



# Ankara Arařtırmaları Dergisi

## *Journal of Ankara Studies*

### From the Editors

As announced in the preceding edition, *Ankara Arařtırmaları Dergisi (Journal of Ankara Studies)* is commemorating its 10th anniversary this year. On October 13, 2023, the VEKAM staff, which dedicated tremendous effort to the publication, gathered with authors, referees, and the design and printing team. While it is impractical to list every name here, once again we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each member of this determined family.

This issue of the journal, intended to serve as a valuable resource for research, encompasses significant studies spanning geography, archaeology, architectural history, urban transformation, and cultural studies. The opening article delves into the demographic shifts in Polatlı, one of Ankara's most populated districts, from 1935 to the present, assessing the socioeconomic implications of these changes on the local populace. The subsequent article scrutinizes the socioeconomic identity of the indigenous population of Gordion by analyzing ceramic finds unearthed during the Gordion excavations.

We believe another article discussing Papazın Baęı within the framework of "urban nature" is also worthy of attention. The current owners bought the land and the old vineyard house on it in the early years of the republic, and Papazın Baęı, which was designated as a "Qualified Natural Protected Area" in 2017, continues to exist on 11-decare (approximately 2.7 acres) of land amidst the intense urbanization in the city. The study presents High Line in New York, Cultuurpark Westergasfabriek in Amsterdam, and Natur Park Sdgelnde in Berlin as prime examples illustrating the harmonious integration of the built environment and nature in urban and architectural design. If these ideas are given serious consideration and effectively implemented in Papazın Baęı this study will be deemed a success.

In the words of the author of another study in the journal, "Ankara has ceased to be the scene for modernization. As a result of the private sector channeling art investments predominantly into Istanbul, Ankara is now forfeiting its identity as an art hub, which derived from its status as the capital. Whether the new Presidential Symphony Orchestra concert hall with its unprecedented architecture, which opened in 2020 and its neighbor CerModern will bring cultural momentum to the city once again will become clear over time. We think that this study aiming to present the changes in the area where the concert hall has been located since the late 19th century to shed light on the recent history of Ankara will be of interest.

Making use of place attachment theory, the next article evaluates the similar lyrics of 30 pop songs about or referring to Ankara covering sadness, distance, loneliness, snow and rain, night, grayness, cold, drunkenness, and the lack of a sea. The results suggest that the city remains forever associated with "greyness," "mist," and "a steppe-like nature." As in the previous article, according to the author, this is because the culture industry in Turkey is centered in Istanbul.

Another article, which presents urbanization within the scope of physical, cultural, and historical topography, analyzes in detail the geographical, spatial, cultural, and physical transformation of Karakusunlar since the 1930s. The study provides original data regarding "the traces that geography leaves in memory, how it was used in different periods, and what it meant to the people living in the land."

The opinion article concluding the issue discusses how a sound governance process should be established for determining urban policies regarding the Atatrk Orman iftlięi and for spatial planning and implementation.

We hope that these valuable studies included in the present issue of the publication will guide city managers in the future and lead to new scientific research. We wish you a pleasant reading.

**Mehtap TRKYILMAZ, Alev AYAOKUR**