

**DR. K. MEHMET KENTEL**

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Istanbul Research Institute  
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**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.** in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Washington (UW), Seattle, 2018  
Dissertation title: *Assembling ‘Cosmopolitan’ Pera: An Infrastructural History of Late Ottoman Istanbul.*

**M.St.** in Modern British and European History, University of Oxford, Oxford, 2011

**B.A.** in Political Science and International Relations – History (Double Major, High Honors),  
Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, 2010

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

**August 2023–** Incoming Assistant Professor in Urban Studies and History, Leiden University  
**2022–Present** Editor, *YILLIK: Annual of Istanbul Studies*  
**2019–July 2023** Research Projects Manager, Istanbul Research Institute  
**2019 – 2022** Managing Editor, *YILLIK: Annual of Istanbul Studies*  
**2017** Affiliated Guest Researcher, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin  
**2015–2017** Head Librarian, Koç University’s Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), Istanbul

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

**Forthcoming** “Ruin and Knowledge in Pera: Discovering the Genoese Heritage in Istanbul in the Moment of Its Destruction.” *Muqarnas*, accepted for publication.

**Forthcoming** “Pera’nın Atığı, Kasımpaşa’nın Salgını: 1893–1894 Kolera Salgını ve Çevre Adaletsizliğini Haritalandırmak.” *Toplumsal Tarih Akademi*, accepted for publication.

**2018** “Caricaturizing ‘Cosmopolitan’ Pera: Play, Critique, and Absence in Yusuf Franko’s Caricatures, 1884–1896.” *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* 5, no. 1 (Spring 2018): 7–32.

**Journal Articles**

**2021** “Pera, Kasımpaşa, Sewers, and Maps: Representing Infrastructural Entanglements in the Nineteenth-Century Istanbul.” *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* 8, no. 1 (Summer 2021): 405–415.

**Book Chapters**

**2023** “Ölülerin ve Yaşayanların Tarlalarının Üzerinde: Küçük Kabristan’dan Tepebaşı Bahçesi’ne On Dokuzuncu Yüzyılda Pera Doğasının İnşası” [Over the Fields of the Dead and the Living: The Construction of Pera’s Nature from the Little Cemetery to the Tepebaşı Garden] In *Şehrin Doğası: Tarihsel ve Güncel Tartışmalar Işığında İstanbul’da Toprak, Yeşil ve Su*, edited by Cemal Kafadar, Çiğdem Kafescioğlu, Ayfer Bartu Candan, and Suna Kafadar, forthcoming.

**2021** “Kozmopolit Pera’yı, Yusuf Bey’in Karikatürleriyle Çizmek” and “Sonsöz: Sergilerin Sonsözü Olur mu?” (w. E. Esra Satıcı). In *Yusuf Bey: On Dokuzuncu Yüzyıl Sonunda Pera’nın Yüklü Portreleri*, edited by Bahattin Öztuncay and Özge Ertem, 73–89 and 91–99 (Istanbul: ANAMED, 2021) [expanded Turkish edition of *Youssouf Bey*].

- 2019** “Nature’s ‘Cosmopolis’: Villagers, Engineers, and Animals along Terkos Waterworks in Late Nineteenth-Century Istanbul.” In *The Seeds of Power: Explorations in the Environmental History of the Ottoman Empire*, edited by Onur Inal and Yavuz Köse, 155–183. Winwick: The White Horse Press, 2019 (translated to Turkish: *İktidar Tohumları* [İletişim, 2022]).
- 2016** “Drawing ‘Cosmopolitan’ Pera, Drawing on Yusuf Bey’s Caricatures.” In *Youssouf Bey: Charged Portraits of Fin-de-Siècle Beyoğlu*, edited by Bahattin Öztuncay, 63–79. Istanbul: Vehbi Koç Vakfı, 2016.
- 2011** “Children Playing History.” In *Toy Exhibition*, edited by Sennur Sentürk, 51–58. Istanbul: YKY, 2011.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2021** “Hotels and Highways: The Construction of Modernization Theory in Turkey by Begüm Adalet.” *Arab Studies Journal* 29, no. 2 (2021): 174–178.
- 2021** “Germany and the Ottoman Railways: Art, Empire, and Infrastructure by Peter H. Christensen.” *Cornucopia* 63 (2021): 35–41.
- 2017** “Midnight at the Pera Palace: The Birth of Modern Istanbul by Charles King.” *New Perspectives on Turkey* 56 (November 2017): 146–150.

### **Manuscripts in Preparation**

Monograph:

*Between Water and Fire: An Environmental History of Late Ottoman Istanbul*

Edited books:

*Istanbul Unbound: Environmental Histories of the City* (co-edited with Onur İnal), accepted by the Stanford University Press, pending peer review

*Cities on Fire: Environmental History of Urban Conflagrations*, solicited by Routledge Press

*Panoramic Visions of Istanbul* (tentative title, co-edited with Çiğdem Kafescioğlu and Baha Tanman), exhibition catalog by Pera Museum, forthcoming in 2023

Articles:

- “1870 Fire of Pera: Photography and Disaster” (tentative title, with Ahmet Ersoy)
- “Radical Mediterranean: Militancy of Gustave Flourens from Pera to Crete”

### **Articles in Popular Press**

- 2022** “Reşad Ekrem Koçu’nun Çizdiği/Bozduğu Sınırlarla Galata ve Beyoğlu Tarihi.” *Toplumsal Tarih* 338 (February 2022): 44–51.
- 2020** “On Dokuzuncu Yüzyılın Mümkün Geleceği: Pera ‘Arşivini’ Çeşitlendirmek.” *Beyond.Istanbul* 9 (2020): 13–17.
- 2019** “Doğanın ‘Kozmopolis’i: Terkos Suyolu Boyunca Kentliler, Köylüler ve Hayvanlar.” *Toplumsal Tarih* 312 (December 2019): 30–37.
- 2019** “Call of Duty: Empire Mapped and Played.” *Tank Magazine* 80 (2019): 148–155.
- 2018** “Empire on a Board: Navigating the British Empire through Geographical Board Games in the Nineteenth Century.” *The Portolan Journal* (Fall 2018): 27–42.
- 2017** “Puppet Master of Pera.” *Cornucopia* 55 (2017): 15–21.
- 2016** “Tarihçi Kechriotis’in Tarihini Yazmak: Bir Başlangıç, Bir Deneme.” *Toplumsal Tarih* 272 (August 2016): 54–56.

### **CURATORIAL WORK**

- 2023** Co-Curator (with Çiğdem Kafescioğlu and Baha Tanman), *Panoramic Visions of Istanbul* (tentative title). Pera Museum.

- 2023** Project Manager, *Occupied City: Politics and Daily Life in Istanbul, 1918–1923*, Istanbul Research Institute, January 11–December 26, 2023. Curators: Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal and Gizem Tongo. <https://en.iae.org.tr/Exhibition/Occupied-City/210>.
- 2019** Curator, *Hafıza-i Beşer: Osmanlı Yazmalarından Hikâyeler // Memories of Humankind: Stories from the Ottoman Manuscripts*. Istanbul Research Institute. October 18, 2019–October 2021, Istanbul, <https://en.iae.org.tr/Exhibition/Memories-of-Humankind/206>.
- 2017** Consultant and author, *The Characters of Yusuf Franko: An Ottoman Bureaucrat's Caricatures*. Exhibition at ANAMED. January 26–June 1, 2017, Istanbul, <http://yusuffranko.ku.edu.tr>.

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

### Research & Writing Fellowships

- 2023** Harvard University Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture Fellowship (declined due to the tenure track offer from Leiden University)
- 2021** European Society for Environmental History Research Grant
- 2021** Barakat Postgraduate and Early Career Award
- 2021** Koç University's ANAMED Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2021** Spatial Justice Association Research Award
- 2020** University of Vienna Andreas Tietze Memorial Fellowship in Turkish Studies
- 2017** International Journal of Urban and Regional Research Foundation Writing-Up Grant
- 2017** UW Graduate School Presidential Dissertation Award
- 2017** UW Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations Schwartz Endowment Fellowship
- 2015** UW Simpson Center Summer Research Fellowship in Digital Humanities
- 2014** Koç University's ANAMED Junior Residential Fellowship
- 2014** SALT Research Institute Research Grant
- 2012** UW Hall-Ammerer-Washington Research Foundation Fellowship
- 2011** Sabancı University Graduate Student Scholarship

### Awards & Prizes

- 2018** “Distinguished Dissertation” by the UW Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies
- 2017** The Dr. Walter W. Ristow Prize Honorable Mention for the paper “Empire on a Board: Navigating the British Empire through Geographical Board Games in the Nineteenth Century”

### Professional Development & Conference Grants

- 2022** European Society for Environmental History Conference Grant
- 2018** European Association for Urban History Bursary
- 2018** UW Graduate School Conference Travel Award
- 2018** UW Near and Middle Eastern Studies PhD Professionalization Travel Grant
- 2017** European Society for Environmental History Travel Grant
- 2017** UW Near and Middle Eastern Studies PhD Professionalization Travel Grant
- 2013** UW Graduate School Near and Middle Eastern Studies Pre-Dissertation Grant

### INVITED TALKS

- 2023** “Galata’nın Surlarını Yıkarken Tarihini Yazmak.” Sabancı University Minerva Talks, April 27.
- 2023** “Environmental History of Nineteenth-Century Istanbul.” Middle East Technical University, April 15.
- 2022** “1870 Büyük Beyoğlu Yangını ve On Dokuzuncu Yüzyıl İstanbul’unun Ekolojik Krizi.” Boğaziçi University Atatürk Institute, December 16.

- 2022** Book Roundtable: Marco Armiero's *Wasteocene*, with Stefania Gallini, Rob Nixon, and Marco Armiero. 2022 Environmental History Today Seminar Series, September 19.
- 2021** "Pera'nın Atığı, Kasımpaşa'nın Salgını: On Dokuzuncu Yüzyılın İkinci Yarısında İstanbul'da Kolera Salgınları ve Çevre Adaleti." MAD Akademi Buluşmaları, December 19.
- 2021** "Yusuf Franko'nun İnsanları." Book launch for the Turkish translation of *Youssef Bey: Charged Portraits of Fin-de-Siècle Beyoğlu*. ANAMED, May 28.
- 2021** "Ruin and Knowledge in Pera: The Invention of the Genoese Heritage in Istanbul in the Moment of Its Destruction." American University of Beirut, online lecture, May 3.
- 2021** "Pera, Kasımpaşa, Sewers, and Maps: Representing Infrastructural Entanglements in the Nineteenth-Century Istanbul." Columbia University Global Centers Istanbul, February 24.
- 2021** "Bir Kitap Sohbeti: Avrupa Şark'ı Bilmez." Book launch chair. ANAMED, February 18.
- 2020** "Pera'yı Taşralaştırmak: 19. Yüzyıl Pera Tarihinin Kasımpaşa ve Terkos'tan Yazımı." History Talks, Bilgi University, online lecture, May 6.
- 2019** "Galata Kulesi Şeklinde Çubuk Lülesi, ya da, Reşad Ekrem Koçu'nun Çizdiği/Bozduğu Sınırlarla Galata ve Beyoğlu Tarihi." SALT Araştırma, İstanbul, April 13.
- 2017** "Between Terkos Lake and Pera's Fountain: Plural Ruralities and the Idea of Urbanity in late-Ottoman Istanbul." Urban Studies Seminar, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, June 12.
- 2017** "Who was [not] here when we were not? The Characters of Yusuf Franko and Others." Cornucopia Lecture Series at Soho House, İstanbul, April 5.
- 2015** "Kozmopolitizm 'Mühendisliği': Geç 19. yüzyıl Pera'sının İnşasında Altyapı, Uzmanlık ve Girişimcilik." Kadir Has University İstanbul Studies Center, April 30.
- 2015** "'Şehri haraplıktan ve sefil manzaralardan kurtarmak': Küçük Kabristan, Tepebaşı Bahçesi ve Osman Nuri'den Bugüne 19. Yüzyıl İstanbul'u." Mimarlık Kültürü ve Mirası Araştırmaları Derneği, İstanbul Technical University, February 9.

## CONFERENCES

### Organized Conferences/Panels

- 2022** *Cities on Fire: Environmental History of Urban Conflagrations*. European Society for Environmental History Conference, Bristol, July 4–5.
- 2022** *New Approaches to Old Cities: Reframing Late/Post Ottoman Urban History*. Comité International des Études Pré-Ottomanes et Ottomanes 2020 Conference, Thessaloniki (Co-organized with Prof. Resat Kasaba) [2021 conference postponed to 2022]
- 2021** *Istanbul Unbound: Environmental Approaches to the City*. İstanbul Research Institute & Pera Museum, April 8-11.
- 2019-20** *Memories of Humankind Seminars*. İstanbul Research Institute, İstanbul
- 2019** *Istanbul's Urban History Unbound: Emergent Environmental Approaches*. The European Society for Environmental History 2019 Conference, Talinn, August (Co-organized with Dr. Özlem Altinkaya-Genel)
- 2016** *Sensory Histories of Place Workshop*. Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, İstanbul, April 1-2 (Co-organized with Elvan Cobb Baştürk)
- 2016** *Cultural History and Libraries*. Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, İstanbul, March 31.

### Paper Presentations

- 2022** "Tracing the Ubiquitous Wetness of the Kasımpaşa Valley in the Longue Durée." 17<sup>th</sup> International ANAMED Symposium: Aquatic Worlds of Anatolia, December 8–9.
- 2022** "Champs des Morts, Jardins des Vivants?: An Environmental History of Pera's Cemeteries in the Nineteenth Century." 3rd International NEHT Workshop–Environmental Histories of the Ottoman and post-Ottoman World: The Anthropocene: From Empire to Nation-

States. University of Vienna, September 8–10 (paper accepted but not delivered due to catching COVID-19).

**2022** “The Great Pera Fire of 1870 and Istanbul’s Nineteenth-Century Environmental Crisis” European Society for Environmental History 2021 Conference, Bristol, July 4–5.

**2019** “The Great Fire of Pera: An Experiment in Urban Environmental Microhistory.” 2<sup>nd</sup> International NEHT Workshop: Environmental Histories of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey. Middle Eastern Technical University, Ankara, September 6–7.

**2019** “Rivers and Orchards of Kasımpaşa: Exploring Pera’s Excremental Hinterland in Late Ottoman Istanbul.” The European Society for Environmental History Conference, Tallinn, August 21–25.

**2018** “Publishing Cosmopolitanism in Cosmopolitan Spaces? Making of Late Ottoman Pera, and *L’Avenir – Feuille Cosmopolite Quotidienne*.” European Association of Urban Historians Biannual Conference, Rome, August 29–September 1.

**2018** “Ruin and Knowledge: Writing the History of Genoese Pera in the Moment of Its Destruction.” Western Ottomanists’ Workshop, Portland State University, March 30–31.

**2017** “Environment and Urban Infrastructure in Late Ottoman Istanbul: Water and Sewage in the (re)Making of Pera, Kasımpaşa, and Terkos.” Environmental History of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey Conference, TürkiyeEuropaZentrum Hamburg, October 27–28.

**2017** “BiblioPera: Making Global Partnerships in the Local Context.” MELCom International 2017 Conference, Cambridge, July 2–5.

**2017** “Water from Terkos, Hunters from Pera: An Environmental History of Late Nineteenth Century Ottoman ‘Cosmopolitanism.’” The European Society for Environmental History 2017 Conference, Zagreb, June 28–July 2.

**2017** “Drawing ‘Cosmopolitan’ Pera: Artist and Networks of Power in Late Nineteenth Century Istanbul.” Visual Sources in Late Ottoman History Workshop, Columbia University, New York City, April 20.

**2015** “Municipal Archivists and Modern Historians: Osman Nuri and the Archival Construction of the 19th Century Istanbul.” Ottoman Municipalities Workshop, Istanbul Şehir University, November 6–7.

**2015** “‘Engineering’ Cosmopolitan Spaces: Expertise and Entrepreneurship in the Making of Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Pera.” Koç University ANAMED Fellows Symposium, Istanbul, May 30.

**2014** “Cosmopolitanism over Dead Bodies: Construction of Urban Duality and Taming the Diversity in the Late 19th Century Istanbul.” Western Ottomanists’ Workshop, Seattle, April 25.

**2013** “Galata and Pera across the ‘Historical Peninsula’: Late 19th Century İstanbul and Construction, Contestation and Imagination of Urban Dualities.” Annual Meeting of Middle Eastern Studies Association, New Orleans, October 10–13.

**2011** “Histories and Geographies on Board.” Fifth Biennial Conference of the Society of the History of Children and Youth, Columbia University, New York City, June 23–25.

### **Campus Talks**

**2018** “A Portrait of the Novice Historian as a Novice Curator and Librarian: Close Encounters with the Non-Teaching Academia.” New Scholarly Practices, Broader Career Paths in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, UW Seattle, May 4.

**2018** “In the Days of Glory and Urinal: Late Ottoman Pera and the 21<sup>st</sup> century Memory.” UW Turkish and Ottoman Studies Lectures, Seattle, April 27.

**2017** “Kozmopolit Pera’yı Çizmek, Haritalandırmak, Sergilemek.” Koç University ANAMED Exhibition Talks, Istanbul, March 23.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **University of Washington**

Instructor: “World Cities: The Mediterranean” (2018)

Teaching Assistant: “The Ancient World” (2018); “Gateway to the Middle East” (2018); “Cultural Interactions in an Interdependent World” (2014); “Rise of Asia” (2013)

#### **St. Olaf College**

Teaching Assistant: “Global and Mediterranean Programs in Istanbul” (2014)

#### **Sabancı University**

Teaching Assistant: “History of Civilizations” (2011, 2012)

#### **MEDIA APPEARANCES, INTERVIEWS, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, AND ONLINE PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)**

**2022– Present** Co-host of Yerden Yüksek, a radio/podcast program on trans/urban subjects, at Açık Radyo.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0CcDxf2awQmLU2nwAZKbpG?si=b822cebbbf0f4a00>.

**2020** “Mekânın Çevresel Tarihi.” Heinrich Böll Stiftung Türkiye podcasts, special series on historiography, curated by Oktay Özel, December 9.

[https://open.spotify.com/episode/0TwHk0Tg7gR1clIcaPzAy8?si=Dxoi\\_0\\_4Sj2ytmAIGub8Cg](https://open.spotify.com/episode/0TwHk0Tg7gR1clIcaPzAy8?si=Dxoi_0_4Sj2ytmAIGub8Cg).

**2020** “Hafıza-i Baser: Osmanlı Yazmalarından Hikâyeler.” TRT Radio 1 interview, July 3.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nfEhmHWG7VLNREyxymzavD1RkKvl-gD1/view?usp=sharing>

**2020** “Alexis Gritchenko ve İşgal Dönemi İstanbul’u.” Interview at Mesher Podcast, Episode 3, June 26.

[https://open.spotify.com/episode/2vhhLFbAhBaBDsLfRpe43R?si=9a2CYdKfR62\\_wvML1k-Osg](https://open.spotify.com/episode/2vhhLFbAhBaBDsLfRpe43R?si=9a2CYdKfR62_wvML1k-Osg).

**2020** “Istanbul exhibition showcases Ottoman manuscripts.” Anatolian Agency interview, March 10. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0Of0Aq3tII>

**2020** “Osmanlı Yazmalarından Hikâyeler.” Interview at the Ottoman History Podcast, Episode 447, February 3, 2020. <http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2020/02/osmanli-yazmalarından-hikayeler.html>

**2018** “Mehmet Kentel on the world of Ottoman caricaturist Yusuf Franko.” Interview at the Turkey Book Talk Podcast, February 19. <https://turkeybooktalk.podbean.com/e/mehmet-kentel-on-the-world-of-ottoman-caricaturist-yusuf-franko/>

**2017** “Visual Sources in Late Ottoman History.” Interview at the Ottoman History Podcast, Episode 327, July 25. <http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2017/07/columbia-visual.html#more>

**2017** “Showcase: The Characters of Yusuf Franko.” Interview at the TRT World TV, February 16. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybhqzIPFIlg>.

**2016** “The Case for Books, the Case for Libraries, the Case for Robert Darnton.” *ANAMED Blog*, March 30.

<https://hcommons.org/deposits/item/hc:17899/>

**2016** “Deep in the Stacks: Mehmet Kentel and Akin Ozarslanturk.” Interview at the Hazine.info, March 18. <http://hazine.info/dits-anamed/>.

**2015** “ANAMED Talks: Tunel is 140 Years Old.” Interview at the Koç University’s Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations Talks, January 14. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leS4JiAhCgo>.

**2014** “Davutoğlu Türkiye’nin Said’i Değil, Bernard Lewis’i Olur.” *Agos Newspaper*, August 27. <https://hcommons.org/deposits/item/hc:17891/>

**2014** “Devletleşen AKP, Değişmeyen Devlet.” *Bir+Bir*, March 28, 2014 (with Doruk Tatar). <https://hcommons.org/deposits/item/hc:17893>

#### **LANGUAGES**

Turkish – Native

English – Fluent

French – Reading (advanced), speaking (intermediate)

Ottoman Turkish – Reading (advanced)  
Persian – Reading (intermediate), speaking (beginner)  
Italian – Reading (beginner), speaking (beginner)  
Latin – Reading (beginner)

#### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Environmental History  
Urban History  
Public Scholarship  
Digital Humanities  
Ottoman & Turkish Studies  
Architectural History  
Cultural Heritage  
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)  
Museum Studies & Exhibition Curation  
History of Games

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America (MESA)  
European Society for Environmental History (ESEH)  
European Association for Urban History (EAUH)  
Network for the Study of Environmental History of Turkey  
University of Washington Turkish Studies Circle  
History Foundation Turkey

#### **REFERENCES**

##### **Professor Reşat Kasaba**

Jackson School of International Studies  
University of Washington  
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##### **Professor Edhem Eldem**

Professor of Ottoman History, Boğaziçi University  
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##### **Associate Professor Selim S. Kuru**

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##### **Professor Brian McLaren**

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##### **Professor Esra Akean**

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Cornell University  
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##### **Professor Chris Roosevelt**

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