

AYŞE EREK

Associate Professor, PhD.

Kadir Has University, Faculty of Arts and Design, Department of Industrial Design.

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Research Interests

Histories of modern and contemporary art and design, design culture in Turkey, placemaking with art and design, urban interventions, participation, critical practices and histories of exhibition making, cultural heritage, material culture in modern Turkey, Istanbul studies, digital humanities.

Academic and Administrative Experience

2018 - current. Kadir Has University, Department of Industrial Design. Associate Prof. PhD, Full time.

2018 - 2025. *Coordinator of the Design Graduate Program, School of Graduate Studies.*

2020 - 2022. *Vice chair. Department of Industrial Design.*

2019 - 2024. *School of Graduate Studies Board Member (Sanat ve Tasarım Anabilim Dalı Başkanı).*

2018 - 2022. *Human Ethics Council Member.*

2023 - 2025. *University Research Projects Council Member.*

2025 - 2026. Humboldt University in Berlin, GSZ Center for Metropolitan Studies. Visiting Researcher.

2015 – 2017. Yeditepe University, Department of History. Associate Professor, PhD, Full time.

2008 – 2015. *Assistant Professor, Full-time, Department of History.*

2014-2015. *Director of History Graduate Program, School of Social Sciences.*

2011-2012, 2016 – 2017 *Vice Chair, Department of History.*

2013. Humboldt University in Berlin, Institute of European Ethnology. Part-time Lecturer.

2007 – 2008. Istanbul Technical University, Department of Fine Arts. Part-time Lecturer.

Education

2000- 2008 Istanbul Technical University, Institute of Social Sciences, PhD Program in Art History.
Dissertation: Screen into Place: Spatial Paradigm and Artistic Production after 1990s.
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Ayla ÖDEKAN

2002-2003 Amsterdam University, School of Cultural Analysis and ISHSS, Visiting PhD Researcher.

1997-2000 Istanbul Technical University, Institute of Social Sciences, MA in Art History.

Thesis: Yirminci Yüzyıl Sanatında Doğaya Farklı Yaklaşımlar

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Semra ÖGEL

1997 Istanbul Technical University, BSc. In Physics Engineering.

Post-Doctoral Research

2012 – 2014 Humboldt University in Berlin, Georg Simmel Center for Metropolitan Studies.
Post-doctoral Researcher.

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kaschuba.

DAAD, Germany, Post-doctoral Research Grant.

TUBİTAK 2219 Post-doctoral Research Grant.

Scholarships and Awards

2021 Short Term Scientific Visit Grant. COST. Universidade Nova Lisbon (26 Aug. - 7 Sept.).

2021 Virtual Mobility Grant. European Union, COST.

2012 – 2013 DAAD Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. Germany.

2013 – 2014 TUBİTAK 2219 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

2013 Humboldt University in Berlin, Gleichstellungsfonds der Philosophischen Fakultät I.

2006 – 2008 Istanbul Technical University Doctoral Research Fund (BAP).

Research Projects

- 2026-2029** **Principal Investigator.** TÜBİTAK 1001 Project.
'Qualitative analysis of the potential of contemporary art for increasing public and spatial access to urban cultural heritage sites'.
- 2019 – 2023** **Financial Manager, Management Committee Member, Working group co-leader.**
EU COST CA 18204 'Dynamics of placemaking and digitization in Europe's cities.'
- 2021 – 2025** **Working Group Member.**
EU COST Project CA 20105 'Slow Memory: Transformative Practices for Times of Uneven and Accelerating Change'
- 2016 – 2018.** **Researcher.** Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Project.
'Claiming the public space: Urban interventions and the shift from vertical to horizontal urban planning.' Humboldt University in Berlin.

Memberships

- 2025** Akbank 43rd Contemporary Artists Award Competition, Selection Jury member.
- 2023 - 2024** SALT Research Funds Selection Committee member.
- 2018 - 2022** İKSV İstanbul Biennial Advisory Board member.
- 2023 - current** Editorial Board Member. *Sanat Dünyamız*, Yapı Kredi Publications.
- 2021 – 2025** Scientific Board Member. *Herança: History, Heritage and Culture Journal*. Portugal.
- 2019 - current** Advisory Board member. *YILLIK: Annual of Istanbul Studies*, İstanbul Research Institute.
- 2006 - 2008** Editorial Board Member. *İstanbul*, Tarih Vakfı, İstanbul. V. 56-64.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- 2026 With M. Toplaoğlu. "Making Place Otherwise: Everyday Interventions and Informal Placemaking in Istanbul", *Cultural Geographies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14744740261465380>.
- 2026 With T. Lange. "Şükran Moral" in *Fifty Key Performance Artists*, eds. A. Disman and N. Cesare Schotzko. Routledge.
- 2024 With M. Sepe and J. Szekely. "Bridging Tangible and Intangible Heritage through Placemaking: Senses of Belonging and Identification with Place", in *VOL 3: Future of Placemaking*, 137-157. eds. A. Delgado, G. Kirdar, C. Palmese, C. Smaniotto, T. Ruchinskaya, C. Horan. Brill.
- 2024 With K. Krasznahorkai. "Informal placemaking: social activism and practices of art and culture." in *Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability* Special Issue, 17: 2. (Editorial Introduction)
- 2023 "*İstanbul Ansiklopedisi*'nde Deniz ve Deniz Kültürü" in *Başka Kayda Rastlanmadı*, eds. B. Tanju, C. Yapıcı, E. Yurteri, G. Özkara, M. Yıldız, 217 – 228. SALT Publications.
- 2023 With E., Husukic E. Zejnilović, D. Despoina, N. Duho. "Mega-events and Placemaking. Urban Spectacles and Place Image Construction: Between Reality and Imagination", in *VOL 1: Placemaking in Practice: Experiences and Approaches from a Pan-European Perspective*, eds. M. Farthi, C. Smaniotto, 182 – 203. Brill.
- 2022 With H. Oevermann et al. "Heritage Requires Citizens' Knowledge: The COST Place-Making Action and Responsible Research", in *The Responsibility of Science*, ed. H. A. Mieg, 233–255. Springer.

- 2022 “On Füsun Onur's Pink Boat”, in *Füsun Onur: Once Upon A Time*, eds. B. Örer and E. Kamışlı. Mousse Publishing.
- 2022 “Sosyal Mekân, Kültürel Miras ve Sanatsal Pratikler üzerine”, in *Ayla Ödekan Armağanı: Sanat Tarihinde Disiplinlerarası Yaklaşımlar*, eds. A. Erkmen, A. Ereğ, A. H. Köksal, E. Güzel Erdoğan, Hande Subaşılar. Koç University Publications.
- 2019 With E. Almas. “Photographs, Memories, Monuments and Movements: Black and White Istanbul in the Work of Orhan Pamuk and Ara Güler.” in *CoSMo Comparative Studies in Modernism* no. 14 (Spring): 77-86.
- 2019 With E. Gantner. “Rewriting History: Interpreting Heritage in Saint Petersburg and Istanbul”, in *Securing Urban Heritage: Agents, Access, and Securitization*, eds. H. Oevermann, E. Gantner, 153-170. Routledge.
- 2017 With E. Gantner. “Disappearing History: Challenges of Imagining Berlin after 1989”, in *Cultural Topographies of the New Berlin*, eds. K. Bauer and J. Hosek. Berghahn Press.
- 2015 “Stay Calm: Arts for a Future in Istanbul”. In *Istanbul: Passion_Joy_Fury*, edited by D. Saroli, E. Motisi, C. Erdem, F. Mangelli, 187-190. Maxxi Museum of Contemporary Art Publications.
- 2014 With A. H. Köksal. “Introduction” in *Visual Resources Journal* 30:4, 277-281.
- 2014 With A. H. Köksal. “Relocating the Arts in the New Istanbul: Urban Imaginary as a Contested Zone”, in *Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation* 30:4, 301-318.
- 2012 “Güncel Sanatta Kentsel Mekân: Aydan Murtezaoğlu, Banu Cennetoğlu ve Sarkis’in İşleri Üzerinden Bir Değerlendirme (Urban Space in Contemporary Art: An Evaluation through the works of Aydan Murtezaoğlu, Banu Cennetoğlu and Sarkis)”, in *Sanat Yazıları* 27 (Nov): 11-24.
- 2012 “Arts, Architecture and the Problem of Nationalization in Early Republican Turkey.” In *The History of Art History in Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe V. 1* edited by J. Malinowski, 265 – 272. Society of Modern Art and Tako Publishing House.
- 2010 “Modernin Yolculuğunda ‘Fotoğraf Sanatı’.” *Kırımlar, Sınırlar, Yolculuklar: Sanat ve Buluşması*, eds. A. Erkmen, A. N. Ereğ ve E. Noyan, 153-160. Arkeoloji ve Sanat Yayınları.
- 2010 “Amsterdam de Appel’in Yeni Mekânı ve bir Sergi.” *YAPI Journal for Architectural Design Culture and Arts* 343 (June): 122-125.
- 2009 “Screen.” In *Becoming Istanbul: an encyclopedia*, edited by P. Derviş, B. Tanju and U. Tanyeli, 79-80. Garanti Galeri Publications.
- 2009 “Venedik Bienali dünyalar yaratıyor.” *YAPI Journal for Architectural Design Culture and Arts* 333 (August): 100-103.
- 2008 “Screen into Place: Artistic Production after 1990s.” Written with Ödekan A. in *Istanbul Technical University Journal of Social Sciences* 5, no. 1: 11-19.
- 2007 “Tasarım-İşlev-Teknoloji.” *YAPI Journal for Architectural Design Culture and Arts* 306 (5):114-118.
- 2007 “Techne: Dijital Performans Platformu.” *Türkiye Sanat Yıllığı 2006*, ed. Zeynep Rona, 230-233. Bilgi Publications.

- 2006 With A. C. Orlandi. "The Question of the Design Object in Cinema", in *Design and Cinema: Form Follows Film*, eds. Belkıs Uluoğlu and Ali Vatansever, 49-60. UK: Cambridge Scholars Press.

Conference Proceedings

- 2026 "Affective materialities in the sensory urban environment of Istanbul's memory spaces". *Citizens: Defining Ambiences Conference Proceedings Book*, eds. M. Boubezari & D. Masson. 275 – 280. University of Lusofana Publications. ISBN 978-989-757-340-8.
- 2012 "Reinventing the 19th Century City: Istanbul Exhibitions and Urban Imaginary" Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference of the European Architectural History Network, ed. H. Heynen & Janina Gosseye, 159 – 164. Universita Press.
- 2007 Landscapes of Open Source Culture: New Media Reconsidered. *Proceedings of the 5th International Symposium of Interactive Media Design Proceedings Book*. Yeditepe Publications.
- 2006 'Destabilization of the subject on Internet e-zines', *Globalised Society Society of Pictures, VIIIth Congress of the IASS Proceedings e-kitabı*, International Association of Visual Semiotics, <http://jgalith.univ-lyon2.fr/Actes/Welcome.do>.

Edited Books

- 2022 With A. Erkmen, A. Erek, A. H. Köksal, E. Güzel Erdoğan, Hande Subaşılar. *Ayla Ödekan Armağanı: Sanat Tarihinde Disiplinlerarası Yaklaşımlar*. Koç University Publications.
- 2010 With A. Erkmen, E. Noyan. *Kırılmalar, Sınırlar, Yolculuklar: Sanat ve Felsefe Buluşması*. Arkeoloji ve Sanat Yayınları.

Edited Journals

- 2024 Guest edited with K. Krasznahorkai. "Informal Placemaking. Social Activism and Practices of Art and Culture", *Journal of Urbanism* Special Issue 17 (2). Taylor and Francis.
- 2014 Guest edited with A. H. Köksal "Urban Imaginary in the Twenty-First Century", *Visual Resources Journal* Special Issue, 30:4 (2014). Taylor and Francis.

Reviews

- 2016 Book review. Urban heritage, development and sustainability: international frameworks, national and local governance by Sophia Labadi and William Logan (eds.), London and New York, Routledge. *Information zur modernen Stadtgeschichte* 1:2016, 88-91.
- 2014 Exhibition review. "Signs Taken in Wonder: Searching for Contemporary Istanbul". *The Journal of Architecture* 19:2 (April 2014): 292 – 299. Taylor and Francis.

Conference Presentations (last 2 years)

"A day in a commerce, production and a co-production quarter: İMÇ and its modern posture". 34th Annual Conference of INURA International Network for Urban Research and Action, Istanbul. 4-8 June 2026.

"Exhibition as Archive: Urban Ambiance in Display". COST *Shaping the Future Living Spaces: Data Collection and Archiving Conference*. Faculty of Planning and Architecture, Technical University of Moldova. 7-8 May 2026.

"Urban Cultural Ecologies and Independent Art Initiatives in Istanbul". *Think and Drink Colloquium of Georg Simmel Centre for Metropolitan Studies*. Humboldt University in Berlin. 11 May 2026.

“Unheard voices, affective materiality’s: visiting Istanbul’s memory spaces by an interactive walking application”. *9th Annual Meeting of the Memory Studies Association, Beyond Crises: Resilience and (In)stability*, Charles University and the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague. 14 – 18 July 2025.

“Affective materialities in the sensory urban environment of Istanbul’s memory spaces”. *Architectural and Urban Ambiances of European Cities Conference: Shaping the Future of Urban Spaces of Life*. Lusófona University, Lisbon. 3-4 July 2025.

Selected Articles in Art, Architecture and Design Journals

“Commoning in Action: Walking in St. Petersburg, Urban Gardening in Istanbul.” *Europe Now*, published by the Council of European Studies, Columbia University (May, 2018).

“Berlin Bienalinde İkili Yaşam.” *Genç Sanat* 230 (Sept., 2014): 48-51.

“Dünyanın Tüm Bilgisinden Bir Serginin Sınırlarına: Venedik Bienali.” *Genç Sanat* 218 (Jul.-Aug 2013): 32-37.

“Documenta 13: Düşünüyorum, çünkü Yaşıyorum.” *Genç Sanat* 207 (July 2012): 36 – 41.

“İstanbul! Sergiler ve Kent İmgeleri.” *Genç Sanat* 203 (Mar. 2012): 34 – 37.

“Gösterinin On Yılı”, *Bant*, S. 57, Mobi Medya Yayıncılık, İstanbul. (Jan. – Feb. 2010). 52 – 53.

“Fransız Sokağı: Küresel bir İmgeleme Biçimi olarak Nostalji.” *İstanbul* 58 (Jan. 2007): 74 – 77.

“WHW ile 11. İstanbul Bienali Üzerine.” Söyleşi. *İstanbul* 64 (July, 2008): 108 – 113. Tarih Vakfı Yayınları.

With D. Özkan and U. Atayurt. “Uyanışı Beklerken: Sanat ve Kurumları.” Söyleşi. *İstanbul* 61 (Oct. 2007): 28 – 31. Tarih Vakfı Yayınları.

With D. Daniş. “Uğur Tanyeli ile Türkiye’de Mimarlık ve Modernleşme Üzerine.” Söyleşi. *İstanbul* 63 (Apr. 2008): 50 – 54. Tarih Vakfı Yayınları.

With A. İnce. “Arzuyu paylaşmak: Hou Hanru ile 10. İstanbul Bienali üzerine.” Söyleşi. *İstanbul* 61 (Oct. 2007): 118 – 123. Tarih Vakfı Yayınları.

With A. Köksal. “İstanbul’da Güncel Sanat Mekânlarının Dönüşüm Süreci.” Söyleşi serisi. *İstanbul* 57 (Oct. 2006): 50 – 57. Tarih Vakfı Yayınları.

“Resimli Kent Atlası”, *VS Kültür Sanat Mimarlık Dergisi*, 1, 188. İstanbul, Nov. 2005.

“Görsel Dünya ve Sokakları”, *VS Kültür Sanat Mimarlık Dergisi*, 2, 188 – 189. İstanbul, Sept. 2005.

Exhibitions

Co-curator. ‘The Wedding Bang Theory’ artistic research and exhibition, Grünthaler9 Performance Art Center, Berlin. June 22-27, 2014 (with Teena Lange and Marcio Carvalho).

Exhibition organizer. ‘Urban Ornaments’, Urban Spree Gallery, Berlin. Nov. 2-21, 2014 (with Eszter Gantner and Juli Szekely).

Exhibition advisory board member. ‘Becoming Istanbul’ exhibition. Curators: Pelin Derviş, Bülent Tanju, Uğur Tanyeli. Sept. 6 –Nov. 9, 2010, Salt Beyoğlu, İstanbul; 30 September – 20 December 2011, Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt.

Referee in Academic Journals

Cultural Trends. 2026.

Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability. 2025, 2026.
Urbanistica. 2025.

City, Territory and Architecture. Springer. 2025

Art-Sanat Dergisi. İstanbul Üniversitesi. Sayı 18, 2022.

Herança. Lizbon, Portekiz. 2021 – halen.

Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi. Cilt 2 Sayı 17/ Bahar 2018.

Yıllık: Annual of Istanbul Studies, İstanbul Araştırmaları Enstitüsü. Sayı 1-5. 2019 – halen.

Training

- Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School, 13-15 July 2020. Online. Oxford University, UK.
- Antwerp University Digital Humanities Summer School, “Digital Humanities: Basic Skills for Digital Archives and Editions”, July, 1 -5, 2019. Antwerp University, Antwerp, Belgium.

Society Memberships

AICA – TR (International Association of Art Critics- Turkey) (2009-current)

Memory Studies Association (2017-2019, 2025-current)

CAA (College Art Association, USA) (2013-2016)

AAH (Association of Art Historians, UK) (2011-2016)

Theses Supervised

- With Filipa Cruz. Heper Sayar (2025). When Machines Err: Autonomy and Unexpected Occurrences in Algorithmic Creativity. Kadir Has University, School of Graduate Studies, Design Graduate Program.
- With co-advisor Emre Sünter. Sedanur Akyavaş (2025). From Gesture to Performativity: Practices and Reception of “Group d”. Kadir Has University, School of Graduate Studies, Design Graduate Program.
- Pelin Alkan (2024). Different Representations of a Mediating Artefact in Exhibitions: Woman Figurine of Çatalhöyük. Kadir Has University, School of Graduate Studies, Design Graduate Program.
- Ömercan Çakır (2023). Exhibition Making and Three Case Studies in Galata Rum School. Kadir Has University, School of Graduate Studies, Design Graduate Program.
- Çılga Doğukanlı (2023). Type Generating the Smooth Society. Kadir Has University, School of Graduate Studies, Design Graduate Program.
- Gülsen Şenol (2022). Building a Counter Image: Under the Vertical Gaze of Biopolitical Apparatuses. Kadir Has University, School of Graduate Studies, Design Graduate Program.
- Co-advisor with Arzu Erdem. Ozan Akbaş (2019). Culture, Commodity and Spectator under the Influence of Global Industry: The Case of Karaköy. Kadir Has University, School of Graduate Studies, Design Graduate Program.
- Co-advisor with Ayşe Coşkun Orlandi. Ezgi Akpınarlı (2019). Urban Identity in Istanbul-based Fashion Design. Kadir Has University, School of Graduate Studies, Design Graduate Program.
- Merve Topaloğlu (2019). Traces of Informal Placemaking: The Case of Caferağa Neighbourhood in Istanbul. Kadir Has University, School of Graduate Studies, Design Graduate Program.
- Co-advisor with Sibel Bozdoğan. Asya Ecem Uzay (2019). Everyday of Water in Istanbul. Kadir Has University, School of Graduate Studies, Architecture and Urban Studies Graduate Program.
- Ersan Avcı (2018). The Transformation and the Construction of ‘Sites of Memory’ in Early Republic of Turkey. Yeditepe University, School of Social Sciences, History Graduate Program.