

Nezih Erdoğan

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Research Profile

I am a film and media scholar researching cinema, modernity, spectatorship and visual culture, with particular emphasis on early cinema in Istanbul and Turkish cinema. My work examines colonial discourse, sound and the body in Turkish popular cinema, the reception of Hollywood in Turkey, and film censorship, distribution and exhibition. Combining archival research with digital archives, found-footage filmmaking and museum installations, I have developed projects that connect scholarship with wider publics. My current research investigates British cinema operations and cinema culture in occupied Istanbul between 1918 and 1923. My books include *Sinemanın İstanbul'da İlk Yılları: Modernlik ve Seyir Maceraları* (2017) and the co-edited volumes *Shifting Landscapes: Film and Media in European Context* (2008) and *Exploring Past Images in a Digital Age: Reinventing the Archive* (2023).

Academic Appointments and Leadership

Feb 2025–present	Dean, Faculty of Communication, Istinye University, Istanbul.
May 2021–Feb 2025	Senior Lecturer, Department of New Media and Communication, Istinye University, Istanbul.
Spring 2014–May 2021	Head, Department of Cinema and Television, Faculty of Communications, Istanbul Şehir University. Curriculum development; conference and event organisation; establishment of the master's programme in film and television.
Spring 2012–Feb 2014	Chair, Department of Cinema and Digital Media, Faculty of Communication, İzmir University of Economics. Established the department and organised talks.
Autumn 2011–Spring 2012	Chair, Department of Media and Communication, Faculty of Communication, İzmir University of Economics.
Spring 2009–2011	Head, MA Programme in Film and Television, Istanbul Bilgi University.
2005–2011	Dean, Faculty of Communication, Istanbul Bilgi University.
Autumn 2004–Spring 2005	Dean of Graduate School and Head of the MA Programme in Film and Television, Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul.
Autumn 2001–Spring 2003	Vice Dean and Head of the Department of Film and Television, Faculty of Communication, Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul.

Autumn 1991–2001	Instructor, Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture, Bilkent University, Ankara.
Autumn 1981–1991	Research Assistant and TV Director-Producer, Faculty of Communication, Anadolu University, Eskişehir.

Academic Qualifications

2001	Professor.
1992	Associate Professor.

Education

1989	PhD in Film and Television, Anadolu University, Eskişehir, Turkey. Dissertation: “Seyirci ve Bir Anlamlama Süreci Olarak Sinema” (Cinema and Spectatorship as a Signification Process).
1985–1986	Visiting Graduate Student and British Council Fellow, English and American Studies / Film Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.
1981	BA in Film and Television, Faculty of Communications, Anadolu University, Eskişehir, Turkey.

Fellowships and Scholarships

1 Aug 2025–30 Jan 2026	British Academy Fellowship, King’s College London.
1 Sep 2023–29 Feb 2024	TÜBİTAK 2219 Research Programme, Birkbeck, London.
1999	USIS Salzburg Seminars.
Sep–Oct 1989	German language study, Goethe-Institut, Berlin.
1985–1986	British Council Fellowship, University of East Anglia, Norwich.

Selected Publications

Books

With Ebru Kayaalp, eds. *Exploring Past Images in a Digital Age: Reinventing the Archive*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2023.

Sinemanın İstanbul’da İlk Yılları: Modernlik ve Seyir Maceraları [Early Years of Cinema in Istanbul: Adventures in Modernity and Spectatorship]. Istanbul: İletişim, 2017.

With Miyase Christensen, eds. *Shifting Landscapes: Film and Media in European Context*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Early Cinema-going and the Emergence of Film Culture: The First Pathé Cinema Theatre Opens in Istanbul (1908).” *Participations: Journal of Audience & Reception Studies* 16, no. 1 (2019): 698–717.

- “The Spectator in the Making: Modernity and Cinema in Istanbul, 1896–1928.” In *Orienting Istanbul: Cultural Capital of Europe?*, edited by Deniz Göktürk, Levent Soysal and İpek Türeli, 129–143. London: Routledge, 2010.
- “Kezban Goes to Rome and then Paris: European Twists in the Turkish Family Plot.” In *Shifting Landscapes: Film and Media in European Context*, edited by Miyase Christensen and Nezih Erdoğan, 188–197. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008.
- “The Making of Our America: Hollywood in a Turkish Context.” In *Hollywood Abroad: Audiences and Cultural Exchange*, edited by Richard Maltby and Melvyn Stokes, 113–124. London: British Film Institute, 2005.
- “Powerless Signs: Hybridity and the Logic of Excess of Turkish Trash.” In *Mapping the Margins: Identity Politics and the Media*, edited by Karen Ross and Deniz Derman, 163–176. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press, 2003.
- “Mute Bodies, Disembodied Voices: Notes on Sound in Turkish Popular Cinema.” *Screen* 43, no. 3 (2002): 233–249. <https://doi.org/10.1093/screen/43.3.233>
- With Dilek Kaya. “Institutional Intervention in the Distribution and Exhibition of Hollywood Films in Turkey.” *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* 22, no. 1 (2002): 47–59.
- With Deniz Göktürk. “Turkish Cinema.” In *Companion Encyclopedia of Middle Eastern and North African Film*, edited by Oliver Leaman, 533–573. New York and London: Routledge, 2001.
- With Uğur Güdükbay and Fatih Erol. “Beyond Tradition and Modernity: Digital Shadow Theatre.” Artist statement. *Leonardo* 33, no. 4 (2000): 264–265.
- “Narratives of Resistance: National Identity and Ambivalence in the Turkish Melodrama between 1965 and 1975.” *Screen* 39, no. 3 (1998): 259–271. Reprinted in *Screening World Cinema*, edited by Catherine Grant and Annette Kuhn, 145–159. London and New York: Routledge, 2006.
- “Das Neue türkische Kino.” Translated from Turkish by Deniz Göktürk. In *Gebrochene Blick nach Westen: Positionen und Perspektiven türkischen Kultur*, edited by Zafer Şenocak, 293–302. Berlin: Babel Verlag, 1994.

Book Reviews

- Review of *New Perspectives on Early Cinema History: Concepts, Approaches, Audiences*, edited by Mario Slušan and Daniel Biltereyst. *Nineteenth Century Theatre and Film* 51, no. 1 (2024): 110. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17483727231220289>

Research Projects and Creative Practice

- 2017–2021** Advisor, Istanbul Cinema Museum, Department of Cinema, Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Contributed two installations to the museum.

- 2010** Producer-director, *Istanbul Do/Redo/Undo: Sular, Sokaklar, Suratlar / Waters, Streets, Faces*, with Çiğdem Borucu. Found-footage video using images of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Istanbul, accompanied by electronic music. Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture.
- [View video](#)
- 2007–2010** Project Leader, Digital Document Archive on Film History, 1894–1928. Transcription and translation of newspaper and magazine articles and advertisements concerning cinema. Funded by Istanbul Bilgi University, the Department of Cinema, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and Özyeğin University.
- [View archive](#)

Conferences and Events Organised

- 2019** Director, *Forgetting the Archive: Exploring Past Images in a Digital Age*, international symposium, Istanbul Şehir University. Keynote speakers: Ian Christie, Thomas Elsaesser and Gustav Deutsch.
- 2014** *Yeni Temaşageran: Osmanlı'dan Sinema Manzaraları* [The New Spectator: Cinematic Views of the Ottoman Territory]. One-day screening of silent films with live musical accompaniment and a panel discussion.
- 2010** With Elif Rongen-Kaynakçı, *Traces in Grains*. Istanbul Bilgi University and the Netherlands Filmmuseum (EYE). Keynote speakers: Tom Gunning and Gustav Deutsch.
- 2007** With Miyase Christensen, *Shifting Landscapes in Film and Media*. Istanbul Bilgi University and Karlstad University.

Selected Conference Papers and Talks

- “Ending Empires: British Cinema Operations in Occupied Istanbul, 1918–1923.” Ending Empires: British Cinema: Home and Abroad Conference panel King’s College London, 21 January 2026.
- “Adventures in Modernity and Spectatorship: Early Years of Cinema in Istanbul.” King’s College London, 22 October 2025.
- “Conflicts and Screens: Cinema in Occupied Istanbul 1918–1923.” HoMER 2025 Conference: Cinema and Conflict Istanbul, Galatasaray University, 8–11 July 2025.
- “Hayal (Imaginal) and Hayret (Amazement) at the Threshold of Modernity: Visual Culture, Early Cinema, and the Audiences Marveling at Moving Pictures.” DOMITOR Conference ‘A Long Early Cinema?’ Vienna 12–15 June 2024.
- “Adventures in Modernity and Spectatorship: Early Years of Cinema in Istanbul.” Anglo-Turkish Society, London, 26 February 2024.

- “Close Encounters of a Different Kind: Cinema and Modernity in Occupied Istanbul (1918–1923).” (panel with Ian Christie) Yunus Emre London 23 February 2024.
- “The Coming of Cinema to Istanbul.” Birkbeck College, 26 January 2024.
- “Watching European Film, Dealing with National Sentiments: Cinema-going in the Province after the Independence War.” Writing a Decentred and Entangled History of Cinema-going: Epistemological and Methodological Issues. Quai Branly museum, Paris. 28–30 November 2023.
- “Importing Entertainment: Armenag Utidjian and International Film Business in Istanbul towards World War I.” Across Borders: Audiences, Exhibition and Reception. HoMER 2022, Rome, Sapienza University of Rome, 5–8 July 2022 (online).
- “The Double Gesture of Comedy in The Son of the Man who Saved the World.” Reframing the Turkish Film Remake. London, King’s College London, 11 April 2022.
- “If a bird’s eye view were possible...” Cinematographic anticipations in literature in the late Ottoman period. 26 May 2021, HoMER 2021. Maynooth University, 24–29 May 2021 (online).
- “Hududların Kanunu / Law of Borders.” Turkish Films Week, London, Yunus Emre Institute - London, 30 April 2019.
- “Staging the actualité film for propaganda purposes” 1918: A New Europe on Film, London, British Library, 27 October 2018.
- “Programme, Film Culture and Early Film Going in Istanbul.” Media Tactics and Engagement, HoMER 2018, Amsterdam, 26 June 2018.
- “Lumière? Méliès? Cinevitagraphe? Film History and the Challenges of the First Film Screenings in Istanbul.” DOMITOR, Provenance and Early Cinema, Rochester, 13–16 June 2018.
- “Failing to Remember the Ottoman Past: Problems of Historiography in Turkish Cinema.” Remembering the Ottoman Past in the Eastern Mediterranean - Greek National Research Institute Ottoman Studies programme - Orient-Institut Istanbul, 24 May 2016.
- “Scenes from the Ottoman Empire.” Travelling Festival, Ankara Contemporary Arts Centre, 12 December 2014.
- “Importing Films and Experience: Translating Aesthetic Experience in the Early Years of Cinema in Turkey.” NECS, Art in Public Space, Milan, 19–21 June 2014.
- “Sound Design in New Turkish Cinema - Alibi Caught Red-Handed?” NECS – The London Conference, Sonic Futures: Soundscapes and the Languages of Screen Media, University of London, 23–26 June 2011.
- “Issues of National/Ethnic Identity in the Early Years of Cinema in Turkey, 1894–1929.” Topographies of 'Turkish Cinema': Hybrids, Hyphens & Borders. Izmir, Izmir University of Economics/Department of Media and Communication, 21–22 April 2011.
- “City Forgotten and Then Remembered Again: Early Years of Cinema in Istanbul.” Orienting Istanbul: Cultural Capital of Europe? Berkeley, University of California, 25–27 September 2008.
- “Kezban: Rome First and then off to Paris.” Europe in Cinema, Cinema in Europe, Southampton, UK, 15–19 September 2005.

“Programme Palette” moderator: Programme as a Presentation Format workshop, the Netherlands Film Museum (EYE), Amsterdam, July 2004.

“What is so Interesting about Turkish Films?” Transnational Turkish Cinema Workshop, British Academy-National Film Theatre, London, 7–8 December 2000.

“New Turkish Cinema and the Pleasures of the Audience: Problems and Possibilities.” Society for Cinema Studies Conference, West Palm Beach, FL, US, 15–18 April 1999.

“The Making of Our America: Hollywood in a Turkish Context.” Hollywood and its Spectators: Reception of American Films 1895–1995, Commonwealth Fund-University College London, London. 12–14 February 1998.

“Articulation of Body and Space in the Turkish Cinema.” Time and Value Conference, Lancaster, University of Lancaster, 11 April 1997.

“Another Case of Mistaken National Identity: Turkish Cinema and Colonial Discourse.” Theory, Culture and Society Conference, Culture and Identity: City, Nation, World, Berlin, 13 August 1995.

Teaching

Early Cinema, Film History, Film Theory and Aesthetics, Film and Sound, World Cinema, Screenwriting.

Research Supervision

PhD Dissertations

Çetin Sarıkartal, “Encounter, Mimesis, Play: Theatricality in Spatial Arts”, PhD dissertation, September 1999, Bilkent University.

Leyla Özcivelek Durlu, “Representation and Women: Construction of Gender-Roles in Computer Games”, PhD dissertation, June 1996, Bilkent University.

MA and MFA Theses

Ayşe Berre Kahraman, “Woman with many faces: Belated modernity in Turkish popular cinema between 1960s and 1970s.” Master’s thesis, 2019 Istanbul Şehir University.

Zahide Nihan Doğan, “The Making of a Cinema Culture Through Cinema Magazines in early Republican Turkey (1923–1928): The Business, Stars and Audience..” MA thesis, June 2018, Istanbul Şehir University.

Çağan Duran, “A Simmelian analysis of social forms and individuality in Lütfi Ö. Akad's films: Gelin / The Bride (1973), Düğün / The Wedding (1974), Diyet / Blood Money (1975).” Master’s thesis, 2016, Istanbul Şehir University.

Nur Şeyda Koç, “Changing family, changing media: A comparative analysis of adaptations of Yaprak Dökümü/Falling leaves.” Master’s thesis, 2016, Istanbul Şehir University.

Gurur Asi, “Sound of blase, sound of spirit, sound of war: soundtrack analysis of Reha Erdem films: Hayat Var, Kosmos, ve Jin.” Master’s thesis, 2016, İzmir University of Economics.

Betül Balaban, “Comedy and women in neorealist cinema.” Master’s thesis, 2013, İzmir University of Economics.

Evren Toparlak, “Film Pazarlamada Sosyal Medyanın Gücü.” MA thesis, June 2012, İstanbul Bilgi University.

Co-supervisor: Berfu Şeker, “Resignifying the Mainstream: Transgender Embodiment in Cinema in Turkey”, MA thesis, September 2011, Boğaziçi University.

Serazer Pekerman Dayıoğlu, “The Spatial Configuration in Serdar Akar’s Films”, MA thesis, June 2004, Bahçeşehir University.

Ece Pazarbaşı, “Paranoia in Terry Gilliam’s Films”, MFA thesis, May 2001, Bilkent University.

Nur Yavuz, “The World In-Between: Cinematography,.” MFA thesis, December 2000, Bilkent University.

Esin Hoşsucu, “Jean Luc Godard in the Sixties”, MFA thesis, December 2000, Bilkent University.

Berke Atasoy, “Design of an Interactive Sequential Graphic System on Cyberspace,.” MFA thesis, January 2000, Bilkent University.

Dilek Kaya, “F is for Film, G is for Greenaway: The Cinematic Representation in the Films of Peter Greenaway”, MFA thesis, May 1999, Bilkent University.

Nazlı Eda Noyan, “Romance: An Investigation of Design and Signification in the Movie Posters of Turkish Melodrama.” MFA thesis, May 1998, Bilkent University.

Savaş Arslan, “Center vs Periphery: Visual Representation of the Party Scenes in Yeşilçam Melodramas”, MFA thesis, June 1997, Bilkent University.

Gökhan Ersan, “Hero vs Anti-hero: Spatial Form and the Graphic Novel”, MFA thesis, June 1997, Bilkent University.

Ahmet Gürata, “Filmic Space in Turkish Melodrama”, MFA thesis, June 1997, Bilkent University.

Editorial and Academic Service

Editorial Board, *sinecine*.

Professional Memberships

HoMER Film History Network

DOMITOR Early Cinema Network

NECS Media Network