

CURRICULUM VITÆ

Koray Durak

Boğaziçi University, Department of History,
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Education:

- Ph.D.** 2003-2008, Harvard University, Department of History and Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
Dissertation topic: Commerce and Networks of Exchange between the Byzantine Empire and the Islamic Near East from the Early Ninth Century to the Arrival of the Crusaders. *Thesis supervisors:* Roy Mottahedeh, Angeliki Laiou, Michael McCormick.
- M.A.** 1) 2001-2003, Harvard University, Department of History and Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
2) 1998-2001, Boğaziçi University, Department of History. *Thesis topic:* The Byzantine-Turkish Encounter in Western Anatolia in the Late Thirteenth and the Early Fourteenth Centuries. *Thesis Supervisor:* Nevra Necipoğlu
- B.A.** 1992-1998, Boğaziçi University, Department of Political Science and International Relations.

Areas of research:

Middle Byzantine social and economic history; Early Islamic social and economic history; commercial history of the medieval Mediterranean; Byzantine-Arab relations; Representation of the Other in Byzantine and Arabic literature; Geographical imagination in the early Middle Ages.

Academic positions:

- 2008-Current Assistant professor, Boğaziçi University, Department of History.
- 2006, Spring Cataloger at the Houghton Library (repository for rare books and manuscripts), Harvard University.
- 2005-2006 Research Assistant, Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
- 2004-2006 Teaching Assistant, Harvard University, Department of History, Department of Government, Department of Art History.
- 2000-2001 Teaching Assistant, Boğaziçi University, Department of History.
- 1999-2000 Research Assistant, Boğaziçi University, Department of History.

Administrative duties:

- 2015-current Bogazici University, Byzantine Studies Research Center, deputy director.
- 2013-current Member of the committee for the Institute for Graduate Studies in Social Sciences.
- 2009-2012 Academic advisor to the sophomore, junior and senior level students at the Department of History, Boğaziçi University.
- 2009-2012 Academic adviser to *BUTİK* (Students' club for historical studies) at Boğaziçi University.

Teaching:

Boğaziçi University:

- Hist 49K.01: *Sp.Tp. History of Byzantium (330-1453)*, Columbia University and Boğaziçi University summer school in Istanbul, Summer 2013/2014, Spring 2015
- Hist 59R: *Sp.Tp.Readings in Byzantine Sources*, Spring 2011 (graduate course).
- Hist 533: *Seminar in Byzantine History: Byzantine writing in Early and Middle Byzantine Periods*, Fall 2010.
- Hist 59G: *Economic History of Byzantium*, Spring 2010 (graduate course).
- Hist 58L: *Research Methods in Byzantine History*, Fall 2014
- Hist 335: *History of the Byzantine Empire I (300-900)*, Fall 2009/2011/2012.
- Hist 210: *Research Methods in History*, Spring 2009/2010/2011/2014.
- Hist 336: *History of the Byzantine Empire II (900-1453)*, Spring 2009.
- Hist 49L: *Special Topics: Trade, Exchange, and Communications in the Eastern Mediterranean in the Early Middle Ages*, Fall 2008.
- Hist 241: *Introduction to Western European, Mediterranean, and Islamic Civilizations*, Fall 2008/2009/2010/2011/2012/2013/2014.
- Hist 105: Making of the Modern World I (Coordinator) Fall 2013/2014
- Hist 106: Making of the Modern World II (Coordinator) Fall 2014

Sabancı University:

- Hist S-1090: *Introduction to Byzantine History*, Harvard University and Sabancı University summer school in Istanbul, Summer 2009.
- Hist 431: *Introduction to Byzantine History*, Summer School, 2008.

Bilgi University:

- Hist 232.01: *History of Istanbul I (The Byzantine Capital)*, Spring 2009.

Euro-Balkan Institute for Social and Humanities Research:

“Byzantium and the East” Reconstructing Imaginary and Real Byzantium: Historical and Cultural Legacies that Divide and Integrate Europe, Summer School at Ohrid, Macedonia, Skopje, 16-29 August 2010.

Özyeğin University:

- Hist 103A: *History of Civilizations*, Fall 2009/2010/Summer 2013.
- Hist 104A: *History of Civilizations*, Spring 2009/2010/Summer 2013.

Research positions:

- 2013, March-May Visiting researcher, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC..
- 2013, April Short-term fellow, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Museum.
- 2013, Spring Visiting scholar, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University.
- 2012, Spring Visiting scholar, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University.
- 2006-2007, Fall-Spring Junior Fellow, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Museum, Washington DC..

Grants and awards:

- 2015 BÜVAK Award for Outstanding Success in Research.
- 2013-2016 BAP (Research Projects) at Boğaziçi University for the project entitled: “Commerce in medicinal items between Byzantines and Islamic World in the Middle Ages”.
- 2013, April One-month Research Stipend at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Museum.
- 2011-2013 Young Scientists Award Program of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA-GEBİP).
- 2011, Summer THYESPA grant (Summer Program for the Modern Greek Language).
- 2011, Summer W.D.E. Coulson & Toni Cross Aegean Exchange Fellowship.
- 2007-2008, Fall-Spring Dissertation Completion Grant, Harvard University.
- 2006-2007, Fall-Spring Junior Fellowship, *Dumbarton Oaks Research Library*, Washington, D.C..

Affiliations and memberships:

- 2011-current Research Policies Advisory Council, Boğaziçi University.
- 2006-2008 Medieval Studies Committee at Harvard University.
- 2006-2008 Middle East Studies Association of North America.
- 2006-2008 Byzantine Studies Association of North America.

Professional activities:

- 2015 Guest at *Hagia Sophia: Istanbul's Mystery* in the series *Building Wonders* by Nova, aired on PBS
- 2012 Guest at *Nisyana Veda*, aired on tv channel TRTOKUL.
- 2012, Sept. 3 Guest at *Fikr-i Takip* aired on the radio channel *Açık Radyo*.
- 2011 Guest at *Mēchanē tou Chronou*, aired on Greek tv
- 2010 Principal academic adviser and curator of the Byzantine section for *From Byzantium to Istanbul; 8500 years of a Capital*, an exhibition organized by Sabancı Museum and the Committee for Istanbul 2010-European Capital of Culture, Istanbul
- 2010, Sept. 24 Collaborator in *Martha Steward Show*, special episode on Istanbul.
- 2009, Fall: Academic committee member for *De Byzance à Istanbul*, an exhibition organized by Réunion des musées nationaux and İKSV, Paris, France.

Conference papers:

- 2016, August 22
(forthcoming) “Substitute Drugs in Byzantine Medicine: the Question of Availability,” *23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies*, Belgrade, Serbia.
- 2015, October 22
(forthcoming) “Ambergris: the Story of a Perfume & Medical Drug in the Byzantine World,” *Byzantine Studies Conference 2015*. New York, USA.
- 2015 March 14, “Exotic Drugs and the Evolution of Byzantine Medicine,” Lecture at the symposium entitled *Life is Short, Art Long: The Art of Healing in Byzantium*. Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2015, March 7, “Ortaçağ'da Doğu Akdeniz ve Bizans [The Eastern Mediterranean and Byzantium in the Middle Ages],” *Suna-İnan Kıraç Akdeniz Medeniyetleri Araştırma Enstitüsü*, Antalya, Turkey.
- 2014, November 21, “Bir Dünya Başkenti? Konstantinopolis’in Ortaçağ Halklarınca Temsili [Capital of the World? Constantinople Viewed by its Medieval Neighbors],” *Imagining the City*, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2014, September 11, “Materia Medica on the Move: Pharmacological Items Imported from Byzantium to the Islamic World in the Middle Ages,” *The Great Silk Road & Medicine* by the International Society for the History of Medicine, Tblisi, Georgia.
- 2013, December 10, “Byzantium's Relations with the Islamic East. Trade and Beyond” *Lecture*, King’s College, London, England.
- 2013, June 26, “Imported Drugs in Byzantine Medicine: Commerce in Medicinal Items between Byzantines and Muslims in the Middle Ages,” *Third International Sevgi Gönül Byzantine Studies Symposium*, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2013 April 22, “Commerce between the Byzantines and the Islamic Near Easterners before the Crusaders ,” *Lecture at Brown University*, USA.
- 2013, April 10, “Foreign Drugs in Byzantine Pharmacology, Commerce in Medicinal Items between Byzantines and Muslims,” *Informal talks*, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC, USA.
- 2012, 17-19 October, “Movement of Merchants between the Byzantine Empire and the Islamic Near East from the Ninth to the Eleventh Centuries: from Aggregates to Individuals,” *Monks, Merchants and Artists in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Relations of Byzantium to the Arab Near East (9th to 15th c.)*, Wissenschafts Campus Mainz: Byzanz zwischen Orient und Okzident, Mainz, Germany.
- 2012, 6-7 July, “A Minor Battlefield for the Souls: Representation of Early Islamic History in High School History Textbooks in Republican Turkey,” *Remembering the First Century of Islam: Expansion and Division*, The Aga Khan University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, London, England.

- 2012, 12 April: “Commercial Relations between Byzantines and Arabs at the Turn of the First Millennium: An Underestimated Story,” *lecture at Bryn Mawr College, USA.*
- 2012, 16-19 March: “Birds Flying over the Eastern Mediterranean: Birds of Prey Sent as Gifts and Commodities from the Byzantine Empire to the Islamic Near East,” *222nd Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, USA.*
- 2012, 27-28 February: “Diplomacy as Performance: Power Politics and Resistance between the Byzantine and Islamic Courts,” *Courts and Performance in the Pre-Modern Middle East, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.*
- 2011, 16-18 December, “Performance and Ideology in the Exchange of Prisoners between the Byzantines and the Islamic Near Easterners in the Early Middle Ages,” *Byzantium and the Arab World, Encounter of Civilizations, Thessalonica, Greece.*
- 2011, 22 December: “Hediyelerin Dili: Bizans İmparatorluğu ile Arap Devletleri arasındaki diplomaside hediyelerin rolü [Laguage of Gifts: the role of gifts in the Diplomatic Relations between the Byzantines and the Arabs], *lecture at Anadolu University, Eskişehir, Turkey.*
- 2011, 22-27 August: “Political Borders and Economic Zones: Observations on the Nature of Byzantine-Islamic Trade,” *22nd International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Sofia, Bulgaria.*
- 2011, 24 February: “Orta Bizans Döneminde İstanbul‘da Ticaret (Trade in Middle Byzantine Constantinople),” *Chamber Talks at the Istanbul Research Institute in Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey.*
- 2010, 21-24 October: “Byzantine Constantinople as a Utopia in Early Medieval Arabic, Russian and Western European Sources,” *Byzantine and Ottoman Civilizations in World History, Istanbul Şehir University and World History Association, Istanbul, Turkey.*
- 2010, 1-3 October: “Sons of Hagar among the Romans; the incorporation of Muslims into the middle Byzantine state and society,” *Convivencia in Byzantium? Cultural Exchanges in a Multi-Ethnic and Multi-Lingual Society, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.*
- 2010, 21-23 June: “Court as a Shop-window: The Role of Diplomatic Gift Exchange between the Byzantine and the Near Eastern Courts in Promoting Commerce the Byzantine and the Near Eastern Courts in Promoting Commerce,” *Second International Sevgi Gönül Byzantine Studies Symposium, Istanbul, Turkey.*
- 2010, 4 May: “Byzantine and Islamic Trade: New Sources and New Questions,” *American Research Center in Turkey, Istanbul, Turkey.*
- 2010, 27 January: “The Byzantine Empire and its Foreign Trade in the Year 1000,” *Voyvoda Lectures at Osmanlı Bank Museum, Istanbul, Turkey.*
- 2009, November: “The Question of Trade with the Islamic World during the Byzantine Expansion toward the East in the Tenth Century,” *Centre and Periphery in the Age of Constantine VII Porphyrogennetos: from De cerimoniis to De administrando imperio, Central European University, 9 November 2009, Budapest, Hungary*
- 2009, October: “Byzantine Foreign Trade, with or without the Islamic Near East. New Sources and New Questions,” *Migration, Gender, and Economy in Byzantium: a Conference in Memory of Angeliki Laiou, the Gennadius Library, 23 October 2009, Athens, Greece.*
- 2009, October: “Representation of the Seljuk State and Court in Byzantine Sources,” *Court and Society in Seljuk Anatolia, 16-18 October 2009, Orient Institut, Istanbul, Turkey.*

- 2009, June: “Hiding and Revealing; Construction of the Islamic World and the Inclusion of the Byzantines therein in Medieval Arabic Geographical Writing,” *Conference on Mediterranean Worlds, Cultures of Interpretation*, 3-6 June, 2009, Famagusta, Cyprus.
- 2009, March: “Constantinople Viewed by the Arabs; Geographical Sources and Beyond,” Talk at *the Orient Institut in Istanbul*, 19 March 2009, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2008, December: “Cilicia in the Abbasid Period: Contextualizing Evidence from Tarsus-Gözlükule,” *Boğaziçi University, Museum Lectures*. Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2007, 25 June: “Why did not the Byzantines call a Spade a Spade? Definition of the Turks in the Byzantine Sources Between the Eleventh and the Thirteenth Centuries,” *First International Sevgi Gönül Byzantine Studies Symposium*, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2006, 18 November: “Byzantine Fish in the Muslim Reef. Byzantines in an Eleventh Century Geography, *Akam al-Marjan* of Ishaq ibn Husain,” *Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) conference* in Boston, MA, USA.
- 2004, 26 August: “Byzantine Imperial Discourse on the Crusaders in Anna Comnena’s *Alexiad* as a Mechanism of Imperial Control,” *Conference of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East, entitled “Around the Fourth Crusade, Before and After.”* Istanbul, Turkey.
- 1999, May: “The State of Byzantine Studies in Turkey,” *Second Graduate Students’ Conference, under the auspices of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies and the Oxford Byzantine Society*. Oxford, England.

Publications:

Book:

- 2011-2013 (in preparation): *Trade in pharmacological commodities between the Byzantines and the Islamic Near Easterners in the Early Middle Ages*.

Articles:

- 2015 (in preparation) “Byzantion, Nova Roma, Konstantinopolis, Kostantiniyye, Stanbulin: Tarihöncesi dönemlerden Bizans İmparatorluğu’na İstanbul’un uzun tarihi,” [The Long History of Istanbul from Prehistory to the Byzantine Empire] and "Konstantinopolis’te Ticaret: İhtişamın ve Çöküşün Temelleri" [Trade in Constantinople: Roots of Magnificence and Collapse] in a collected volume on the history of Istanbul, prepared for Fatih Municipality, ed. I. Ortaylı [in Turkish].
- 2015 (in preparation) “Byzantine City of Amorium in the Arabic Sources,” *Amorium Monograph Series*
- 2015 (in publication) “Local, Regional, and International Trade in Medieval Cilicia: A case study of Byzantine-Islamic Trade in the 10th century,” to appear in *the Center and Periphery in the Age of Constantine VII Prophyrogenetos* (12-14 November 2009) editors: Volker Menze, Tijana Krstić and Niels Gaul, *CEU Late Antique, Byzantine and Ottoman Studies*.
- 2015 “Dioskorides ve Ortaçağ: Bizans İmparatorluğu’na İthal Edilen Tıbbi Bitkiler/ Dioscorides and Beyond: Imported Medicinal Plants in the Byzantine Empire,” *Life is Short, Art Long: The Art of Healing in Byzantium*, ed. B. Pitarakis (Istanbul, 2015)
- 2014 “Performance and ideology in the exchange of prisoners between the Byzantine Empire and the Islamic Near East in the early Middle Ages,” *Medieval and Early*

Modern Performance in the Eastern Mediterranean, eds. Arzu Öztürkmen, Evelyn Birge Vitz, Brepols

- 2013, June “Bizans’ta Ticaret [Trade in Byzantium]” *Toplumsal Tarih* [Social History], 234.
- 2013 “Traffic across the Cilician Frontier: Movement of People between Byzantium and the Islamic Near East in the Early Middle Ages,” *Byzantium and the Arab World, Encounter of Civilizations*, Thessalonica.
- 2013 “Diplomacy as Performance: Power Politics and Resistance Between the Byzantine and the Early Medieval Islamic Courts,” *The Byzantine Court: Source of Power and Culture* (Second International Sevgi Gönül Symposium proceedings), eds. Ayla Ödekan and Engin Akyürek, Nevra Necipoğlu.
- 2011 “The Location of Syria in Byzantine Writing; One Question, Many Answers,” *Journal of Turkish Studies*, 36.
- 2010, June “Who are the Romans? The Definition of *Bilād al-Rūm* (Land of the Romans) in Medieval Islamic Geographies,” *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, vol 31/3.
- 2010, Spring “The Church of Hagia Sophia as Seen by the Neighbors of the Byzantine Empire,” *Ayasofya Müzesi Yıllığı, Annual of Hagia Sophia Museum*, no 13.
- 2010 “Byzantine Education”, “Byzantine Ceremonies” and “Commerce in Byzantium” in *Capital of Cultures, Istanbul* by Türk Kültürüne Hizmet Vakfı.
- 2010 “Through an Eastern Window: Muslims in Constantinople and Constantinople in Early Islamic Sources,” in *From Byzantium to Istanbul. 8000 Years of a Capital*, ed. Koray Durak, Istanbul.
- 2010 (Scientific editor) Catalogue for the Exhibition entitled *From Byzantium to Istanbul. 8000 Years of a Capital*, Istanbul.
- 2009 “Constantinople, réalités et utopies médiévales,” *De Byzance à Istanbul, Un port pour deux continent* (catalogue for the exhibition at Grand Palais in Paris in 2009), eds. Nazan Ölçer and Edhem Eldem, Paris.
- 2009, May “Defining the ‘Turk’: Mechanisms of Establishing Contemporary Meaning in the Archaizing Language of the Byzantines,” *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik* 59.
- 2004, November “Anna Comnena and the Barbarians,” (in Turkish) *Toplumsal Tarih* [Social History].