UMUT YILDIRIM

Curriculum Vitae

Assistant Professor of Anthropology

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# RESEARCH INTERESTS

State, sovereignty, war, and ethnic conflict; Forced migration and place-making; Political, cultural, and ecological movements; Extraction, development, gender, and aid policies; Humanitarianism and mobility in conflict zones; Embodiment, affect, and subjectivity; Environmental anthropology; Historiography; Middle Eastern, European, and Mediterranean Ethnography.

# EDUCATION

September 2004–February 2011

PhD University of Cambridge, Department of Social Anthropology, UK.

September 2003–June 2004

MSc The London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Social Anthropology, London, UK.

September 2000–June 2003

MA Bogazici University, Institute for Modern Turkish History & Department of History, Istanbul, Turkey.

September 1995–June 2000

BA Business Administration, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey.

# FELLOWSHIP AND RESEARCH

January 2022–August 2022

Distinguished Research Fellow, UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies, USA.

September 2020–December 2021

Einstein Stiftung Fellow, Freie Universität Berlin, Institute for Cultural and Social Anthropology, Germany.

September 2018–August 2020

Post-doctoral Fellow, Institute for Cultural Inquiry, ICI Berlin, Germany.

# PUBLICATIONS

## Book Manuscript

In preparation

*Low Intensities: War, Extractivism, and Resistance in a Middle Eastern Capital.*

## Edited Book Volume

2023 *Occupied Ecologies, An-archic Fragments: Human and Non-human Intersections of Ethnography and the Arts.* Foreword by Françoise Vergès. ICI Press, Cultural Inquiry Series: Berlin. Contracted. Forthcoming.

## Book Chapters

2023 *Occupied Ecologies: Affect, Aesthetics, and Occupation in the Middle East.* In *Occupied Ecologies, An-archic Fragments: Human and Non-human Intersections of Ethnography and the Arts*. Foreword by Françoise Vergès. Pp. 1–26. Forthcoming.

2023 Mulberry Affects: Ecology, Aesthetics, and Non-Human Memory on the Shores of Tigris River in the Wake of the Armenian Genocide. In *Occupied Ecologies, An-archic Fragments: Human and Non-human Intersections of Ethnography and the Arts*. Foreword by Françoise Vergès, Pp. 27–50. Forthcoming.

2023 Eco-redaction in the Anthropocene: Urban Farming in the Kurdish Turkey. In *[Redacted]: Ethnography in the Negative Space of Political Power,* Franck Billé*,* Lisa Min, and Charlene Makley. In preparation. Duke University Press.

2020 Glaze, or Formulas to Get through Bad Weather. In *The Weather,* ed. by Christoph

F. E. Holzhey and Arnd Wedemeyer, Cultural Inquiry, 16 Berlin: ICI Press Berlin.

## Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

2023 Breathing under Blockade: Ruined and Resistant Ecologies in a Middle Eastern Heritage Site. *Current Anthropology.* Accepted. Forthcoming.

2021 Spaced out States: Decolonizing Trauma in a War-torn Middle Eastern City.

*Current Anthropology* 62(6):717–740.

2021 Spacing out Methodologically: A response. *Current Anthropology* 62(6):735–740. 2019 Space, Loss and Resistance: A Haunted Pool-Map in South-Eastern Turkey.

*Anthropological Theory* 19(4): 440–469.

## Peer-reviewed Short Pieces

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| 2022 | Resistant Roots: Occupied Ecologies on the Shores of Tigris River. *Jadaliyya* March 21, 2022. https://[www.jadaliyya.com/Details/43956](http://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/43956) |
| 2016 | Beyond the Lesser Evil: A Critical Engagement with Brexit (co-authored with Salih Can Aciksoz). In Green, Sarah*, et al.* Brexit Referendum: First Reactions from Anthropology*. Social Anthropology*: 487–488. |
| 2013 | An Impromptu Uprising: Ethnographic Reflections on the Gezi Park Protests in |

Turkey (co- edited with Yael Navaro-Yashin). Special Issue. Fieldsights -Hot Spots, *Cultural Anthropology,* October 31, 2013. https://web.archive.org/web/20181213213448/https://culanth.org/fieldsights/391- an- impromptu-uprising-ethnographic-reflections-on-the-gezi-park-protests-in-turkey

2013 Editorial - An Uprising on the Verge of Comparison. In Yildirim, Umut and Navaro- Yashin, Yael. “An Impromptu Uprising: Ethnographic Reflections on the Gezi Park Protests in Turkey.” Special Issue. Fieldsights–Hot Spots*, Cultural Anthropology*, October 31, 2013. https://web.archive.org/web/20181213224138/https://culanth.org/fieldsights/410- editorial-an-uprising- on- the-verge-of-comparison

2013 Nefes: Notes on Breath. In Yildirim, Umut and Navaro-Yashin, Yael. “An Impromptu Uprising: Ethnographic Reflections on the Gezi Park Protests in Turkey.” Special Issue. Fieldsights–Hot Spots, *Cultural Anthropology,* October 31, 2013. https://web.archive.org/web/20181213224214/https://culanth.org/fieldsights/406- nefes- notes-on-breath

## Peer-reviewed Journal Articles in Turkish

2002 Magazin Dergilerinde Amerikan Imgesi 1948–1960. *Toplum ve Bilim* 94: 21–

217. (The perception of the United States in Popular Magazines in Turkey 1948— 1960).

2001 Tarih Yazımına Farklı Bir Öneri: Maduniyet Çalışmaları Projesi*. Toplum ve Bilim* 91:334–343. (An Alternative Historiography: The Subaltern Studies Project).

# ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS

November 9–13, 2022

Panel organizer, Executive Panel, “Occupied Ecologies: Politics of War and Life in the Middle East,” Conference, American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meetings, Seattle, USA. Discussant: Eleana Kim. Paper presented: “Resistant Breathing on the Shores of Tigris River.”

November 14–18, 2019

Panel co-organizer, “Eco-Redaction in a Middle Eastern Natural Heritage Site” in “Militarized Ecologies in the Middle East,” Conference, American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meetings, Vancouver, Canada. Discussant: Derek Gregory.

July 1, 2019

Workshop organizer, “Affective Ecologies, Ethnographic Fragments: Documenting Militarized Worlds,” Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Berlin, Germany. Discussant: Françoise Vergès. Paper presented: “Mulberry Affects: Genocidal Aftermaths and An-archic Aesthetics on the Shores of Tigris River in Upper Mesopotamia.”

November 14–17, 2018

Panel co-organizer, “Affective Ecologies,” Conference, American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meetings, San Jose, USA. Discussant: Marisol de la Cadena. Paper presented” “Breathing as Praxis.”

May 9–10, 2014

Panel organizer, “Dematerialization, Trauma, and the Politics of Bare Life,” the Society for Cultural Anthropology (SCA) Biennial Meeting, Detroit, USA. Discussant: Kath Weston. Paper presented: “Displacement and War-Trauma in a City under Blockade.”

November 20–24, 2013

Panel co-organizer, “The Affects of Activism,” Conference, American, Anthropological Association (AAA) Meetings, Chicago, USA. Discussant: Ann Allison. Paper presented: “Spaced-Out Acts: Trauma, Displacement and Humanitarian Rehabilitation.”

November 16–20, 2011

Panel co-organizer, Executive Panel, “Affects of Displacement,” With Professor Yael Navaro, Conference, American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meetings, Montreal, Canada. Discussant: Liisa H. Malkki. Paper presented: “Dissonant Affects of Feminism.”

# TALKS

26-29 July, 2022

Panel talk, “Resistant Roots: Race, Decoloniality, and Ecology on the Shores of Tigris River” in “What Happens to Race when the Empire Crumbles?” 17th EASA Biennial Conference EASA2022: Transformation, Hope and the Commons. School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen’s University Belfast, Ireland.

May 26, 2022

Invited talk, “Breathing under Blockade: Ruined and Decolonial Ecologies in a Middle Eastern Heritage Site,” Department of Anthropology, UCLA.

May 20, 2022

Invited podcast talk [Turkish], “Dutlu Haller” in Maddenin hafızası. 2.11 Adalet Atlası.

April 2013, 2022

Invited panel talk, “Resistant Rooting: Ecology in the Wake of the Armenian Genocide” in “Idioms of Resistance,” Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA.

April 4, 2022

Invited panel talk, “Urban Agriculture under Low Intensity War” in “State Control in turkey: Resistant Encounters in War and Peace.” MENA Studies Program and the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program, Northwestern University, USA.

October 28–13, 2021

Invited panel talk, “Spacing out in a War-torn city: Trauma, Displacement, and Decoloniality in the Kurdish Region in Turkey” in “Feeling Gender in Turkey,” Conference, MESA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

September 4–7, 2021.

Invited panel talk, “A Breathing Analytics: Affect, Materiality and An-archy in a

World Heritage Site in the Middle East” in “Decolonizing Collective Breathing,” Conference, DGSKA, Berlin, Germany.

December 6–7, 2019

Invited panel talk, “Affective Ecologies” in “Affective Politics in Turkey and Egypt,” Conference, Freie Universität, SFB Affective Societies, Berlin, Germany.

June 13–15, 2019

Invited panel talk, “Notes on Genocide, Reconciliation, and Trauma in a Middle Eastern City” in “Beyond Trauma? A Transregional Perspective on Trauma and Aesthetics,” Symposium, The Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, Germany.

April 20–23, 2019

Invited panel talk, “The Unexpected Encounter of a Middle Eastern Eco-system with South American Ethnographies of Ontological Anarchy” in “Materialism and Politics,” Conference, Marc Block Centre and The Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, Germany.

January 10–12, 2018

Panel talk, “Faces of Forced Migration: Reflections on Affect, Trauma, and Resistance” in “Political Emotions in Turkey,” Conference, The London School of Economics and Political Science, European Institute, London, UK.

July 20–24, 2016

Panel talk, “Can Gardens Resist? Some Notes on Theories of Ontological Decoloniality” in “Indelible Footprints: Anthropology and Resource Politics,” Conference, European Anthropological Association (EASA) Meetings, Milano, Italy.

November 18–22, 2015

Invited panel talk, “Breathing in an Enclave” in “Enclaves, Fragments, Shards:

Managing Borders Across Spatial Discontinuities,” Conference, American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meetings, Washington DC, USA.

March 26–28, 2015

Invited panel talk, “Breathing under Blockade” in “Reverberations,” Conference, University of Cambridge, The Department of Social Anthropology with funding from The European Research Council (ERC), Istanbul, Turkey.

November 18–22, 2014

Invited panel talk, “It All Started with a Tree: From Hewsel to Gezi Park” in “Indignant Peripheries: Protest Politics, and Contested Futures of New Europe,” Conference, American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meetings, Washington DC, USA.

December 13–14, 2013

Invited panel talk, “Spaced-Out Acts: Forced Migration, Rehabilitation Schemes, and Mental Health in Urban Diyarbakır,” Workshop, “Feeling Differently: Emotional

Nonconformism in the 20th Century,” Humboldt University and Max Plank Institute for Social Research, Berlin, Germany.

January 10–13, 2013

Invited panel talk, “Reflections on a Pool-Map: Occupation, Trauma, and Subjectivity,” Conference, “Relocating Borders: A Comparative Approach,” The EastBorder Network Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany.

October 23–25, 2012

Invited panel talk, “Bedel as the Limit of Politics: Forced Displacement and Martyrdom

in Diyarbakır” in “Ordering the Social-Producing Change: New Ethnographies of Turkey in Transformation,” Conference, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany.

# LANGUAGES

Turkish (Native) English

French