



# Ankara Arařtırmaları Dergisi

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### From the Editors

The visual aesthetics of the streets and avenues of a city have as much an impact on the lives of its inhabitants as does urban planning. The first article in this issue focuses on the transformation that occurred in Ankara's Ulus and Kızılay urban centers and their vicinity, and it studies the impact of this onto the visual aesthetics quality of the streets and avenues. This research uses historical and current images of the streets and combines quantitative and qualitative methods based on comparative fractal analysis, and it will certainly act as model for future studies in this subject matter.

The second article in the journal uses a hedonic pricing model to study the Ankara Citadel and vicinity, one of the historical neighborhoods of the city, and contributes to urban design and planning efforts through an unusual perspective by measuring the impact of the proximity to this neighborhood onto the residence prices.

Measures targeting waste collectors have been in the agenda of Turkey recently. Another article in this issue analyzes the difficulties that waste collectors face daily and studies the reflections and psychosocial impact of their urban experience and sense of belonging in three districts of the metropolis: Altındağ, Çankaya, and Keçiören. The urban administration should consider the proposals in the research, which aim to develop solutions to the multiply disadvantageous conditions faced by the waste collectors and how they can be integrated into the recycling sector.

The inevitable migration that occurred as a result of the Arab Spring has recently been in the national and as well as international agenda. Some of the millions of Syrians that took refuge in Turkey as a result of the open-door policy now live in Ankara. Through interviews conducted with Syrians residing in the Altındağ district, another research article in the current issue of the journal uncovers the social exclusion mechanisms that immigrants face and analyzes the strategies they developed as coping mechanisms. Yet another article focuses on four streets in the Demirlibağçe neighborhood where many locals live alongside Romany and Iraqis. The research firstly discusses how the practices of spatial creation occurring in these streets have halted social harmony locally, and secondly it analyzes the impact of the spatial practices of immigrants onto the creation of social belonging and the contribution to the social harmony between the immigrants and the local residents.

Another research article, which studies the human remains that were uncovered during the excavations in the Akyurt Kalaba Tumulus, evaluates the archaeological elements and all findings in the context of death-related rituals, and it is a pioneering study in the field in that it studies bio-archaeological and archaeological findings together.

Another research that could be the basis of urban planning administration decisions presents the past and present conditions and changes of three pre-1960 residential structures located in the Kızılay area and makes proposals to ensure the continuation of the architectural values of these buildings. Following another article that presents a detailed urban environmental history in the context of spatial connectivity, various urban environmental challenges, and urban expansion in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the last article in the issue discusses the service quality of the city's autobus transport system, and it proposes solutions to increase the quality of this service.

An opinion piece presents historical documents and current observations related to the groundwater extraction field Kırkgöz Kaptajı that very few know about. This underground water is believed to hold a significant place in Ankara history, and bringing it back to the use of the city is in the agenda. Such research holds great value for Turkey, which is located in the semiarid climate belt where the rate of per capita water value in expected to decrease greatly by 2030.

Our 18<sup>th</sup> issue features articles on topics from the perspectives of various disciplines related to Ankara urban research and we hope that it will be interesting to our readership.

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