4, NIT hosted students and instructors of the “Edges of Europe” Honours Program at Radboud University’s Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies. The NIT team organized a series of lectures by distinguished academics on the topics of secularism, politics of religion, gender, and migration in Turkey. Besides, each student conducted an individual research project exploring different aspects of Turkish society. The NIT team brought the students together with academics, researchers, and professionals engaged with those topics so that they could interview them and benefit from their insights and expertise.

Moreover, the NIT team took the Radboud group to city walks in the historical neighborhoods of Fener, Balat and Eyüp and informed them about the multi-religious cultural heritage of Istanbul and Turkey.

ORGANIZATION

NIT Library

The NIT library continued to expand its collections, acquiring about 250 volumes through purchases, exchanges and donations. In the course of 2019, the digital catalogue of the library switched to a new software platform, Koha. This program offers improved functionalities and user friendliness, both for librarians and library users. The library catalogue can be searched via NIT's website library page, and via the Istanbul research library platform Bibliopera.

NIT Staff

In 2019 there were no changes to the permanent staff, with Fokke Gerritsen as NIT Director, and Ülker Sözen as Institute Assistant. İrem Ünal of Koç University has continued to manage the NIT library.

Five part-time instructors taught in the Turkish Studies in Istanbul Semester: Lerna Yanık (Kadir Has University), Eda Yücesoy (Şehir University), Umut Azak (Okan University), Başak Özdoğan and Banu Sözen.

Colophon

Except where mentioned otherwise, all texts written by Fokke Gerritsen, Ülker Sözen and Ceren Abi.

Image front page, page 2 and below:
ceramic tiles at Topkapı Palace. Photo: Falco (Pixabay).

