DEAN’S ADDRESS

This collection of Fall 2008 news demonstrates the wide spectrum of our activities at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. It also confirms the upward quality trend in our outputs - publications, exhibitions, workshops, lectures, projects, programs and students.

To highlight some of these news, you will find short information about our Spring 2009 visiting professors Marc Nichanian, Sonia Brentjes and Hüseyin Yıldırım. Our warmest welcomes to Marc, Sonia and Hüseyin. In January and February 2009 we hosted about twenty job-market candidates in seminars. All in all, in economics, sociology and political science we interviewed more than fifty candidates from institutions including Berkeley, University of Pennsylvania, University of California, Chicago, NYU, Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota, Texas Austin, Florida State, Autonoma de Barcelona and Université de Toulouse. Hakkı Yazıcı and Selçuk Özyurt respectively Minnesota and NYU economics PhDs, and Özge Kemahlioğlu from Florida State Political Science department have agreed to join us in Fall 2009. Thanks to a long list of faculty members for their participation to seminars and recruitment committees, in particular, Mehmet Barlo, Sabri Sayarı, Meltem Müftüler-Baç and Ayşe Öncü.

FASS Public Lectures are becoming a success. Oliver Hart (Harvard) and Avinash Dixit (Princeton) visited us in Fall 2008, and Timur Kuran (Duke) and Debraj Ray (NYU) are scheduled for Spring 2009. Eren İnci is managing this lecture series very professionally.

As part of our philosophy to share and reflect FASS happenings, in-class activities and works to public spaces, we installed monitors at several frequented spots in the faculty. On one monitor we run photos and videos of FASS activities as well as program and faculty webpages; on the other we shall display student works in Visual Arts classes, student achievements and web pages. There will be more visual student projects on FASS corridors, beyond just the FASS Art Gallery and Newsletter pages.

FASS program web pages are now successfully and dynamically fed through various databases. The improvement in program web pages has been noticed by outsiders as well, in particular some of the job-market candidates whom we interviewed recently.

I wish you a productive and happy Spring, until the next issue.

Mehmet Baç
Dean
April 2009
NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

Marc Nichanian is a philosopher and a literary critic. He received his PhDs in Mathematics and philosophy from University of Strasbourg in 1974 and 1979. He was an Associate Professor in the Middle Eastern Studies Department of Columbia University in New York from 1996 to 2007. He is the editor of GAM, a book series in Armenian, of which 6 volumes have been released from 1980 to 2005. He authored Writers of Disaster, (2002) and edited two other volumes on the poet Charents and on Atom Egoyan's Ararat. His most recent publications are La Perversion historiographique (2006), to be published soon in translation by Columbia University Press, and a series on 20th century Armenian literature, under the general title of Entre l’art et le témoignage. Three volumes in this series have already been published, La Révolution nationale (2006), Le Deuil de la philologie (2007), and Le Roman de la Catastrophe (2008). He has translated Walter Benjamin, Friedrich Nietzsche, Ernst Jünger, Maurice Blanchot, Jean-Luc Nancy, and Michel Foucault into Armenian.

Hüseyin Yıldırım is an associate professor of economics at Duke University. He joined Duke in 2000 Fall after receiving his PhD from the University of Florida. Yıldırım’s primary research interest is in the field of industrial organization, with special focus on the implications of learning curve in procurement; but he also has a strong interest on legislative bargaining issues in political economy, and charitable fundraising strategies in public finance. His publications have appeared in journals such as American Economic Review, International Economic Review, Journal of Economic Theory, and RAND Journal of Economics.

Sonja Brentjes is a historian of science with particular interest in cultural history of the sciences in western Asian, North African and European societies between the eighth and the seventeenth century. She works with manuscripts, maps and images on material objects. She has studied mathematics and history of the Near East at the Technical University, Dresden and the Martin Luther University. She has worked at universities and research institutes in Germany, France, the USA and the UK. Currently, she is a senior researcher at the University of Seville. At the moment, she is involved in two book projects; first, an English translation of and commentary on an Arabic edition of Euclid’s Elements dating back to the ninth or early tenth century, and second, a book on beliefs about the past and desires for the future among contemporary Iranians in Iran and the Diaspora.
Mehmet Baç received the TÜBİTAK Science Award in a ceremony held in the Çankaya Presidential Residence in Ankara on December 23, 2008. The ceremony was presided by the President of the Turkish Republic, Abdullah Gül. Mehmet Baç is the first social scientist to receive this prestigious award.
http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/news
http://www.milliyet.com.tr/Guncel

Ahmet Evin has been elected Senior Fellow of the Transatlantic Academy beginning September 2009. He will spend the academic year 2009-2010 in Washington, D.C., working with three other senior fellows and two junior fellows, at the German Marshall Fund of the United States and will concurrently hold an appointment as Visiting Scholar at the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies.

The European Commission has awarded a Jean Monnet grant to Meltem Müftüler-Baç in 2008 for teaching a course on European integration. POLS 592: The European Union will be supported with this grant for 5 years from 2008 to 2013. This is the third Jean Monnet grant for Meltem Müftüler-Baç awarded by the European Commission since 2002.

Ayşe Parla received a TÜBİTAK Career Grant for her research on “Legalization Processes among Irregular Turkish Migrants from Bulgaria to Turkey.” Parla’s previous TÜBİTAK research, completed in June 2008, has revealed that despite their irregular status and transnational ties, the post nineties labor migrants from Bulgaria to Turkey also seek a variety of paths of incorporation in the country of destination. Based on long term fieldwork and qualitative research, the upcoming project will explore migrants’ incorporation processes in one large (İstanbul) and one small (Tekirdağ) city scale and across three main sites, namely work, residence, and citizenship.
Abdurrahman Aydemir received European Union 7th Research Framework Programme Marie Curie International Re-integration Grant for his research on “The Impact of Integration Policies on Immigrant Outcomes: Cross Country Evidence from EU.” There is large cross country variation in labor market outcomes of first generation immigrants in Europe. Existing research focuses on selection of immigrants that determines their observed and unobserved characteristics to improve the labor market outcomes. This research stresses the importance of post migration integration that determines how a given set of characteristics are valued in the host country. The study aims to identify the impact of integration, independent of selection effects for the first generation immigrants and inform the discussions about the best practices for integration both at EU and national levels.

Ayşe Gül Altinay received 2008 PEN Duygu Asena Award. The Selection Committee consisting of Nazan Aksoy, Fatmagül Berktay, Aksu Bora, İpek Çalışlar, Aslı Güneş, Serpil Gülgün, Müge İplikçi, Orhan Pamuk, Pınar Selek, Nükhet Sirman and Şirin Tekeli decided to divide this year’s 2008 PEN Duygu Asena Award between two different works: Türkiye’de Kadına Yönelik Şiddet by Ayşe Gül Altinay (with Yeşim Arat) and Analar Yoldaşlar Tanrıçalar by Handan Çağlayan.

Alex Wong received the 3rd place in Architecture- Building Category with his project “Under a Living Sky” at the International Photography Awards in 2008.

In October 22–24, 2008, Heidi Schelhowe and Nadine DiHert from Bremen University have visited Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for a workshop. Later, Alex Wong organized a workshop on “Methodology and Techniques of Digital Modeling and Animation” on 17–21 November 2008 at Bremen University, Department of Sciences and Mathematics-Digital Media in Education (DIMEB). A possible collaborative project between DIMEB and our Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design Program was also discussed.

Ali Çarkoğlu is a resident research fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences. He is working on the project “Islam in Turkey: Linking the Private and Public Spheres of Religiosity” from September 2008 to July 2009.

Betül Çelik is a Visiting Scholar at the School of International Service, American University in Washington DC from January to July 2009, where she is also teaching a graduate course.
Selected Journal Articles


Mehmet Barlo has published a theory paper with two co-authors in Journal of Economic Theory, next in prestige worldwide to the top economics theory journal Econometrica. In his words, in their paper they "prove that all individually rational payoff vectors of any infinitely repeated discounted game can be approximated with 1 - memory subgame-perfect equilibrium strategies, when players are sufficiently patient and possess rich action spaces in the stage game." To translate this economic jargon for the nonspecialist: selfish and strategically minded people with very short memory (who remember nothing prior to their last interaction) can embark on long-term cooperation if they are highly patient. Congratulations to Barlo and co-authors for this version of the Folk Theorem.
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITS

Books


This book presents the voices of witnesses of mass repression. Its stories include the witnesses, victims and survivors; they also reflect the subjective experience of the study of such narratives. The work contributes to the development of the field of oral history, where the creation of the narrative is considered an act of interaction between the text of the narrator and the listener. The contributors are particularly interested in ways in which memory is created and molded. The interactions of different, even conflicting, memories of other individuals and society as a whole are considered.

http://www.transactionpub.com/cgi-


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 Habsburg (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.

Cemil Koçak, Geçmişiniz İtinayla Temizlenir, İstanbul: İletişim Yayınları, Ocak 2009

This book of Turkish political history brings together several of Koçak’s previously published articles. Discussing the early republican period and Turkish modern political history, Koçak argues for the need to change the mainstream paradigm for those periods.


This book systematically looks at what kind of ontological problems are produced by texts of history in a thematic way. The book deals with abridged and so-called “simplified” texts from Ottoman to modern Turkish, problems of transcribed texts, factual mistakes and scholarly glitches. It also looks into questions of referencing and texts that are written without due reference, and compares and contrasts the various editions of the same work. The last three chapters are devoted to questions of academic ethics, and another extreme situation, forgeries.
Halil Berktay. Yaşadığımız Şu Korkunç Otuz Yıllar: Kitap Yayınevi, Kasım 2008

Repudiating liberalism and socialism, the new Turkish nation state is built around nationalism. Over the first ten years of the era 1978-2008, the various instruments and mechanisms of state hegemony were still being deployed against the Cold War extensions and corollaries of the “social politics” of the Modern Era. From around 1988 onwards, the Turkish “deep state” began to realign itself so as to confront its new “threat perceptions” deriving from confluences of popular demands for representation and inclusion with a newly defined, much more multicultural and participatory Europe. This has given rise to a major new struggle for democracy, which, whatever its ups and downs, may be expected to stamp itself on Turkey’s next few decades.

Hasan Bülent Kahraman. Türk Siyasetinin Yapısal Analizi I: Kayımlar, Kuramlar, Kurumlar, İstanbul: Agora Kitaplığı, Eylül 2008

Hasan Bülent Kahraman analyzes the birth, development and the crisis of what he calls Turkish political modernity. Arguing that the political modernity that started to unfold in late Ottoman Empire as early as the Reformation (Tanzimat) Period in time has been an outcome of the Historical Bloc which is made up of the military, intellectuals and the bureaucracy. Accordingly, the 1908 Revolution was an early trial of what would become the Turkish Republic. Kahraman dissects the famous ‘center periphery’ analysis proposing new concepts. This is the first volume of a triology to be followed by the second volume 1946/50-1980 and the third volume 1980-2010.


This book is primarily dedicated to the analysis of the transformation of the Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi (Nationalist Action party, MHP) from a local extreme right wing party to a contemporary European one in the post-1980 era in Turkey. Although the primary references of the party differs from its European counterparts, since it operates in a secular but Muslim country located between Europe and the Middle East, it still shares almost all attributes of the European extreme right. Accordingly, the book argues that MHP is nationalist, xenophobic, anti democratic and supports astrng law and order state.
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITS

Exhibits by Faculty Members


http://slought.org/content/11406/

■ This is one of a series of artworks that were exhibited at the IN TRANSITION: Cultural Identities in the Age of Transnational and Transcultural Flux. Lanfranco Aceti was also a keynote speaker at a parallel event to the IN TRANSITION RUSSIA 2008 exhibition, the international conference “IN TRANSITION: Cultural Identities in the Age of Transnational and Transcultural Flux” that had been organized by the Ural State University named after A. M. Gorky, the Ekaterinburg Academy of Contemporary Art and NeMe (Cyprus). The image represents a personal artistic itinerary to discover if contemporary digital platforms offer the possibility of reconciling present and future with the historical inheritance of war traumas, destruction and scarred landscapes.

■ Artworks by Selim Birsel

AIW: Artists’ International Workshop, Aley, Lebanon, August 17-September 1, 2008. The workshop is an attempt to confine a wide range of artistic directions within the boundaries of a specific physical context, in the mountain village of Aley for a period of two weeks.

Index- Symbols From Everyday Life, group exhibition, Palais Porcia, Vienna

Selected Publications and Exhibits

Artworks by Murat Germen

Projected Image Exhibition, group exhibit, as part of BAF International Photographic Exhibition in Kerala, India, November 15-19, 2008. www.bafindia.org

Turkish Realities: Positions in Contemporary Photographs from Turkey, group exhibit, Fotografie Forum, Frankfurt, September 2008

Artworks by Alex Wong

Threefold Photography Exhibit, group exhibition with Steve Chong and Fin Teo, FASS Art Gallery, Sabanci University, Istanbul, December 4, 2008 - January 5, 2009.

Becoming Istanbul, Deutsches Architekturmuseum, group exhibit, Frankfurt, September 2008
SPONSORED RESEARCH

Tübitak Research Grants:

Annedith Schneider was awarded a TÜBİTAK Research Grant 1001 for a project on “Turkish French Artists: A New Cultural Perspective.” Turkish immigrants constitute a unique community in France in that they do not share a colonial past in a country where public discourse about immigration is closely linked with the traumatic history of colonialism. This project will look at how writers, filmmakers and playwrights of Turkish origin imagine and explore notions of identity in relation to mainstream French and Turkish cultures and to other immigrant cultures and the discourses that surround them.

Ersin Kalaycıoğlu and Ali Çarkoğlu are participating in the International Social Survey Program (ISSP), the participation for Kalaycıoğlu and Çarkoğlu is funded by TÜBİTAK Participation Program for International Projects 1011. This is a cross-national collaborative program involving 43 countries, which annually conduct surveys on modules determined two years in advance. Data collection via national surveys in the member countries is conducted by national representatives of the ISSP. Data collected for ISSP is part of an international sociology project shared both with its own members as well as with social scientists in general.
The Conflict Analysis and Resolution Program organized a workshop "An Introduction to the Open Space Large Group Facilitation Methodology" with support of the Istanbul Policy Center on October 11, 2008. Open Space is a framework for facilitating meetings in which groups, communities and organizations address complex and critical challenges with creativity and passion. This methodology has particular relevance for conflict resolution processes and also addresses the intricate challenges found in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Oliver Hart, Andrew E. Furer Professor of Economics at Harvard University, gave a public lecture titled “Reference Point and the Theory of the Firm” on October 22, 2008 at Sabancı University. Hart is one of the world's most distinguished economic theorists working on contract theory, the theory of the firm and corporate finance, and law and economics. http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/ssbf/economics/eng/?lecture/OliverHart.html

Alex Wong organized a workshop “Tangible Interfaces for Educational Contexts” with Heidi Schelhowe and Nadine Dittert on October 22-24, 2008 at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This workshop focused on embodied and tangible interaction, a hot topic in the Digital Media Field. This new kind of interaction seems to allow more intuitive and more “natural” access to computer intelligence that becomes more and more embedded in physical artefacts of everyday life. Yet, the interaction beyond screen and mouse is hiding what is going on inside the black box even more than it happened before with the GUI interface. http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/ssbf/eng/?duyuru/detay.php?No=25147

Avinash Dixit, Sherrerd University Professor of Economics at Princeton University, gave a public lecture titled “Governance, Institutions and Economic Performance” on October 27, 2008 at Sabancı University. Dixit has made great contributions to microeconomic theory, game theory, international trade, industrial organization, growth and development theories, public economics, political economy and the new institutional economics. http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/ssbf/economics/eng/?lecture/AvinashDixit.html

Meltem Müftüler- Baş organized a workshop “A Beyond Intergovernmentalism and the Quest for Unity: Democracy or Efficiency?” in Istanbul on November 13-14, 2008, for the RECON project sponsored by the European Commission’s F6 project. The workshop provided an opportunity for the presentation of working papers for the RECON research goals and a chance to compare the findings of different teams working towards these research objectives. http://www.reconproject.eu/projectweb/portalproject/IstanbulNov08.html

Selçuk Artut organized an Interaction Lab workshop “A (Flex)able Approach to Developing Rich Internet Applications (RIAs)” on December 3-5, 2008 at Sabancı University Karaköy Communication Center and led by Özay Olkan. This examined flash/flex remoting procedures and server side application development. http://www.selcukartut.com/portfolio/flexibleapplications.php
EVENTS

- **Lanfranco Aceti** organized an international symposium “Digital Encounters” on January 5-8, 2009 at Sabancı University. Digital Encounters is the first of a series of international symposia, lectures and art exhibitions that will showcase international and national artists and provide a platform to discuss current trends and new technological developments at the intersection of art, science and technology. The first symposium’s participants were Sue Gollifer, an internationally acclaimed academic, curator and computer art pioneer, and Paul Brown, a renowned artist, academic as well as art and technology expert, who discussed the role played in contemporary art by digital media.

http://www.lanfrancoaceti.com/event1/

- **Leyla Neyzi** organized an “Oral History Training Workshop” at the Ottoman Bank Museum in cooperation with Sabancı University and the Ottoman Bank Archive and Research Center on January 31- February 1, 2009. Leyla Neyzi was the organizer and gave the two day seminar. 200 participants included high school history teachers, graduate students, persons working in NGOs and museums. The participants were from İstanbul and other cities of Turkey such as Ankara, Eskişehir, Mersin, Kocaeli, Kars, Muğla, Balıkesir, Kırklareli, Antalya, Aydın, İzmir, Kayseri. 70 percent of the participants were women and students made up 30 percent of the participants.
Publications, Awards and Completed Ph.D. Dissertations


- BAşak Taraktas, PhD student in Political Sciences, published her article “A Comparative Approach to Euroscepticism”, *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, 16: 2, 249-266, November 2008 http://www.informaworld.com


- PhD degree awarded in Political Science: Berk Balçık, “Formations and Transformations of Language Regimes: Turkey, A Case Study” defended in February 2009.

Activities, Conference Participation and Exhibits

- Burak Kurt, MA student in Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design, and Mümne Bozdemir, MA Student in Cultural Studies, have a short animated film “tavşan! tavşan!” which had its premiere screening held in Boğaziçi University, Mithat Alam Film Center on October 17, 2008.

- CS 450 is a unique interdisciplinary course in Sabancı University conducted by three faculty members, one from the Computer Science program, Selim Balcişoy and the two others from the Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design program, Elif Ayiter and Murat Germen. One VACD and one CS student (designer + engineer) are usually teamed up into groups and interactive computational art/data visualization projects in virtual environments are the typical outcomes of the course. Students personally apply for significant conferences like Siggraph and InfoVIS and so far, close to 10 students were accepted as presenters in various conferences.

This year, one student team including İsıl Demir, Can Şen and Yiğit Yüksel was accepted for the *Electronic Imaging* 2009 Conference 18–22 January 2009, San Jose, California with their paper titled “Using EEG to Visualize Brain Waves in Second Life.” Another CS 450 student, Sina Çetin’s paper titled “Shadow Play” has been accepted as part of the SIGGRAPH Asia 2008 Sketches & Posters Programme.


- Özge Yağış, MA student in Cultural Studies, presented her paper “Spaces of Alteration: Gentrification in İstanbul” at Second ECPR Graduate Conference, Barcelona, 25-27 August 2008.
STUDENT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES


■ Several student exhibitions were held at the FASS Art Gallery during the Fall 2008 semester. A sample of these exhibitions follows: Daşma (by Pınar Aşan), Subtraction (graduation exhibition by Sena Arcak, Ece Kutlualp, Başak Akçakaya, Neslihan Koyuncu), Things Get to Murmur, Murmur Gets to be a Thing (by Hasan Salih Ay), Nude Portraits 4 (student exhibition of VA 204 Language of Drawing II), VACD Photography Exhibition (works of photography students), From Sketch To Painting (student exhibition of VA 324 Advanced Drawing).

■ Our students organized and gave several gallery talks at the Sakıp Sabancı Museum concerning the Salvador Dali exhibition. Students from different backgrounds took HART 425-Art and History at the Museum course which is a new art history course offered by Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in fall semester. As their term projects, students gave either “gallery talks” on specific works to the museum public, or guided tours to other SU students.

■ Erasmustudio, an exhibition by three artists who studied at Sabancı University Visual Arts and Communication Design Program in 2007- 2008 within the Erasmus exchange program, was held at Kasa Gallery, Sabancı University Karaköy Communication Center on September 17-October 31, 2008. Magdalena Mellin’s paintings, Julia Kul’s installations and Baptiste Croze’s video works produced during their stay in Istanbul. http://kasagaleri.sabanciuniv.edu/erasmustudio.html

■ 50 works of 28 VACD students enrolled in Wieslaw Zaremba’s course “Language of Drawing II” displayed their works produced in this class in Artist 2008, the 18th Istanbul Art Fair at the TÜYAP Exhibition and Congress Centre on November 1-9, 2008. http://www.istanbulsanatfuari.com/