

YILLIK

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6



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Foreword

Stefanos (Stéphane) Yerasimos (1942–2005), the late eminent historian of Istanbul, wrote about “invisible walls,” “off-limit slopes,” “forbidden corners,” in essence “a hidden map” of his hometown of Istanbul that shaped his formative years in the city as a native Rum. His scholarship, which he reflects on in an article we are reprinting in *YILLIK* 6, was a way for him to break down those invisible walls and enter the material, social, and cultural worlds that made up Istanbul but were barred off from this young *İstanbullu Rum* amid the post-Ottoman homogenization of society in the mid-twentieth century. We would like to believe that this is what *YILLIK: Annual of Istanbul Studies* in general and our “Interventions” series (inaugurated back in 2021 as part of our Meclis section) in particular are trying to do: to follow in the footsteps of Yerasimos, and the scholars who came before and after him, in order to deconstruct the hidden—or sometimes quite open—maps of being in and making sense of the city and its many pasts; to “intervene” in our ways of knowing the city; to reimagine the vanished “narrative frameworks and cognitive paradigms,” in Christine Philliou’s words, that once gave meaning to the life and the built environment of Istanbul. Both Yerasimos and Philliou appear in a new Interventions dossier, guest edited by Koray Durak, that aims to “give voice to Istanbul’s Rum community,” with other contributions by Paul Magdalino, Koray Durak, Firuzan Melike Sümertaş, and Çiğdem Kafescioğlu. These contributions offer new archives (written in “invisible ink,” again borrowed from Philliou, to counter “invisible walls”) and new conceptual and critical approaches, not only to rewrite the history of the Rum community of Istanbul but to write the history and historiography of the city *with and through the Rum*, and to envision a new politics of cultural heritage that does away with the fascination with and glorification of the city’s conquest. We are grateful to Durak for revitalizing our Interventions series, as well as for putting together this powerful collection of essays.

YILLIK is once again blessed with four peer-reviewed articles that offer new methodologies, study unexplored topics, and correct flawed historiographical conventions. Alaaddin Tok examines the complex energy economy of late Ottoman Istanbul; Oğulcan Avcı and Nurcan Boşdurmaz reconstruct the history of the Anadoluhisarı Fatih Sultan Mehmed Mosque; and Güzin Yeliz Kahya maps the creative industries in contemporary Istanbul, revealing new geographic agglomerations. Günseli Gürel’s “Fifteenth- and Sixteenth-Century Ottoman Narratives on the Hagia Sophia Reconsidered” is the winner of our Early Career Article Prize. This article is in dialogue with the Interventions dossier, both for its review of early Ottoman narratives on this most significant symbol of the connections and ruptures between the Byzantine and the Ottoman pasts and also for its homage to Yerasimos’s pioneering work about the legends of the Hagia Sophia.

This year’s Cabinet features Özge Baykan Calafato’s essay on early republican portrait photography from the Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation Photography Collection, which she examines as a *lens* (obligatory editorial pun intended) into the gendered and classed history of making modern Turkey.

The current volume also presents ten book reviews that deal with diverse topics and disciplines, ranging from architectural surveys of Byzantine excavations to labor histories of modern Turkey, curated by our book review editors, Nurçin İleri and Jessica Varsallona. These are followed by two review essays on exhibitions, commissioned by our exhibition review editor, Ulya Soley. In the featured review of this issue, İpek Türeli writes on two recent exhibitions on Istanbul’s panoramic imageries.

As always, the volume concludes with the latest edition of the Istanbul Bibliography, this time compiled by F. Elif Özsoy.

The pace of change in Istanbul never ceases to amaze, and this journal, perhaps the only peer-reviewed journal on the city, is similarly blessed. After the restructuring I have reported on in these pages over the past few years, the editorial staff of *YILLIK* has once again undergone significant transformation. This issue owes its existence to the tireless efforts and brilliant work of our new managing editor, Dr. Ekin Can Göksoy, and editorial assistant F. Elif Özsoy. The editorial board is also expanded with the addition of Mustafa Ergül. With their presence, and the support of our academic community, we hope that our journal will sustain its mission of publishing cutting-edge research on Istanbul and challenging its established narratives in order to overcome the invisible walls that have for too long been built into the study of the city.

K. Mehmet Kentel
Editor