

Program in Cultures, Civilizations and Ideas

Continuity / Rupture

Perspectives on the past, the present and change

Bilkent University, March 5-6, 2004

Within a culture that operates in part on archival principles of preservation and remembrance how do we conceptualize continuity and rupture? How do things change? Is every change a break? How are newness and continuity related to the ways in which cultures reproduce themselves? Do discourses of revolution necessitate rupture with the past, or do they inevitably lead to repetition and return? Recent years have witnessed intense academic interest among scholars of the humanities and social sciences in the practice of memory and its failure. This debate includes the analysis of continuity, origination, trauma and displacement, as well as the institutionalization of memory in monuments and other practices of remembering, misremembering and forgetting. Does continuity exist as anything other than a “retrospective projection” from the interested perspective of the present? If all tradition tends now to be seen as to some degree invented, how do we conceive of influence—the productive as well as the restrictive weights of pasts upon the present?

This is the second annual symposium to be sponsored by Bilkent’s Program in Cultures, Civilizations and Ideas. A goal of the organizers is to provide a forum where scholars working on these questions in different academic disciplines, or in the zones between these disciplines, may present their ideas to an informed and interested audience of scholars approaching these issues from other perspectives. We very much welcome proposals from Faculty and Graduate Students from all disciplines.

See the next page for symposium details.

PROGRAMME

Friday, March 5

14:00-15:20: Panel 1 (FEASS, Room A130)

- Devrim Kılçer, Ankara University: 9/11: New York City as Wasteland
- Banu Helvacioğlu, Bilkent University: The Turning point in history from the point of view of rescue dogs

15: 40-17:05: Keynote I (FB-05)

- Şerif Mardin, Sabancı University: "Turkish Islamic Exceptionalism"

17:20-19:20: Panel 2 (FEASS, Room A130)

- Mustafa Nakeeb, Bilkent University: Anachronism and History in Plato's *Gorgias*: On the Philosophical Timelessness and Historical Timeliness of the Platonic Dialogue
- Laurent Mignon, Bilkent University: History beyond prose and poetry: Ali Kemal and the Ottoman historiographical tradition
- Fatih Bayram, Bilkent University: Perceptions of Alexander the Great in the Ottoman Empire.

Saturday March 6

09:40-11.30: Panel 3 (FEASS, room A130)

- Yusuf Eradam, Ankara University: The Repository of Notices for Continuity to Stand Mortality .
- Dennis Bryson, Bilkent University: John Dewey and the Eclipse of the Public
- Duncan Chesney, Bilkent University: Proust and Persistence

11:45-13:00 Keynote 2 (FEASS, room A130)

- Meltem Ahıska, Boğaziçi University: "Occidentalism and Registers of Truth: Politics of Archives in Turkey"

14:00-16:00: Panel 4 (FEASS, room A130)

- Fulya Ertem, Bilkent University: The Pose in Early Photography: Questioning the attempts of appropriating the past
- Dilek Kaya Mutlu, Bilkent University: (Re)constructing Ayastefanos: The Origination of Turkish Cinema
- Trevor Hope, Bilkent University: Mummies in the Archive; or, The National Imaginary Unwrapped

16:15-18:15: Panel 5 (FEASS, room A130)

- Thomas Zimmerman, Bilkent University: Time and the Phenomenon of Timekeeping Amongst Prehistoric and Early Historical Societies
- Plamena Tsoneva, Varna Summer International Music Festival: Festivals between Past and Modernity —Varna Summer International Music Festival