



Netherlands Institute in Turkey

Annual Report 2023

The Netherlands Institute in Turkey (NIT) supports the study of Turkey through the ages. Linked to the Faculty of Humanities of Leiden University, it initiates and conducts research and education programs and facilitates projects by students and researchers of all Dutch universities, mostly in the humanities and social sciences. Its offices and extensive library are located in the heart of Istanbul, where an unparalleled concentration of (international) academic and cultural institutions give exceptional possibilities for innovative, interdisciplinary collaboration. NIT's small staff (2,2 fte) maintains an extensive network in Turkish and international academia.

This report gives a brief overview of NIT's activities in 2023. It showcases the wide scope of its programs, relating to research, education, and social impact.

Education

Urban Heritage Lab 2023: Archaeological Heritage and Liveable Cities



As in previous years, the UHL program was offered both as an educational program and as a series of public activities. The third edition of the hybrid, interdisciplinary course ran from mid-September to mid-December, focusing on archaeological heritage in urban contexts. The 25 selected participants from different disciplines such as architecture, archaeology, art, history, urban planning, cultural heritage management, restoration, and anthropology successfully worked together to develop new projects for revalorization of the archaeology of Roman Ankara. The 2023 Urban Heritage Lab was organized in partnership with Middle East Technical University in Ankara, the LDE Centre for Global Heritage and Development of Leiden, Delft and Erasmus universities, and the National Heritage Agency of the Netherlands. Generous financial support came from the Netherlands Consulate-General in Istanbul.



As part of the program, eleven online meetings with lectures and panel discussions took place on the theme of Archaeological Heritage and Liveable Cities, with contributions from heritage specialists, archaeologists, architects, designers, urban planners, and public organizations.

During the field survey on 19 – 21 October, the participants met in Ankara and followed an intensive program of lectures by specialists, discussion sessions and guided tours to remains of Roman Ankara: the Roman Baths', the Cardo Maximus, the Temple of Augustus and Rome and the Roman theater.



The Temple of Augustus and Rome



The Roman Theater

The following course lectures and panel discussions took place:

(September 22) Discovering and documenting urban archaeological remains: Güliz Bilgin Altınöz - Jeroen Bouwmeester

(September 29) Integrating archaeological heritage in urban planning, policy, and design: Yiğit Ozar - Corien Bakker

(October 6) *Increasing public awareness and engagement: Erik Graafstal and Lara Menenghini*

(October 13) *Urban Archaeology in Ankara: The Temple of Augustus in Past and Present: The Res Gestae Inscription on the Temple of Augustus at Ankara by Ton Derks - Italian archaeological research in Ankara in 1910 by Ketty Iannantuono*

(November 3) *Plural heritages of Istanbul – Re-interpreting the land walls with residents: Ayşegül Yılmaz*

(November 10) *Urban archaeological heritage and art: Artistic encounters with archaeological heritage by Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige*

(November 17) *Architectural designs for archaeological heritage in Istanbul: Saraçhane Arkeopark Project by Oğuz Özer – Theodosius Harbor Project by Heval Zeliha Yüksel and İlgin Avcı*

(November 24) *Case studies from the Netherlands: Mirror of the City. Amsterdam's North/South metroline and its Archaeology by Peter Kranendonk*

(December 1) *Case studies from the Netherlands: Archaeology-Sustainable Building in a City Centre by Maarten Groenendijk*

(December 4) *Case studies from Türkiye: Urban Heritage in Post-earthquake Antakya by Güliz Bilgin Altınöz and Özgün Özçakır*



an online lecture organized by the Netherlands Institute in Turkey (NIT)

NIT Urban Heritage Lab
Archaeological Heritage and Liveable Cities

**Mirror of the City. Amsterdam's North/South
metroline and its Archaeology**

Peter Kranendonk (Municipality of Amsterdam)

Moderator: Jeroen Bouwmeester (RCE)

24 November 2023, 16:00 (Istanbul time)



an online lecture organized by the Netherlands Institute in Turkey (NIT)

NIT Urban Heritage Lab
Archaeological Heritage and Liveable Cities

**Archaeology-Sustainable Building
in a City Centre**

Maarten Groenendijk (Green Archaeology)

Moderator: Fokke Gerritsen (NIT)

1 December 2023, 16:00 (Istanbul time)

Research projects & fieldworks

Barcın Höyük Excavation Project

The analysis and publication of the Barcın Höyük excavations continued in 2023, and various members of the research team published articles on subtopics. On October 2, a scientific symposium was held at the NIT on ongoing science-based research (DNA, isotopes, lipids) on material from Barcın Höyük.



Tell Kurdu Excavations Project



The site is located in Hatay, the area that was most affected by the February earthquakes, and the planned fieldwork was not conducted in 2023. However, initial construction of accommodation for archaeologists and students has begun near the archaeological site. A donation from Koç Holding to Koç University for the excavation project of eight residential containers has set this in motion.

Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative

In 2023, the primary activities were the continued documentation of all grave monuments, along with the cataloging and digitization of the consular archive, which has been maintained since the cemetery's establishment in 1859 by the seven consulates. Several students participated in this work as part of internships and fieldwork.

Other Projects

Earthquake Response

In the weeks following the earthquakes, €32,000 was raised by NIT staff and members of the Tell Kurdu Project via an online platform (GoFundMe) to provide support to affected families in the vicinity of the excavation site. Most of this money has now been spent on tents, food, clothing, blankets, furniture, and other goods. Over the course of the year, the situation in the surrounding villages has stabilized, and many people have been able to resume their lives. However, in the nearby city of Antakya, there are still many people who need basic assistance. We are connecting with people through acquaintances in the area.

Post-Earthquake Damage Assessment

NIT is taking part in a project led by a research group from Middle East Technical University: Post-Earthquake Damage Assessment, Emergency Response, Conservation, Rehabilitation, and Resilience of Cultural Heritage Assets in Multilayered City: Antakya, Hatay. Funding for this project comes from Cultural Emergency Response, an organization that was formerly part of the Prince Claus Fund. In May, Fokke Gerritsen participated in fieldwork in the heavily damaged historic center of Antakya, documenting damage to residential structures with a view of providing guidelines for heritage-conscious and earthquake-resistant rebuilding.



The Post-Earthquake Damage Assessment research group during fieldwork in Antakya.

Research by NIT fellows

In 2023, NIT awarded fellowships to six junior researchers:

Valentin Szántai (Leiden University) - *How did the inhabitants of the province Asia negotiate their identity in the Roman Empire?*

Selin Tuzgöl (Leiden University) - *Local Identities and Transnational Notions: Foreign Intervention in LGBTI+ Activism in Turkey*

Alvise Cecchetti (Leiden University) - *A comparative analysis of the evolution of cultural policies and archaeological research in the early Turkish Republic and Pahlavi Iran*

Aslıhan Öztürk (University of Amsterdam) - *Material semiotics of içki: how cultural practices of Turkish youth in Istanbul effectively enact secular identities*

Ebru Kurt Özman (University of Amsterdam) - *Community Politics and Urban Regeneration: Exploring Entrepreneurial Governance in the Marginalized Areas of Istanbul*

Ediz Hazır (University of Groningen / Charles University in Prague (cotutelle)) - *Religious Diplomacy between Paris, Rome, and Istanbul: The Assumptionists and the Transformation of the Roman Catholic Congregation in the Ottoman Empire (1863-1923)*

Conferences and Public Lectures

October 2 – NIT Symposium Using Science-based Archaeology to Investigate Daily Life at Barcın Höyük

October 27 – NIT Symposium Archaeology of Archaeology at Troy in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam and Çanakkale University

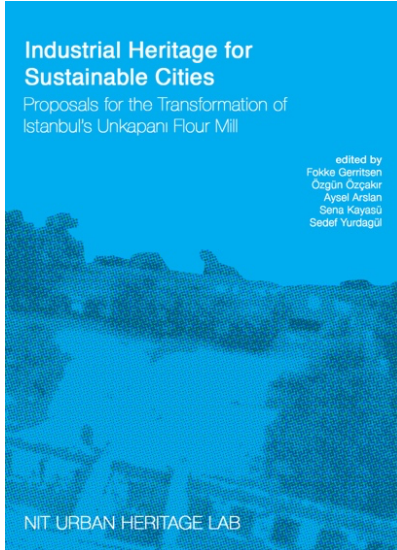
December 4 – Online public meeting METU TAÇDAM's Studies of Post-Earthquake Antakya: From Hope for Recovery to Concerns over Loss

December 13 – NIT Day in Leiden with lectures and presentations by NIT staff, students, fellows, and guest speakers

September 7 – Özgün Özçakır, Aysel Arslan, Fokke Gerritsen, Mariette Verhoeven, Gerdy Verschuure-Stuip: NIT Urban Heritage Lab: A multi-disciplinary platform for teaching transformation and reuse of water heritage, As Found: International Colloquium on Adaptive Reuse (Hasselt University)

NIT Publications

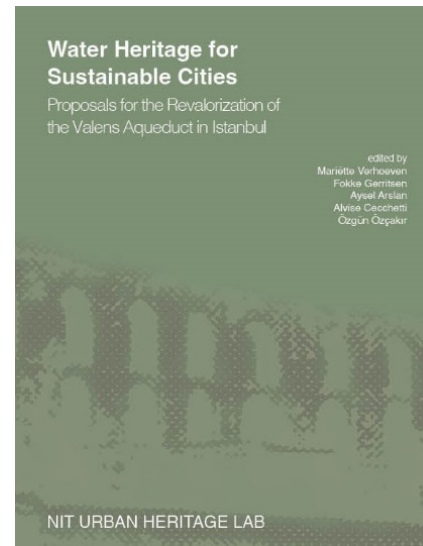
Industrial Heritage for Sustainable Cities: Proposals for the Transformation of Istanbul's Unkapamı Flour Mill



This book presents proposals for the transformation of the Unkapamı Flour Mill developed by the participants of the NIT Urban Heritage Lab: Industrial Heritage for Sustainable Cities Course. Printed copies have been distributed to representatives of Turkish and Dutch heritage services and colleagues. Digital copies can be downloaded free of charge from the NIT website.

Water Heritage for Sustainable Cities. Proposals for the Revalorization of the Valens Aqueduct in Istanbul.

This book presents proposals for the revalorization of the Valens Aqueduct in Istanbul developed by the participants of the NIT Urban Heritage Lab: Water Heritage for Sustainable Cities Course. Printed copies have been distributed to representatives of Turkish and Dutch heritage services and colleagues. Digital copies can be downloaded free of charge from the NIT website.



Publications by NIT staff

Arslan, A., 2023: *Studying Fingerprints in Archaeology: Potentials and Limitations of Paleodermatoglyphics as an Archaeometric Method*, *TJAS Arkeoloji Bilimleri Dergisi / Turkish Journal of Archaeological Sciences* 3, 1–16.

Arslan, A., H. Ayataç, E. Ünlü Yücesoy and Y. Atabay., 2023: *Assessing Contemporary Perception and Appreciation of the Valens Aqueduct*, in M. Verhoeven, F. Gerritsen, A. Arslan, A. Cecchetti ve Ö. Özçakır (eds), *Water Heritage for Sustainable Cities: Proposals for the Revalorization of the Valens Aqueduct in Istanbul, İstanbul (NIT Urban Heritage Lab 2)*, 20–25.

Gerritsen, F.A., 2023: *Introducing NIT Urban Heritage Lab and the Industrial Heritage for Sustainable Cities Program*, in F.A. Gerritsen, Ö. Özçakır, A. Arslan, S. Karasü, S. Yurdagül (eds), *Industrial Heritage for Sustainable Cities. Proposals for the Transformation of Istanbul's Unkapanı Flour Mill, Istanbul (NIT Urban Heritage Lab 1)*, 5.

Gerritsen, F.A. 2023: *Linking Water Heritage and Water Crisis*, in M. Verhoeven, F.A. Gerritsen, A. Arslan, A. Cecchetti, Alvise, Ö. Özçakır (eds), *Water Heritage for Sustainable Cities. Proposals for the Revalorization of the Valens Aqueduct in Istanbul, Istanbul (NIT Urban Heritage Lab 2)*, 5.

Gerritsen, F.A., Ö. Özçakır, A. Arslan, S. Karasü, S. Yurdagül (eds), 2023: *Industrial Heritage for Sustainable Cities. Proposals for the Transformation of Istanbul's Unkapanı Flour Mill, Istanbul (NIT Urban Heritage Lab 1)*.

Özçakır, Ö., F. A. Gerritsen, A. Arslan, 2023: *Water Heritage for Sustainable Cities: an Overview*, in M. Verhoeven, F.A. Gerritsen, A. Arslan, A. Cecchetti, Alvise, Ö. Özçakır (eds), *Water Heritage for Sustainable Cities. Proposals for the Revalorization of the Valens Aqueduct in Istanbul. Istanbul (NIT Urban Heritage Lab 2)*, 7-10.

Verhoeven, M., F.A. Gerritsen, Ö. Özçakır, 2023: *Revitalizing Istanbul's Water Heritage: The Valens Aqueduct, Blue Papers. Water and Heritage for Sustainable Development* 2/1, 154-163. DOI: doi.org/10.58981/bluepapers.2023.1.15

Verhoeven, M., F.A. Gerritsen, A. Arslan, A. Cecchetti, Alvise, Ö. Özçakır (eds), 2023: *Water Heritage for Sustainable Cities. Proposals for the Revalorization of the Valens Aqueduct in Istanbul. Istanbul (NIT Urban Heritage Lab 2)*.

Translation

2023 Laura K. McClure, *Klasik Antikitede Kadınlar: Doğumdan Ölüme*, Istanbul: Koç University Press (Original Name: *Women in Classical Antiquity: From Birth to Death*, Wiley Blackwell, 2020), transl. G. Günata.

Library

The collection expansion has continued as in previous years. New books are regularly presented via NIT social media. After a decline during and after the coronavirus pandemic, use of the library has increased again, and the workspaces in the library are popular, even for researchers who are not directly consulting the collection.

Staff and volunteers

The permanent staff of Fokke Gerritsen and Aysel Arslan were supported in 2023 by Gülşah Günata (0.1 FTE editorial support Anatolica, from September), Alvis Cecchetti (intern heritage programs, from Leiden, starting in July), Esen Kayan (intern online communication, part-time, starting in September), and Enes Sayin, Jane Bragdon, Emre Arli, Joseph Lopez, and Adam Bentley (students/volunteers Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative for documentation of grave monuments and cataloging of consular archives).