

Dr. Merve Aktar

23 December 2024

Assistant Professor
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ibn Haldun University
Basaksehir Mah. Ordu Cad. No.3 P.K.
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EMPLOYMENT

2018 - present Assistant Professor, Ibn Haldun University
2017 - 2018 Coordinator, Ibn Haldun University
2014 - 2016 Writing Consultant, USC Viterbi Academic Resources Center
2010 - 2013 Assistant Lecturer, USC Writing Program

EDUCATION

2009 - 2017 PhD, English, University of Southern California
2006 - 2008 MA, Cultural Studies, Sabancı University
2002 - 2006 BA, Western Languages and Literatures, Boğaziçi University

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

2023 - present Deputy Head, IHU Comparative Literature Department
2023 - present Faculty Representative, IHU Quality Commission Board.
2021 - present Board Member, IHU Munazara and Argumentation Ethics Research Center
2019 - present Faculty Board Member, IHU Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
2017 - 2020 Coordinator, IHU Writing Center
2017 - 2019 Editor (English), *IHU Açık Medeniyet Gazetesi*

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Proceedings

2024 Aktar, Merve. "Imagining the role moral luck plays in cognitive transformation: A literary-philosophical reading." *Proceedings of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation Conference*, May 23 - 35. University of Windsor, 2024.

2024 Aktar, Merve. "Commentary on "Community Questions for Candidate Debates."" *Proceedings of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation Conference*, May 23 - 35. University of Windsor, 2024.

Dr. Merve Aktar

Project Reports

- 2024 K. Sadek, R. Oruç, M. Aktar, et al. "Towards a Munazara-Inspired Ethical Argumentation and Debate Model." *ADAB White Paper on contemporary intercollegiate debate practices*. IHU Munazara and Argumentation Ethics Research Center. <https://munazara.ihu.edu.tr/en/white-paper-on-munazara>
- 2023 Merve Aktar, Mehmet Ali Üzelgün, Tasneem A. Hussein, Rahmi Oruç. "An Overview and Comparison of Contemporary Debate Formats." *ADAB Position Paper*. IHU Munazara and Argumentation Ethics Research Center. <https://munazara.ihu.edu.tr/en/paper-on-debate-formats-6472866c5915f>
- 2022 Mehmet Ali Üzelgün, Merve Aktar, Hussein Turner, Rahmi Oruç. "Narrative and Argumentative: Towards a Joint Framework for Examining Everyday Discourse." *White Paper on Narrative and Argumentative Discourse*. IHU Scientific Research Project Grant, Project No. 2105. <https://argumunazara.ihu.edu.tr/en/white-paper-on-narrative-and-argumentative-discourse>

Media Writing

- 2019 "The In/Balance Between Research and Education," *Açık Medeniyet*, Ibn Haldun University Press, 10, 32 – 33.
- 2018 "Sinema Dilinde Milton," *Açık Medeniyet*, 9, 54.
"Writing Center" Denilen "Akademik Yazım Merkezi," *Açık Medeniyet*, 6, 12.
- 2017 "The IHU Writing Center: We Get Your Creative Energies Flowing," *Açık Medeniyet*, 3, 53.

PRESENTATIONS / EVENTS ORGANIZED

- 2024 "Imagining the role moral luck plays in cognitive transformation: A literary-philosophical reading." *The Thirteenth Conference of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation: Argumentation and Changing Minds*, May 23 – 35. University of Windsor.
- 2024 "Commentary on "Community Questions for Candidate Debates."" *The Thirteenth Conference of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation: Argumentation and Changing Minds*, May 23 – 35. University of Windsor.
- 2023 *International Symposium on Argumentation and Debate: Traditional Munazara and Contemporary Practices*. Co-Organizer, Ibn Haldun University Munazara and Argumentation Ethics Research Center.
- 2022 ""It tempered me (like iron) a little:" Pandemic Metaphors by University Students in Turkey." *Sixth ASSE International Conference on British and American Studies*, June 15. Vlora, Ismael Qemali University.

Dr. Merve Aktar

- 2022 Küçükural, Önder; Aktar, Merve; Kaya, Goncagül Şahin. "Dynamics of Vaccine Skepticism Among Turkish Youth." *International Academic Conference of the Regensburg Center for International and Transnational Area Studies*, May 19 – 21. CITAS, Regensburg, Germany.
- 2021 "Mary Tighe's Re-Visionary Psyche." *ACLA Annual Meeting*, April 8 – 11. American Comparative Literature Association. Online.
- 2019 "Reading the Elements of the Romantic Psyche in Percy Shelley's The Witch of Atlas." *North American Society for the Study of Romanticism Annual Conference*, August 8 – 11. University of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- 2014 "Shelley's Re-visionary Hermaphroditus: Proposing an Egalitarian "Sexless" Poetic Mind in The Witch of Atlas." *International Conference on Romanticism Annual Meeting*, September 25 – 28. University of St. Paul, Minnesota.
- 2014 "Jerusalem as Allegory of Cognition: Unifying the "Systems" of Text, Reader, and Blakean "Intellect" Through Ellen Spolsky's PDP Model." *North American Society for the Study of Romanticism Annual Conference*, July 10 – 13. Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
- 2013 "Demure Agency: Mary Tighe's Psyche and The Female Erotic Gaze." *English Department First Chapter Symposium*, University of Southern California.
- 2010 "Cormac McCarthy's All the Pretty Horses: Breeding Blacks and Bays in the Spirit of Western Individualism." *Western Literature Association Annual Conference*, October 20 – 23. Prescott, Arizona.

PROJECTS

- 2023 Project Researcher, "ADAB in Dialogue: Developing Argumentative Virtues in a Divided World." John Templeton Foundation Project, funding area: Culture and Global Perspectives.
- 2023 Project Writer, (with IHU Erasmus Office) Erasmus+ KA171-HED - Mobility of higher education students and staff supported by external policy funds.
- 2022 Project Coordinator, "Young People's COVID-19 Narratives From an Argumentative Perspective and Normative Implications." Ibn Haldun University BAP (Scientific Research Projects) Project No. 2105.

Dr. Merve Aktar

AWARDS / CERTIFICATES

- 2023 Certificate for Teaching Excellence, *Ibn Haldun University Center for Innovative Learning and Teaching – AI*, IHU.
- 2020 Verified Certificate of Achievement, HarvardX DH101 Certificate | edX DH101: Introduction to Digital Humanities.
- 2015 Nominee, The USC Dornsife Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2015 USC Department of English Summer Grant
- 2009 – 2014 USC Department of English College Merit Award
- 2009 Northeastern University Excellence Fellowship
- 2009 Intermediate Level Ottoman Turkish Certificate, İSMEK
- 2007 Sabancı University Masters Fellowship
- 2006 Boğaziçi University High Honors Certificate
- 2004 Cem Taylan Book Award, BU Western Languages and Literatures Department
- 2003 Cem Taylan Book Award, BU Western Languages and Literatures Department

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2025 “Ideas, Authors, and Art in the Age of Revolution,” HUM 102C, Coordinator and Lecturer. Core Curriculum Program, IHU.
- 2019 – Present Comparative Literature Department, IHU:
Poetry and Poetics (Fall 2019 – present)
Myth in Literature (Fall 2019 – present)
Survey of English Literature (Spring 2020 – present)
Survey of Social Commentary Fiction (Spring 2020 – present)
Literary Nonfiction (Spring 2019, Spring 2020)
British Romanticism (Fall 2021)
Postcolonial Theory and Fiction (Fall 2020)
Gender and Literature (Spring 2022)
- 2021 “The World Through English Literature,” EDEP Foundation Summer School, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2019 Indexed Publication Colloquium, Co-Instructor, Alliance of Civilizations Institute

Dr. Merve Aktar

of Graduate Studies, IHU.

2018, 2019 “The Industrial Revolution in Art and Poetry,” IHU Winter School.

Fall 2018 – Spring 2020 “The World Through Art and Literature 101,” “The World Through Art and Literature 102,” Core Curriculum Co-Lecturer, IHU.

2018 “Understanding How an Argument is Constructed: the Rhetorical Triangle.” Seminar Guest Instructor, TÜGVA, Istanbul, Turkey.

Spring 2014 “English Literature Since 1800.” Volunteer Teaching Assistant, Teaching Practicum curriculum, USC English Department.

THESIS AND DISSERTATION COMMITTEES:

Spring 2024 PHD Dissertation Committee Member: Hussein Turner, “Evaluating Covid-19 Conspiracy Theories Through the Lens of Narrative Argument.” IHU Alliance of Civilizations Institute. Successfully Defended: May 2024.

Fall 2022 – Present PHD Dissertation Committee Member: Nilab Saeedi, working dissertation title: A Historian on the Move: “Muslih Al-Din LÂRI.” IHU History Department.

Spring 2022 MA Thesis Jury Member: Aamirah Patel, “Holistic Healing and Permaculture: Exploring the Role of Personal Transformation and Collective Healing in Contemporary Islamic Permaculture Initiatives.” IHU Alliance of Civilizations Institute. Successfully defended: April 2022.

Fall 2021 MA Thesis Committee Member: Nariman Abugharbieh, ““La Gran Sultana Catalina De Oveido” Between Historical Realities and Fiction.” IHU Turkish Studies Graduate Program. Successfully defended: September 2021.

ACADEMIC COMMUNITY SERVICE

Admissions Committee Service

Summer 2018 IHU Sociology Department M.A. Program admissions committee.

Extracurricular University Service:

Fall 2023 Short Film Script Competition Faculty Jury Member, IHU Cinema Club

Spring 2021 Short Story Competition Faculty Jury Member, IHU Literature Club

Spring 2020 Film Critique Event Speaker, *That Hamilton Woman*, Dir. Alexander Korda. IHU Cinema Club

Dr. Merve Aktar

Fall 2019 – Fall 2024 Faculty Advisor, IHU Literature Club

NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2017 – 2020 Coordinator, Ibn Haldun University Writing Center.

2017 – 2019 Editor (English), *Açık Medeniyet Newspaper*, Ibn Haldun University.

2015 Placement Exam Proctor, University of Southern California Writing Program.

2007 Work-Study Translator, Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey.

2006 Student Assistant, *Turkish Language and Cultural Exchange Program*. American Research Institute

MEMBERSHIPS

2021 – Present Member, American Comparative Literature Association

2014 – 2020 Member, North American Society for the Study of Romanticism

2014 – 2015 Member, International Conference on Romanticism

2010 – 2011 Member, Western Literature Association

LANGUAGES

Turkish: Native speaker

English: Near-Native, Professional

French: Intermediate reading and writing proficiency, basic speaking proficiency

Arabic: Intermediate reading proficiency, basic speaking and writing proficiency