

## Remarks from the guest editors

As the guest editor of *ConnectIST: Istanbul University Journal of Communication Sciences*, published by Istanbul University, I found it an immensely valuable experience. This role has been like embarking on a journey of discovery, where each manuscript I encountered offers a unique insight into the vibrant and dynamic fields of communication sciences and media. It is through this journey that I have come to appreciate the depth and breadth of research conducted by scholars from Türkiye and across the globe as well as the significant contributions they have made to our understanding of communication phenomena.

From the moment I started this role, I was impressed by the diversity of topics addressed in the manuscripts submitted to the journal. Each paper I read served as a window into the fascinating world of communication, shedding light on various issues pertinent to our contemporary society. Whether it was an exploration of social media's impact on public opinion, an analysis of intercultural communication practises, an investigation into the role of media in political discourse, or an exploration of how women are portrayed or used in advertising, each manuscript brought with it a wealth of knowledge and a fresh perspective on the ever evolving and expanding landscape of communication.

What stood out to me was not just the topics themselves but also the thorough way in which researchers approached their studies. Reading about the background and significance of various issues allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the context within which these studies were conducted. It was enlightening to see how each researcher framed their questions, developed their hypotheses, and chose their methodological approaches to seek answers. This process affirms the rigour and dedication that scholars bring to their work.

I have come to liken a research manuscript to a work of art. Just as an artist uses a canvas to draw or sculpt his/her vision, researchers use their manuscripts to present their vision of the phenomena they are studying. Each paper, with its unique methodology and theoretical framework, is a different canvas that reflects the researcher's creativity and intellectual rigour. Some manuscripts employ quantitative methods, painting a picture with numbers and statistics, while others use qualitative approaches, creating rich, descriptive, and sometimes rather personal narratives that bring their subjects to life. The variety and diversity of these canvases demonstrates the richness of communication studies.

In my humble opinion, the *ConnectIST* plays a crucial role in opening doors for scholars who have a yearning to share their discoveries with others. As an open-access journal, it serves as an accessible platform on which researchers can present their findings, engage in scholarly dialogue, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field of communication. By providing a space for diverse voices and perspectives, *ConnectIST* fosters an environment of intellectual curiosity and innovation.

This experience has not only deepened my appreciation for the fields of communication sciences and media, but it has also reinforced the importance of scholarly publishing to advance our understanding of complex issues. As co-editor, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the dedication and passion that researchers bring to their work. It has been an honour to be part of this journey of discovery, and I am grateful to the journal's chief editor Professor Ayşen Gül for the opportunity to contribute to the dissemination of knowledge through the *ConnectIST*. I also appreciate the unique opportunity to work with Professor Serra Gorpe on this assignment.

In conclusion, my role as a guest editor of *ConnectIST* has been a profound experience that has enriched my understanding of communication sciences and highlighted the critical role of scholarly collaboration and dialogue. It is my hope that *ConnectIST* will continue to inspire and support scholars, professionals, and students from different backgrounds and visions in their quest for knowledge, fostering a community of researchers who are dedicated to exploring and understanding the complex world of human communication.

**Prof. Badran A. Badran**  
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Working on the 66<sup>th</sup> issue of *ConnectIST: Istanbul University Journal of Communication Sciences* was a truly gratifying experience for me in 2024. There were several reasons for this satisfaction, with one significant factor witnessing the exceptional quality the journal has achieved. I have been away from my home institution, Istanbul University Faculty of Communication, for some time. Our journal has always been among the quality academic journals in my home country. Collaborating as a co-editor in this particular edition alongside the *ConnectIST* team allowed me to uncover the secret behind its continuous growth and commitment to excellence.

Being involved as a guest editor in this issue reconnected me with my former colleagues. Furthermore, witnessing the hard work, coordination, and dedication of our early-career academic colleagues who were involved with producing the journal and contributed to the 66<sup>th</sup> issue was not only inspiring for the advancement of the journal but also for the Faculty of Communication of Istanbul University and the wider academic community. Having worked on this issue with my former colleague and mentor from Zayed University of the United Arab Emirates- Prof Badran- was a delightful experience.

I forgot how many times we got together while preparing this issue! The collaborative effort put into this issue was evident in the volume of submissions received showcasing *ConnectIST* as a sought-after academic journal. Our screening and evaluation process is guided by the journal's scope, and its future aspirations, ensuring a preservation of its identity and appeal to a broader academic community.

Reviewing the submissions for this issue shed light on the diverse interests of scholars within the field of communication and beyond. Since the 66<sup>th</sup> issue was not a "special issue", I believe that the array of topics covered in this issue spanning from various specializations and methodologies promises an engaging read for readers and encourages scholars to delve deeper into the subject matter.

Looking ahead, my aspiration for *ConnectIST* is for it to evolve into a truly international academic journal within our field. While the 66<sup>th</sup> issue saw contributions from other countries' scholars, increased participation from the international academic community would enhance the journal's visibility, and accessibility and foster more robust academic dialogues.

In closing, as a guest editor of the 66<sup>th</sup> issue, I extend my gratitude to *ConnectIST* team for this invaluable opportunity. I hope that our readers will enjoy reading this issue...

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