



Netherlands Institute in Turkey

Annual Report 2016



1. INTRODUCTION

The year 2016 saw the start of a new five-year cooperation agreement between the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO) and Koç University. As part of this, the Netherlands Institute in Turkey, a subsidiary of NINO, maintains its library and offices in the Merkez Han complex in central Istanbul that is the home of Koç University's ANAMED Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations. After uncertainty about the future of the institute in previous years, this new agreement ensures continuity for the coming period. It allows the institute not only to continue its research programs and its function as a platform for academic exchange between the Netherlands and Turkey, but also to build and develop new initiatives.

Given the turbulent times that Turkey went through in 2016, it is satisfying to be able to report here on what all together amounted to a full program of NIT activities. Several public activities were organized in collaboration with the Netherlands Consulate-General. Additionally, in 2016, the foundations were laid for new course programs in cooperation with Leiden University, which will commence in 2017.

Staff

Throughout 2016, the core of the Istanbul-based NIT team consisted of local director Fokke Gerritsen (0,8 fte) and assistant Güher Gürmen (1,0 fte). Long-time NIT librarian Gülten Yıldız continued to work for the NIT library as a temporary Koç University employee until August 1st. Internships conducted by Kim Deen and Zara Toksöz were of great help in setting up new programs.

Barcın Höyük team members at work in the temporary archaeology lab in Yenişehir, Bursa.

2. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

The fields of scholarship in which the NIT actively conducts research concern archaeology, architectural history and heritage studies. The research is carried out by NIT director Fokke Gerritsen as well as several affiliated Research Fellows. Below you can read short reports from the main research projects.

As an outcome of a workshop that took place at the institute in 2012, the edited volume *Christian Art under Muslim Rule, Proceedings of a Workshop held in Istanbul on May 11/12, 2012* appeared in 2016 in the PIHANS series of the NINO. The volume was edited by NIT Research Fellow Maximilian Hartmuth, now at Vienna University.

Barcın Höyük Excavations Project

The completion of the excavations at Barcın Höyük in the summer of 2015 has not meant that the archaeological research has come to an end. On the contrary, studies on the finds and the scientific samples that had been collected over the years continued and intensified in 2016. Members of the research team spent four weeks in July and August in the small town of Yenişehir, where most of the finds are stored, to further document and analyze finds from previous years.



Major progress was made on the documentation of the ground stones by Adnan Baysal, on the ceramics by Laurens Thissen, and on the micro-artifacts by Rana Özbal. Furthermore, the detailed recording of all the bone tools by Mücella Erdalkıran is now almost complete. Time was also spent very productively on performing checks and making additions and corrections to the information stored in the master database, and on developing queries to visualize spatial patterns in the data using the still expanding GIS (Geographic Information System) developed for the site.

In December, eighteen researchers affiliated with the Barcın Höyük project spent three days together in Istanbul to discuss ongoing research and to share the results with the wider public.

The ongoing work resulted in a series of publications, listed below, ranging from excavation reports to technical studies and interpretative essays. DNA extracted from Neolithic skeletal materials recovered by the Barcın Höyük excavations served as an important ingredient of two high profile articles on genetic evidence for the spread of farming, in *Nature* and *PNAS* respectively.

New Barcın Höyük publications

Baysal, E., A. Bursalı 2016: Turkey's first evil eye? The manufacture and use of blue beads in the Neolithic, *PAST. The Newsletter of the Prehistoric Society* 82, 14-15.

Erdalkıran, M., 2016: Barcın Höyük 2014 Yılı Kemik Aletlerinin Ön Raporu, *Arkeometri Sonuçları Toplantısı* 31, 207-222.

Gatsov, I., P. Nedelcheva 2016: The Mesolithic/Neolithic Transition in Bulgaria and Western Anatolia – An Overview, in: R. Krauss and H. Floss (eds), *Southeast Europe Before Neolithisation. Proceedings of the International Workshop within the Collaborative Research Centres sfb 1070 "ResourcenKulturen", Schloss Hohentübingen, 9th of May 2014*, 65-71.



Barcın Höyük
**Archaeological Investigations of a
Neolithic Settlement (2007-2015)**
**Netherlands Institute in Turkey
Symposium**
**8 December 2016
13:00 - 17:00**

Barcın Höyük: the story of a Neolithic village in the Marmara Region <i>Fokke Gerritsen & team members</i>	Barcın Höyük and the "Dairy Diaspora": pottery function and organic residues <i>Laurens Thissen & Hadi Özbal</i>
Household activities and village life at Barcın Höyük: a micro-perspective <i>Rana Özbal & team members</i>	Embodying life and identity at Barcın Höyük: evidence from beads and figurines <i>Emma Baysal, Ellen Belcher, Aysel Arslan & Ayşe Bursalı</i>

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 **Netherlands Instituut in Turkije**

Registration is not required. Lectures are in English.
Information and full program: www.nit-istanbul.org

A public event held on December 8 to share the excavation results with the public.

Gatsov, I., P. Nedelcheva, 2016: An Important Bronze Age Find from Barcın Höyük, South Marmara Region, in: M. Bartelheim, B. Horejs und R. Krauß (eds), *Von Baden bis Troia. Ressourcennutzung, Metallurgie und Wissentstransfer. Eine Jubiläumsschrift für Ernst Pernicka*, 507-511.

Gerritsen, F.A., R. Özbal 2016: The Barcın Höyük Excavations in 2013 and 2014, *NINO-NIT Annual Report 2013-2014*, 10-15.

Gerritsen, F.A., R. Özbal, 2016: Barcın Höyük and the pre-Fikirtepe Neolithisation of the Eastern Marmara Region, in Ü. Yalçın (ed.), *Anatolian Metal VII*, 211-220.

Hofmanová, Z., S. Kreutzer, G. Hellenthal, C. Sell, Y. Diekmann, D. Díez-del-Molino, L. van Dorp, Ç. Çilingiroğlu, B. Horejs, F. Gerritsen, S. Shennan, D. Bradley, D. Wegmann, M. Thomas, C. Papageorgopoulou, J. Burger et al., 2016: Early farmers from across Europe directly descended from Neolithic Aegeans, *PNAS. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 6886-6891.

Lazaridis, I., D. Nadel, G. Rollefson, D. Merrett, S. Alpaslan Roodenberg, F. Gerritsen, N. Patterson, R. Pinhasi, R. Reich et al., 2016: Genomic insights into the origin of farming in the ancient Near East, *Nature* 534, 419-424.

Özbal, R., F. Gerritsen, M. Erdalkıran, H. Özbal, 2016: 2014 Yılı Barcın Höyük Kazıları, *Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* 37(2), 407-422.

Ottoman Architecture in the Balkans

Senior Research Fellow Machiel Kiel continued his long-term research on the Ottoman Balkans. In 2016, the following publications appeared:

Kiel, M., 2016: Christian Art under Islamic Rule: a Critique of the Historiography of Balkan Art and Architecture, Based on Ottoman Administrative Sources and Forty Years of Fieldwork, in: M. Hartmuth (ed.), *Christian Art under Muslim Rule, Proceedings of a Workshop held in Istanbul on May 11/12, 2012*, Leiden, 61-115 [with a mistake on p. 106, where the caption for figures 25 and 26 should read 'Bachkovo Monastery, mid-19th century frescos of Zachari Zograf (1810-1853)'].

Kiel, M., 2016: The Zaviye and Külliye of Mihaloğlu Mahmud Bey in Ihtiman in Bulgaria, in: Hatice Aynur, A. Hilal Uğurlu (eds), *Ekrem Hakkı Ayverdi'nin Hatırasına Osmanlı Mimarlık Kültürü*, Istanbul, 351 – 370.



Ottoman architecture in Kratovo, Macedonia. Photographed by Machiel Kiel in 1975, now part of the Kiel Photographic Archive.

Fethiye Camii, the Former Pammakaristos Church as a Cultural Heritage Site in Istanbul

NIT Research Fellow Mariëtte Verhoeven's research focuses on the meaning and value of Fethiye Camii, the former Pammakaristos Church, as a cultural heritage site in Istanbul. In 2016, she was the co-organizer of the international conference 'Byzantine Studies Alive', held on 16 and 17 June at Radboud University. It concentrated on two themes: 'Byzantium as a Key Player in the Relationship Between East and West' and 'The Position and Transformation of Byzantine Heritage'. In her own paper 'Unlocking Byzantine Heritage through Digital Techniques – Opportunities and Limitations', Mariëtte Verhoeven focused on Byzantine heritage in Istanbul and especially on the Pammakaristos Church - Fethiye Camii.

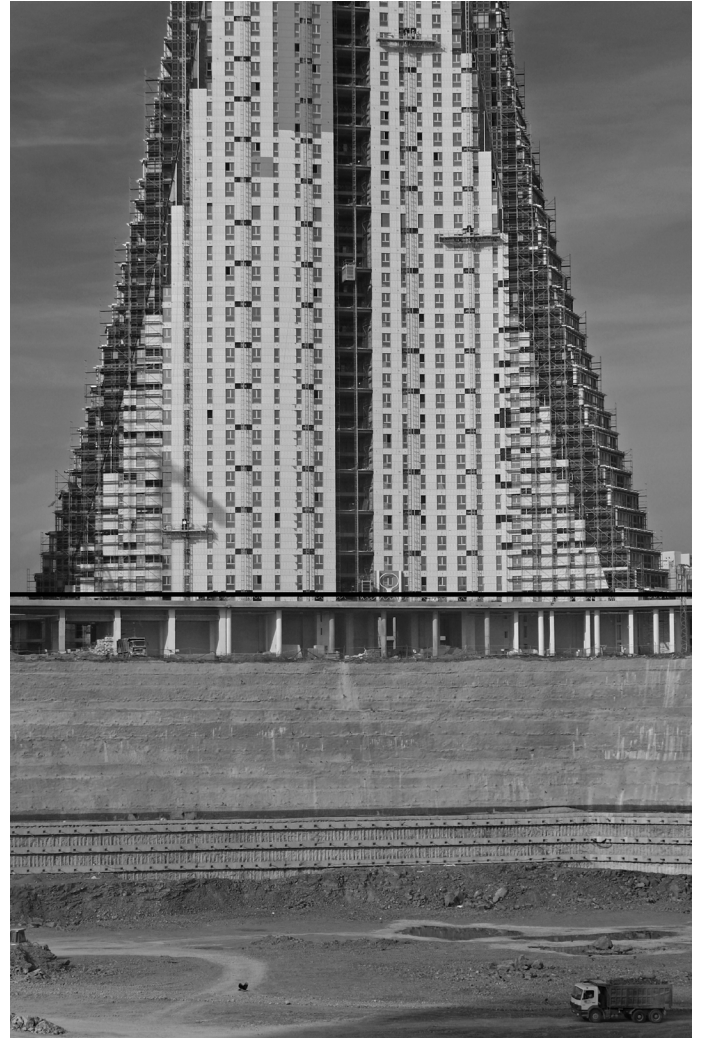
NIT Fellowships

The NIT supports researchers working on topics related to Turkey through the ages, and regularly offers modest fellowships to junior researchers working on MA theses, PhD dissertations or articles. Two such researchers were awarded during 2016 with a fellowship for a research stay at the NIT. Here they report on the projects they conducted.

Subtraction and Addition: Large-scale Building Projects in Istanbul

Dirk van der Meij (Technical University Delft)

In November 2016, I was fortunate enough to be one of the fellows at the NIT. Earlier in 2016, I graduated in the field of Architecture at the Technical University of Delft with an architectural project.



Ataşehir, Istanbul. Photo: Dirk van der Meij

At the NIT, I had the opportunity to conclude the research by writing an extended essay.

My research considers the act of building, seeing it as interplay between subtractions and additions.

An initial interest into the areas of urban renewal within Istanbul made me witness the extreme scale of the current building developments (see the truck in the photo). The NIT was a good base within Istanbul to be able visit places of interest and meet with local scholars and architects.

3. COURSES

The NIT co-organized and hosted two intensive graduate level courses. Both attracted an international group of MA and PhD students. Preparations were made for a semester program Turkish Studies in Istanbul that the NIT will offer to undergraduate students of Leiden University from 2017 onwards.

January 4-31: Winter School **Migration in the Margins of Europe: From Istanbul to Athens**

The Institute of Migration and Ethnic Studies of the University of Amsterdam, the department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Koç University's Migration Research Center and the Netherlands Institutes in Greece and Turkey organized this intensive winter course in collaboration with Greek and Turkish universities. An international group of some 25 rMA and PhD students participated. In the first half of the course daily seminars ran at the NIT in Istanbul. The courses combined field research in specific neighbourhoods of Istanbul and Athens.

March 14-18: Spring School **Reviving Previous Times and Expanding Horizons. Islam and Modernity in Global Historical Perspective**

The long title of this Spring School was matched by the large number of institutions involved in its organization: in addition to Dutch partners NISIS (Netherlands Interuniversity School for Islamic Studies) and NIT, other organizations included Koç University's AKMED and ANAMED, and French and German organizations CNMS, IFEA and IISMM/EHESS. The Spring School consisted of an intensive program of workshops and keynote lectures.



Late Ottoman newspaper.

The French Radical Party and the Making of Kemalism (1901-1939)

Remzi Çağatay Çakırlar (Leiden University)

The Netherlands Institute in Turkey (NIT) offered me the opportunity to consult a remarkable amount of primary sources that are paramount for the realization of my project. I had the chance to conduct a large scale literature review on the newspapers published during the late Ottoman and early Republican period. In Istanbul, not only I had a quite pleasant stay, but I could also embark on my research the day I moved into NIT thanks to the Institute's practicality and its central location on Istiklal Caddesi.

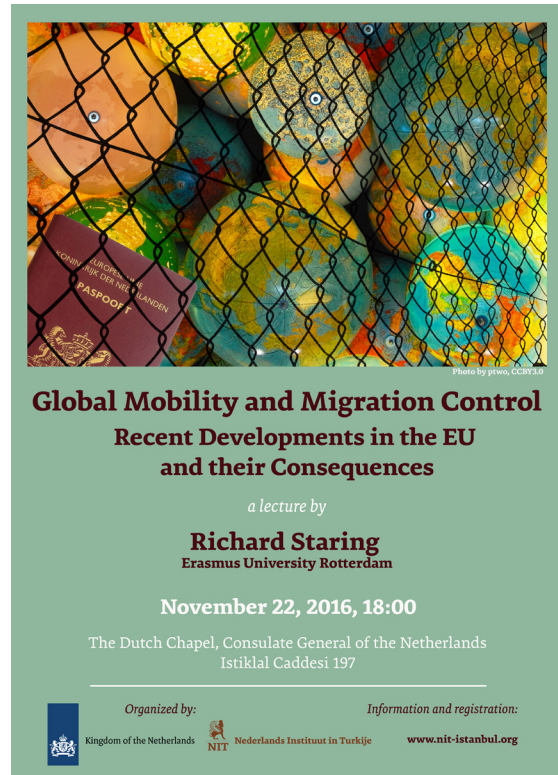
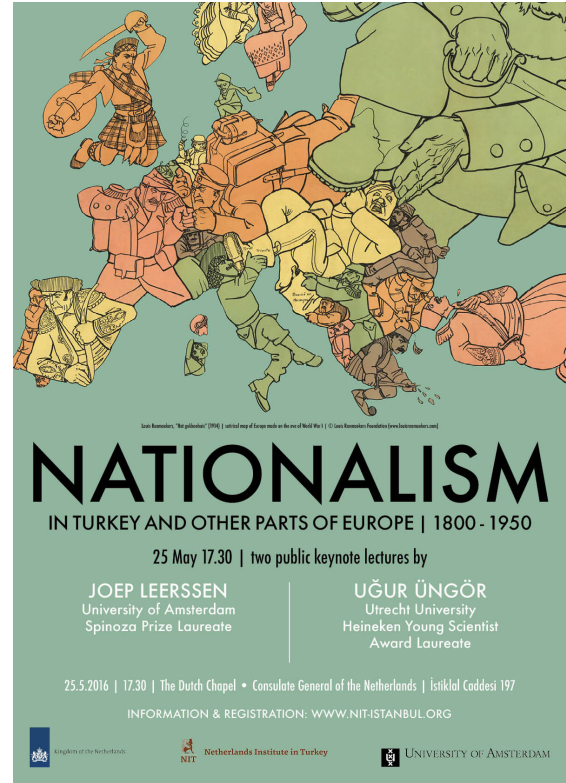
4. CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

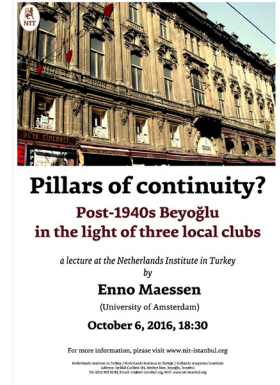
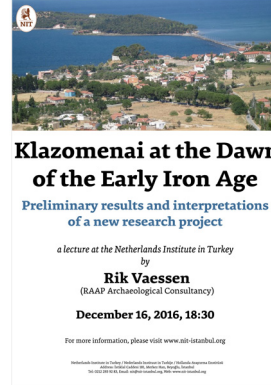
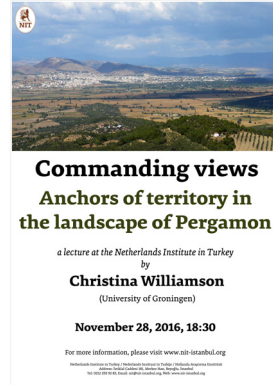
March 29: **Migration and Ethnicity: the Case of Emirdağ.** Jak den Exter, former director of NIHA (Netherlands Institute for Higher Education Ankara), presented a lecture on the research that he has conducted on migration from the Emirdağ district to Holland and Belgium.

May 26: **Nation-building and Nationalism in Turkey and Europe.** The Study Platform on Interlocking Nationalisms of the University of Amsterdam in collaboration with the Netherlands Institute in Turkey organized a two-day conference on nation-building and nationalism in Turkey and Europe. Within the scope of the conference, two public keynote lectures by Joep Leerssen (University of Amsterdam) and Dr Uğur Üngör (Utrecht University) were organized with the sponsorship of the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Istanbul.

June 11: **Theatrical Lecture Performance: De Man in Europe.** For his project In Search Of Europe, Lucas De Man interviewed more than 20 young creators in 8 countries, who are trying to change the society they live in for the better. Based on this journey De Man made a 'theatrical lecture performance', which he performed in Istanbul at the invitation of the NIT and sponsored by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Istanbul.

October 6: **Pillars of Continuity? Post-1940s Beyoğlu in the Light of Three Local Clubs.** Former NIT fellow Enno Massen presented a preliminary discussion of the conflict between discursive representations of Istanbul's central urban district, from the 1950s until the 1990s and the historical trajectories of three social clubs in that period.





October 10: **Tikveş, a Little-known Ottoman Province in the Southern Balkans (1395-1912).** This lecture by former NIT director Machiel Kiel focused on the following themes: History, Medieval Monuments, Demographic Development, Economy, Evliya Celebi in Tikveş, War and Destruction, Tikveş in the 19th century, Balkan Wars and after.

November 22: **Global Mobility and Migration Control: Recent Developments in the EU and their Consequences.** This lecture by Prof. Dr. Richard Staring of Erasmus School of Law in Rotterdam was organized with the sponsorship of the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Istanbul. Staring explored some of the developments around controlling irregular migration towards and within the European Union during the last decade.

November 28: **Commanding Views. Anchors of Territory in the Landscape of Pergamon.** Christina Williamson investigates how landmark sites and their commanding views were used as organizing principles in the ancient city of Pergamon, seat of the Attalid dynasty in the Hellenistic era.

December 8-10: **Barcın Höyük. Archaeological Investigations of a Neolithic Settlement (2007-2015).** This symposium presented the results of the excavations led by NIT director Fokke Gerritsen that took place at the Neolithic site of Barcın Höyük in the Yenişehir Valley between 2007 and 2015. The excavations aimed to find out more about the start of sedentary farming life in northwest Anatolia. The lectures in the symposium presented ongoing research on a range of themes, based on the archaeological discoveries at Barcın Höyük, and highlight the collaborative and interdisciplinary nature of the project.

December 16: **Klazomenai at the Dawn of the Early Iron Age.** A new research project was commenced at Klazomenai in 2014 that aims to analyse the quite extensive Early Iron Age remains from the site and carry out some further excavations to clarify the stratigraphic sequence spanning the final stages of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Early Iron Age. The lecture by former NIT fellow Rik Vaessen presented the first results from this project and discussed the implications for our understanding of the Aegean world.

5. LIBRARY

Under the new agreement with Koç University, the staff for the NIT library is provided by that university's Suna Kıraç Library. Branch Librarian İrem Ünal has been in charge of the NIT library since August 2016. Intensifying the cooperation with the library of the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), also in Merkez Han, a new joint membership system was developed. The opening hours of the library have been extended, so that there is no longer a need to close the library during a lunch hour.

Another collaboration that came to fruition in 2016 is Bibliopera.org. A consortium of nine Turkish and international research libraries located in Beyoğlu (formerly called Pera), headed by the Suna Kıraç Library and with funding of the Istanbul Development Agency, work together to provide access to all nine digital catalogues through one online portal. Bibliopera is also intended to form a platform for further cooperation for research and activities in Social Sciences, Art & Humanities.



Library of the NIT.



Merkez Han on Istiklal Avenue.

biblio  pera

Beyoğlu Research Centers Network

Through acquisitions, exchanges and gifts, the collections of the library expanded by about 235 volumes over 2016, adding to its collection of c. 25.000 monographs and journal volumes. The main subject areas of the library are the archaeology and history of Anatolia, the Near East and Southeast Europe, and the history and urban development of Istanbul.

6. COLOPHON

Where not specified otherwise, texts written and edited by Fokke Gerritsen and Güher Gürmen.

The Netherlands Institute in Turkey is a subsidiary of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO) in Leiden.

The NIT's library and offices are located in the Merkez Han building, the premises of Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations ANAMED.

For more information about NIT activities: www.nit-istanbul.org.

The title page photo (by Wolfgang Reindl, via pixabay.com) shows the Galata bridge over the Golden Horn and the historic peninsula.