I am very happy to present our first newsletter, inaugurating a twice yearly series, where we intend to bring together selected events and news from the stream that regularly appears on our websites. These will reflect the unique mix of disciplines that make up our Faculty, from Humanities and History to Social, Cultural and Political Studies, from Art to Economics, bearing witness to our commitment to academic excellence along with our concern for reaching out.

With warmest regards,
Ahmet Alkan
Faculty News


→ Ayhan Akman received Greek State Scholarship Foundation (İ.K.Y) postdoctoral fellowship award from September 2006 to March 2007 and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory at the University of Chicago in Spring 2007.

→ Halil Berktaş has been a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University since December 2006.

→ Fükrü Hanıroğlu, a well-known historian from Princeton University, offered a course titled "Reform and the History of Ideas in the Ottoman Empire" at Sabancı University in Summer 2007.

→ Sabancı University's Economics program and its faculty members ranked highly in a recent study supported by TÜBİTAK. The results can be accessed from the link below: http://www.rotahaber.com/haber/20070918/TUBITAK-destegiyle-ekonomist-arandi.php

→ Murat Germen was interviewed by the online French graphic design magazine Immersion Graphique. http://immerg.com
Books


The authors of this volume combine cutting-edge theory with in-depth empirical research to address the key issues in contemporary Turkish politics; the rise of democratic Islamist parties and the implications of their ascendancy for political stability and democratic governance. They offer important conclusions on voter decision-making in Turkey, and provide a rigorous theoretical framework for identifying trends and anticipating future developments.


Including contributions from noted international scholars, this collection of papers provides a strong theoretical and empirical underpinning for the discussion of major public policy issues facing Turkey today. The matters addressed include determinants of growth and productivity; education and human capital accumulation; income inequality; corporate control and government; performance of the government sector; and the impact of major public policy issues on the future growth prospects of the Turkish economy. This volume relates the impact of major public policy issues on the future growth prospects of the Turkish economy. At a time when Turkey is currently attempting to gain membership to the European Union, this pertinent reference questions whether the country’s economy is in fact ready for EU accession and membership.

This book deals with a provincial town attending to its day-to-day business against the backdrop of an exacting war fought far a field against the Habsburgs (1683-99). The dynamics of long-term economic growth were temporarily disturbed by the wartime economy while realignment in center-periphery relations affected the local power structure and practices of status management. Meanwhile, the local elite continued to dominate public life, hence the lives of commoners. This study opens a window onto this world through a close examination of the court records of the town.


This book deals with the history of the Republican Free Party using a methodology of histography based on a rigorous analysis of the official documents of its time. It contributes to our understanding of Turkish political history from a critical perspective.

This collection of ten essays focuses on the way major schools and individuals have narrated histories of the Middle East. The distinguished contributors explore the historiography of economic and intellectual history, nationalism, fundamentalism, colonialism, the media, slavery, and gender. In doing so, they engage with some of the most controversial issues of the twentieth century.


TESEV’s Internal Displacement and Social Rehabilitation Project has recently published the English edition of the book initially published in Turkish in June 2006. The book compares Turkey’s experience of internal displacement with other country examples, situates it in the international framework and offers policy proposals. She contributed to it on the theoretical framework to analyze the issue from a conflict resolution perspective, reviewed the literature on the EU and U.S.A.’s role in changing Turkey’s position on the issue, and evaluated the situation in Batman, one of the internally displaced-producing cities.

This book analyzes first, the usually evasive and ambiguous notion of the formation of the Turkish political right in its historical contextuality. The main axis of the analysis is the ideological content of this political flank, concentrating on the notion of conservatism and partly on nationalism. Second, the book examines AKP as a party with Islamic roots attempting to establish a new political realm. The book argues that AKP's success could be considered in relation with the problematic character of Turkish modernity.


Exhibits


→ Wieslaw Zaremba, "A Journey to Self Expression within Figure," Roman Gajewski Group Exhibit, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Malaysia, 2007.
Awards and Grants by Faculty Members

→ Ayfe Gül Altınay was awarded the TÜBİTAK Young Researcher Career Award in 2006. As part of this award, Altınay will conduct a research project titled "Redefining ‘Women’s Place’ in Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia; The Case of KA-MER". The project focuses on the multifaceted work done by KAMER, a women’s organization that operates in Eastern and Southeastern Turkey in the field of women’s empowerment, the struggle against gender-based violence (including honor killings), preschool education for girls and boys, and women’s entrepreneurship.


→ Aziz Nazmi Shakir was awarded a US government grant to participate in the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program. Shakir is one of 17 participants to be awarded an all-expenses paid grant from the US government to participate in the three-month program that allows writers from different cultures to embrace issues of global relevance together. Since 1967, over 1000 writers from 120 nations have participated in the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program.

http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/
http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/WRIT/WRITmain.html

→ The interdisciplinary SU research group consisting of Selim Balçosoy from Computer Science program, Elif Ayiter and Murat Germen from Visual Arts and Communication Design program were awarded the IBM Faculty Award for their 3D Information Visualization Project in the Services Science category. IBM Faculty Award is the most prestigious among the IBM Global University Awards which provide financial support to academicians selected from the competing candidates applying from all over the world.

→ Alex Wong received 1st place in Architecture/Interiors categories with his "Art vs Trash-The Destroyer," 3rd place in the Nature/Sunset category with "Enchanting Breath of Sunset" and 4 honorable mentions in other categories at the International Photography Awards in 2007.

Murat Germen received 2nd place in the Advertising/Catalogues category with his "Istanbul Modern" series and 8 honorable mentions in other categories at the International Photography Awards in 2007.

Selçuk Artut received 3rd prize in the Tourism category at the Altın Örümcek (GoldenWeb) Internet Award with www.bozcaadarehberi.com in 2007.
http://www.altinorumcek.com/Kazananlar.aspx
http://www.bozcaadarehberi.com
The European Commission. 6th and 7th Framework Programs

RECON: Meltem Müftüler-Baç is participating in the Project "RECON: Reconstructing Democracy in Europe," under the 6th Framework program. The consortium member states of the RECON Project are Norway, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Hungary, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Turkey. The project is under the leadership of ARENA from Oslo. The research team consists of Meltem Müftüler-Baç, Yaprak Günsuy, Nora Fisher (Ph.D. candidate at Oxford University), Evrim Taflılı, and Selin Türkel (both are the Ph.D. students in Political Science at Sabancı University)

http://www.reconproject.eu/projectweb/portalproject/Index.html

GO-EuroMed: Bahri Yılmaz is participating in the project "GO-EuroMed: The Political Economy of Governance in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" as a part of the 6th Framework program. The main purpose of this Project is to focus on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, in the context of EU efforts to improve governance throughout its neighborhood. The consortium member states of the GO-EuroMed Project are Germany, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Spain, France, and Poland. The research team includes Sabancı University M.A. students Sibel Oktay and Ezgi Özgül Öztürk.

EUROSPHERE: Ayşe Öncü, Ayşe Güll Altınav and Ahmet Öncü are participating in the project "EurospHERES" as part of the 6th Framework program. EUROSPHERE is a European Commission-funded Integrated Project within the 6th Framework Programme. The EUROSPHERE Consortium comprises 17 European universities and research institutes and approximately 150 researchers are working in the project which is coordinated by the University of Bergen. The 2nd Annual General Assembly Meeting of the EUROSPHERE Project will be held in 7-9 December, 2007 in Istanbul

http://www.eurosphere.uib.no/
Tübitak Projects

→ **Dicle Koçaioğlu** was awarded a TÜB‹TAK Research Grant for a project entitled "Access to Justice at Crossroads: Sociological Perspectives". In recent years efforts of law faculties, transnational law offices, non-governmental organizations, and international funding agencies have added to the existing work of bar associations in facilitating the reach of disadvantaged social groups to legal venues.

→ **Ayfe Parla** was awarded a TÜB‹TAK Research Grant for a project entitled "Forms of Organization among New Migrants: A Comparative Analysis of Bulgarian Turks, Iraqi Turkmen and Moldavians in Turkey". The project began in January 2007 and will be completed in June 2008.

→ **Ayfe Gül Altına and Yeflim Arat** (Boğaziçi University) have recently completed their TÜB‹TAK-sponsored research project on "Violence against Women in Turkey". This joint research project analyzes the twenty years of resistance to violence against women in Turkey and discusses the approaches and experiences of married women regarding violence in the family. A major report resulting from this research will be published in November.

→ **Ahmet Alkan, Alpay Filiztekin, Ali Çarkoçlu and Fırat İnceoçlu**'s TÜB‹TAK sponsored research project entitled "Measuring Value Added in Secondary Schooling in Turkey" aims to quantify and disaggregate the educational achievements of students attending secondary schooling in Turkey.

Sponsored Research

The European Commission’s Jean Monnet Projects

→ **Bahri Yılmaz** has been a Jean Monnet Chair on European Economic Integration since 2002.

→ **Meltem Müftüler-Baç** has been a Jean Monnet Chair ad personam in European Political Integration since 2004.

→ **Meltem Müftüler-Baç** teaches the course POLS 592 - The European Union: Policies, Politics and Governance which has been supported by the European Commission as a Jean Monnet Permanent Course since 2002.

→ **Bahri Yılmaz** teaches the course ECON 407/ES 507 - The Economics of European Integration which has been supported by the European Commission as a Jean Monnet Course Module since 2005.

→ **Ali Çarkoçlu** teaches the course POLS 462/562 - The Analytical Approaches to European Integration which has been supported by the European Commission as a Jean Monnet Course Module since 2006.

Other International Projects

→ **Yaprak Gürsoy** is participating in the "Evaluating International Influences on Democratic Transitions" project headed by the Center on Democracy, Development and Rule of Law at Stanford University. The Turkish leg of the project involves assessing international influences on the 1983 Turkish transition to democracy.
Events

→ Professor Feroz Ahmad, a prominent historian and political scientist, gave a lecture “The Young Turk Revolution, 1908-1918, Revisited” at our faculty as part of the SPS Speaker Series on 16 May 2007.

→ “Absent Spheres, Silent Voices: Recovering Untold Histories” was organized by Tel Aviv University, the Institute for Advanced Studies at Hebrew University, Sabancı University and İstanbul Bilgi University on 27-31 May 2007. Organizing Committee members are Yusuf Hakan Erdem, Israel Gershoni, Christoph Neumann, Amy Singer and Selçuk Akfın Somel.

Chris Patten, former European Commissioner and the current Chancellor of Oxford University, and Kalypso Nicolaidis, Director of the European Studies Center at Oxford University, gave a joint lecture titled “Europe@50, Turkey@84: Is Membership Still an Issue?” on 31 May 2007. The lecture, hosted by the European Studies Program, was held at the Sakıp Sabancı Museum.

→ The 18th European Regional Conference of the International Telecommunications Society (ITS) took place in Istanbul on 2-5 September 2007. The Conference was hosted by Sabancı University and the Telecommunications Authority of Turkey. The Conference focused on the most pressing developments and stimulated discussions on how to enhance policy making, research approaches, laws and regulation in order to improve market performance and consumer welfare in the fast changing electronic communications industry. Türk Telekom was the main sponsor of the event.

→ The international conference titled “Symbiotic Antagonisms in Turkey: Sources, Discourses and Changing Nature of Turkish, Kurdish and Islamic Nationalisms” was held on 5-6 November 2007 at Sabancı University’s Karaköy Communication Center. The organizers were Ayşel Kadıoğlu, Sabancı University, and Fuat Keyman, Koç University.
Conflict Analysis and Resolution M.A. students took part in facilitating two international conferences organized by the Istanbul Policy Center: the Turkey-U.S. Public Policy Initiative May 2007 conference and the Turkey-EU Observatory May 2006 conference.

Claudius Schulze, M.A. student in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, created a powerful exhibition about the ways in which conflict is dealt with in the Middle East by returning to the bomb site of the Jordanian hotels targeted by terrorist attacks one year later. His exhibit, "Bombsite Revisited," at the Gaf Theater in Istanbul's Beyoğlu district, caught the attention of the Turkish Daily News, which featured an interview with Schulze in October.

Social and Political Sciences B.A. students coordinated and participated in the international project, Leaving Places, Shaping Places, sponsored by the Anna Lindh Foundation and Kreizau Initiative. The project involves the active participation of Turkish, German, Polish and Israeli students, NGOs and academicians. The Turkish part of the project was coordinated by SPS student Melis Bitlis and the participants from the SPS program are Irmak Özer, Candan Türkkan, Emre Tunçalp, Emir Gönel and Heymi Behar. Cultural Studies B.A. students Ada Parisyan and Constranze Kolbe also were among the participants.


Hasret Dikici Bilgin, Ph.D. student in Political Science, presented her paper "Civil Society and State in Turkey from a Gramscian Perspective: Civil Society against the Turkish State or on behalf of the Turkish State," at the 4th European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference, Pisa, 6-8 September 2007.

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http://al-musafir.de/

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→ Evrim Tafkın, Ph.D. student in Political Science, presented her paper, "Turkey’s Accession to the European Union; Two Logics of Action," at the 2nd EU-CONSENT Ph.D School, Dublin, 18-23 February 2007.

→ Ucum Peçe, M.A. student in History, presented his paper, "The Story of a Transformation; Ömer Seyfettin before and after the Balkan Wars (1912-1913)," at the 22nd Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference organized by University of Chicago, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Chicago, 11-12 May 2007.

→ Özgül Akınco, M.A. student in Cultural Studies, presented her paper "Conscientious Objection in Turkey: Declaring Not to Support Rather Than Not to Obey," at the 8th Essex Graduate Conference in Political Theory organized by Essex University, Department of Government, Colchester, 21-22 June 2007.

→ Ümit Kurt, M.A. student in European Studies, presented his paper "EU-Turkey Relations from the Security Perspective," at the 4th Annual East European Conference organized by the University of Warsaw, Poland 19-22 July 2007.

→ Hasan Salihi Ay, M.A. student in Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design, has been invited by the "Association Internationale pour la Biennale des Jeunes Createurs de l'Europe et de la Mediterranee" (BJCEM), Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy, 2007.


→ Gökhan Okur, VACD graduate student, was interviewed by the French newspaper Liberation on the "Movie Assembly" project, 2007, France.

http://www.ecrans.fr/spip.php?article1135
http://www.movieassembly.com/interview.htm
http://www.movieassembly.com
Student News & Activities

Student teams from CS 450 Arts and Computing (Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design and Computer Science interdisciplinary course) presented their work at the following conferences; Damla Tamer (VACD undergraduate)/ Emrah Kavlak (CS undergraduate/VACD graduate); "Synaesthesia, "Siggraph 2007, San Diego, California, USA, 2007; Mehvef Çetinkaya (VACD graduate)/ Billur Engin (CS undergraduate); "Maestro; Design Challenges for a Group Calendar," Info Vis 2007, Sacramento, California, USA, 2007; Berkay Kaya/ Can Çeçen (CS undergraduate); "Hairograph: Synthesizing Statistics with Hair Style," Info Vis 2007, Sacramento, California, USA, 2007; Gökhan Okur (VACD graduate)/ Tolga Eren (CS undergraduate): "Designing a Virtual Architecture," MX Design Conference 2007, Iberoamericana University, Mexico City, Mexico.


VACD undergraduate student Erdem TafldeLEN was selected as a finalist in an international photography competition organized by Young Photographers United and his work will be included in their annual directory.