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Editor's Note

It is with great honor and academic enthusiasm that we present the second issue of *Alma Mater – Journal of Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies (JICS)*. Since its inception, *JICS* has been committed to fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, providing a platform for rigorous academic inquiry that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. The publication of our inaugural issue in September 2024, featuring seven research articles, marked an important milestone in establishing our journal's place in the academic landscape. We are particularly encouraged by the significant increase in submissions for this issue, which reflects the growing recognition and engagement with *JICS*. Thanks to the dedication and expertise of our newly established section editors, as well as the meticulous efforts of our peer reviewers, we are proud to present an expanded second issue, featuring 18 research articles and one book review.

As *JICS* continues to develop, it is imperative to recognize the invaluable contributions of our section editors, who have played an integral role in shaping the academic and editorial direction of the journal. In the field of German Studies, our editorial board is strengthened by the contributions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Irem Atasoy** (Istanbul University) and Asst. Prof. Dr. **Derya Koray Düşünceli** (Ege University), both of whom bring a dynamic and contemporary perspective to German literary and cultural studies. Additionally, Prof. Dr. **Michael Hofmann** (Paderborn University), Prof. Dr. **Levan Tsagareli** (Ilia State University, Georgia), and Prof. Dr. **Erika Hammer** (Pecs University) contribute their extensive research experience to the field. We are also honored to have the support of em. Prof. Dr. **Michael Dallapiazza** (Bologna University), whose long-standing scholarly contributions continue to influence German philology, as well as Prof. Dr. **Renate Schellenberg** (Mount Allison University) whose interdisciplinary work enriches our editorial perspective.

In English Studies, we are privileged to have Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Berna Köseoğlu** (Kocaeli University), whose expertise in literary analysis and cultural studies provides valuable insight into the evolving field of English scholarship. Similarly, the field of Turkish Studies is well represented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Didem Akyıldız Ay** (M.A.E. University), whose contributions deepen our understanding of Turkish Literary and Linguistic traditions.

Dr. **Aslı Damar Çakmak** (Istanbul University) leads our engagement with Greek Studies, offering a comprehensive approach to classical and modern Greek literature and culture. In Japanese Studies, Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Maria Mihaela Grajdian** (Hiroshima University) brings an understanding of Japanese culture and media, bridging Eastern and Western perspectives in interdisciplinary research. Meanwhile, Dr. **Ksenia Kuzminykh** (Georg August Universität Göttingen) lends her expertise to Slavic Studies, facilitating scholarly discourse on the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Slavic world.

Geographical studies are enriched by Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Fatih Adıgüzel** (Bitlis Eren University) and Dr. **Firuze Caferova** (Azərbaycan Dövlət İqtisad Universiteti - UNEC), whose research explores spatial and cultural dynamics across different regions. In Linguistics, Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Melike Somuncu** (Kahramanmaraş Istiklal University) contributes her in-depth knowledge of language structures and their intersections with cultural identity.

History as a discipline is well represented by Asst. Prof. Dr. **Engin Çetin** (Marmara University), Dr. **Semih Sefer** (Istanbul University), Asst. Prof. Dr. **Eric Grube** (Boston College), and Asst. Prof. Dr. **Emily Cole** (Boston College). Their combined expertise covers a wide range of historical periods and themes, ensuring a nuanced and comprehensive approach to historical studies. Art History benefits from the scholarly input of Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Elif Kök** (Marmara University) and em. Prof. Dr. **Irma Trattner** (Linz University of Arts), both of whom offer critical perspectives on visual culture and artistic movements.

Philosophical inquiries in *JICS* are guided by Asst. Prof. Dr. **Süleyman Ertan Tağman** (M.A.E. University), whose work engages with fundamental questions of ethics, metaphysics, and knowledge.

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In Psychology, Asst. Prof. Dr. **Sena Sezgin (**Marmara University) brings valuable insight into human cognition, behavior, and social interaction. Sociology, with its focus on societal structures and transformations, is represented by Asst. Prof. Dr. **Ahmet Özpınar** (Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University), who contributes a critical perspective on contemporary social issues.

The study of ancient and material cultures is advanced by Asst. Prof. Dr. **Salih Soslu** (M.A.E. University), whose work in Archeology offers an interdisciplinary lens on historical artifacts and cultural heritage. Folklore studies, an essential component of cultural research, are enriched by the expertise of Dr. **Ahmet Şükrü Somuncu**, whose contributions highlight the significance of oral traditions and mythologies.

In the broader field of Cultural Studies, Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Sine Demirkıvıran** (Marmara University) plays a vital role in shaping interdisciplinary dialogues on contemporary cultural phenomena. Asst. Prof. Dr. **Fayıka Göktepe** (Marmara University) specializes in Cultural Transfer and Translation, exploring how ideas and narratives move across linguistic and cultural boundaries. Holocaust Studies, a critical area of historical and ethical inquiry, is represented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Habib Tekin** (Marmara University), whose work addresses the lasting impact of the Holocaust on memory and identity.

Education Studies is represented by Dr. **Betül Karakoç-Kafkas** (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe University) and Dr. **Iva Hradská** (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe University), who bring expertise in pedagogical theory and educational methodologies. Finally, Religious Studies is enriched by the contributions of Prof. Dr. **Egdunas Račius** (Vytautas Magnus University) and Prof. Dr. **Gerd Marie Ådna** (VID Specialized University), whose research spans diverse religious traditions and their societal implications.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our section editors for their (future) commitment and invaluable contributions. Their expertise and dedication have not only strengthened the academic rigor of our publication but have also significantly enhanced the journal's interdisciplinary character. This issue of *JICS* continues to uphold the journal's fundamental mission by offering a wide range of scholarly perspectives across cultural studies. Covering disciplines from geography to sociology, linguistics to literature, and philosophy to history, the articles presented here reflect the richness and diversity of contemporary interdisciplinary research. We are confident that this issue will provide valuable insights and stimulate further academic discussion. We invite you to explore the engaging and thought-provoking research within these pages and look forward to continuing this scholarly dialogue in future editions.

With our sincere gratitude and best wishes,

Editors-in-Chief

Assoc. Prof. Dr. İlker Yiğit
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Emrah Siyavuş
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Habib Tekin

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