

# Mediterranean Studies Academy Newsletter

California State University, San Bernardino

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## The Mediterranean Studies Academy and its Mission

The Mediterranean Studies Academy at CSUSB has four goals. First, we seek to deepen student learning about the Mediterranean. Study across disciplines allows our students to make meaningful and provocative comparisons between regions of the Mediterranean and to reflect on developments and movements from antiquity to the present. Second, we seek to enrich student learning and campus life by partnering with the Center for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies and the Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art. Third, we support and offer Study Abroad in the Mediterranean through the Center for Global Management. Fourth, we promote faculty research and scholarship because expertise in our disciplines elevates our instruction.

## How we got started: An Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The Mediterranean Studies initiative was launched in 2015 by Luz Elena Ramirez (English) and Jesús David Jerez-Gómez (Spanish), following the success of two grant applications. The first was an Arts & Letters mini-grant to develop a team-taught Humanities seminar, *Mediterranean Identities*. The second was the Teaching Innovation Grant, awarded by Dean Lawrence Rose of the Jack H. Brown College of Business & Public Administration with the support of Dean Tatiana Karmanova, College of Extended Learning, to establish the Mediterranean Studies Academy. Teaching Innovation Grant awardees and founding members of the Academy are Matthew Habich (Management), Ece Algan (Communication Studies), Dany Doueiri (Arabic), Jesús David Jerez-Gómez (Spanish), and Luz Elena Ramirez (English). Since our founding, we've expanded our Academy to include new members.

## Mediterranean Studies Academy

### College of Arts & Letters

Ece Algan, Communication Studies

Dany Doueiri, Arabic, World Languages & Literatures

Jesús David Jerez-Gómez Spanish, World Languages & Literatures

Eva Kirsch, Robert & Frances Fullerton Museum of Art  
Allen Menton, Music

Ahlam Muhtaseb, Communication Studies

Luz Elena Ramirez, English

## College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Yasemin Dildar, Economics

Kate Liszka, History

Nerea Marteache, Criminal Justice

## Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration

Matthew Habich, Management

## Academy Activities

Ece Algan, [ealgan@csusb.edu](mailto:ealgan@csusb.edu)

Professor of Communication Studies

Dr. Ece Algan's area of expertise includes globalization and digital media, community media, as well as national, cultural, and youth identities. This year, 2018, she published "Practicing peace journalism in a time of declining media freedoms: the "News Watch Turkey" initiative as activist alternative



journalism" in Y. Inceoglu and T. Erbasli's *Journalism: 'A Peacekeeping Agent' at the Time of Conflict* (pp. 130-147) published by Brill (Leiden, The Netherlands).

Also in 2018, Algan co-authored with D. Irak the article, "Yalan haber ve

siyaset: 2017 anayasa degisikligi referandumu surecinde media" [Fake news and politics: Media during the 2017 constitutional referendum] in *Yeni Türkiye, Hakikatsiz Siyaset, Soylu Yalan [New Turkey, Truthless Politics, Noble Lies]*. Published by Phoenix Yayınevi (Istanbul).

Dr. Algan regularly presents her research at national and international conferences. In January 2018, she presented her paper entitled, "Love as a political act: Affect, difference and the local protest music genre" at the Politics of Emotions in Turkey and its Connected Geographies Conference at the London School of Economics. In June 2018, she delivered a paper entitled, "Local broadcasting as tactical media: Community participation and activist journalism in Turkey" at the International Association for Media and Communication Research Conference in Eugene, Oregon. She presented "The globalization of Turkey's television industry and its discontents" at the Middle East Studies Association Conference in San Antonio, Texas in November 2018.

A highly successful grant writer, Professor Algan recently was awarded three grants at CSUSB. She was awarded the Teaching Skills Study Award Grant in spring 2018 and a Course Development Grant in summer 2018 for her project: "Approaching Media and Mobility via Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL)." Also in summer 2018, she won one of the highly competitive CSUSB Summer Research Fellowships.

**Yasemin Dildar, YDildar@csusb.edu**  
**Assistant Professor of Economics**



Dr. Yasemin Dildar teaches economics in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2015; her dissertation is entitled "Structural Transformation, Culture, and Women's Labor Force Participation in Turkey." She earned her M.S.c. in Economics and her B.S. in Economics from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. Dr. Yasemin Dildar specializes in development, macroeconomics, labor economics and feminist economics. This year, she presented her research at two conferences. In June 2018, she presented "Pro-natalist Policies and Fertility Preferences in Turkey: Do Women Really Want "at Least Three Children"?" at the International Association for Feminist Economics Conference in New Paltz, New York. She delivered her paper "Is Economic Empowerment a Protective Factor against Intimate Partner Violence?" at the Evidence from Turkey, Union of Radical Political Economics Conference in Amherst, Massachusetts in September 2018.

**Jesús David Jerez-Gómez, jdjerez@csusb.edu**  
**Professor of Spanish**  
**Co-Founder Mediterranean Studies Academy**

Dr. Jesús David Jerez-Gómez is co-founder of the Mediterranean Studies Academy with Dr. Luz Elena Ramirez. As Director of the Academy he focuses on study abroad and curricular development. Working with Dr. Vipin Gupta of the Center for Global Management, Professor Jerez-Gómez will lead the Granada, Spain Study Abroad Summer program in 2019 with a trip to Sweden included in the itinerary. Students in Spain will study at Universidad de Granada and earn a certificate of participation from the Centro Mediterráneo; the program runs from June 29 to July 14, 2019. Interested students should apply by March 2019: [www.csusb.edu/global-management](http://www.csusb.edu/global-management)

In spring 2018, Dr. Jerez Gómez presented "The *Warrior Maiden* literary motif: from the Mediterranean epic to Miguel de Cervantes' Ana Félix and the modern novel" at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual International Mediterranean Studies Association at the Sant'Anna Institute, in Sorrento, Italy (May 30- June 2). He has also been invited to be part of the *Mediterranean Studies Association Journal* Editorial Board.



Jerez-Gómez's essay "Seducción guerrera en el Quijote: la tradición mediterránea de la mujer disfrazada" will be published in Esther Fernández Rodríguez and Mercedes Alcalá Galán's edited volume, *Sex and Gender in Cervantes: Essays in Honor of Adrienne Laskier Martín* (2019).

**Eva Kirsch, ekirsch@csusb.edu**  
**Director, Robert & Frances Fullerton Museum of Art (RAFFMA)**

Eva Kirsch is the director and curator of the campus museum that houses one of California's major collections of Egyptian antiquities and a small collection of ancient Mediterranean pottery, mainly from the Italian Peninsula. She regularly curates, speaks and writes about the museum's ancient Mediterranean artifacts. Kirsch's "Journey to the BEYOND: Ancient Egyptians in the Pursuit of Eternity" exhibition is currently on display at RAFFMA and will continue until July 2020.



Kirsch published with RAFFMA Egyptologist, Bryan Kraemer an article "Reunions in the Afterlife: Journey to the Beyond: Ancient Egyptians in the Pursuit of Eternity" in the first issue of the ARCE magazine, *Scribe*. Pictured

here is one of the exhibition artifacts, a Ptah-Sokar-Osiris statue of Djedher. The article can be accessed here: <https://www.arce.org/fullerton-exhibition>.

Kirsch also serves as the President of the Southern California chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE-OC), which features a renowned Egyptian lecture program. In April 2018, Kirsch attended the ARCE Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona, where she chaired a session dedicated to objects and education. In Tucson, with Dr. Kate Liskza, Kirsch interviewed candidates for CSUSB's new Scholar in Residence Egyptology position, recently funded by Dr. W. Benson Harer. The first Scholar in Residence will teach at CSUSB and work with RAFFMA collection in winter 2019.

In May 2018, Kirsch organized with Dr. Liskza ARCE's special, private tour of the *King Tut: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh* Exhibition at the California Science Center, which followed a curator-led tour of the *Beyond the Nile: Egypt and the Classical Cultures* exhibition at the Getty Center.

In October, Kirsch and Liskza organized for RAFFMA members a special field trip to Getty Villa, where Dr. Liskza lectured about King Tut.



Liskza's article, "Site 4 at Wadi el-Hudi: A Lost Amethyst Mining Settlement" was published in January in *Egyptian Archaeology* (51: 36-40). Recently, she has submitted paperwork to return to Wadi el-Hudi in 2019. Hopefully, the coming season will include several CSUSB students as team members.

Dr. Liskza has been teaching and lecturing about Ancient Egypt anywhere she can. She gave a thrilling lecture on Tomb Robbery in Ancient Egypt at RAFFMA in January. In addition to the special tours she led of the King Tut exhibition, she taught seminars on Ancient Egyptian History and Ancient Egypt Art in the winter and spring quarters.

The study of Egyptology is on the rise at CSUSB. Several CSUSB students who are members of the History Club attended the annual conference of the American Research Center in Egypt held in Tucson in April. Liskza appears in the picture below with RAFFMA director Eva Kirsch at the annual Conference.



In June 2018, Kirsch presented at the first joint conference of the American Association of University Museums and Galleries and the International Council of Museum's University Museums and Collections group in Miami, Florida. She presented her paper, "Is 'history' in 'art history' history? Selected obstacles to research, presentation, and teaching art history of ancient Egypt" at the CIPEG Conference (International Committee for Egyptology) at Swansea University in Wales.

**Kate Liskza, [Kate.Liskza@csusb.edu](mailto:Kate.Liskza@csusb.edu)  
Assistant Professor of History  
Benson and Pamela Harer Fellow**

Dr. Liskza teaches classes on Ancient Egypt for the departments of History, Anthropology and Art. The last few months have been very busy for her. In January 2018, she led the Wadi el-Hudi archaeological Expedition to Egypt. Her team studied over 60,000 ancient pottery sherds and took thousands of photographs of Ancient Egyptian objects to turn into 3D models and publishable drawings of the inscriptions.



Students networked with professional Egyptologists and graduate students while learning about the cutting edge of Egyptological research.

Additionally, Liskza chairs the committee to hire the W. Benson Harer Egyptology Scholar in Residence for 2019. This newly endowed rotating position will allow a rising star of Egyptology to visit CSUSB each year, to teach a class of his/her choosing, and to bring Egyptology to the Inland Empire community.



Liszka and her team share their findings on the archaeological website: [www.wadielhudi.com](http://www.wadielhudi.com).

Dr. Liszka's dynamic level teaching, research, and service was recognized by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences when she was awarded its prestigious Outstanding Junior Faculty Award in her third year at CSUSB.

**Nerea Marteache, [nmarte@csusb.edu](mailto:nmarte@csusb.edu)**  
**Associate Professor of Criminal Justice**  
**Internship Coordinator**

Dr. Marteache comes to the Mediterranean Studies Academy with a LL.M. in Criminal Law from the University of Barcelona and a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Rutgers School of Criminal Justice. Marteache's scholarship focuses on crime prevention through opportunity reduction, and on the analysis and evaluation of criminal justice policy. Her current research interests cover issues such as employee theft, crime in transportation systems, and wildlife crime.



Dr. Marteache presents her work at conferences nationally and internationally. In June, she was part of the organization team for the 2018 Annual Conference of the Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis group, which took place in Elche Spain.

In addition to chairing a session, she gave two presentations on her most recent project on

Wildlife Crime: "Mapping burl poaching incidents of redwood trees" and "Things that matter: Choice structuring properties of burl poaching".

In 2018, Marteache's co-authored paper entitled "The spatial pattern of redwood burl poaching and implications for prevention" was published in *Forest Policy and Economics*. Another co-authored piece entitled "Choice Structuring Properties of Natural Resource Theft: An Examination of Redwood Burl Poaching" has recently been accepted for publication in *Deviant Behavior*.

Also in 2018, Marteache won a highly competitive CSUSB Mini-Grant for her project, "Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!: Testing the Effects of Increased Regulatory Oversight on Transnational Trade Activity."

Dr. Marteache and her family welcomed their new baby girl named Alba in August 2018.



**Ahlam Muhtaseb, [amuhtase@csusb.edu](mailto:amuhtase@csusb.edu)**  
**Professor, Communication Studies**  
**Director, Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies**

Dr. Muhtaseb is Graduate Coordinator of Communication Studies and teaches cinema and public relations. She is also the Director of the Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies.



In 2018, Dr. Muhtaseb launched with co-director and co-producer Andy Trimlett the documentary, *1948: Creation & Catastrophe*. *1948: Creation & Catastrophe* reveals the shocking events of the most pivotal year in the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. The film draws on the personal recollections of both Palestinians and Israelis.

In September, Dr. Muhtaseb attended the screening at the Twin Cities Arab Film Festival in Minneapolis: [Learn more](#). She also attended the September screening at the Toronto Palestine Film Festival: [Learn more](#).

From September 21 to November 3, the documentary was screened at the Palestinian Film Festival in Australia. Six cities showed the film: Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, and Hobart. Dr. Muhtaseb attended the Melbourne screening and delivered a presentation in October to the Media faculty at Monash University on making the film.

Also in October, the film was screened by the Fondation canado-Palestinienne du Quebec in Montreal and there Muhtaseb presented her paper, "Achieving the Impossible: Rewriting the History of 1948" at the Oral History Association Annual Meeting at Concordia University.

Professor Muhtaseb presented the film to the West Hollywood City Council Chambers in November 2018. This is a significant event organized by the mayor of West Hollywood, California as part of the city's Human Rights Speakers Series.



Learn more about the 1948 film here:  
<https://www.1948movie.com/>

**Luz Elena Ramirez, ramirez@csusb.edu**  
**Professor of English**  
**Co-Founder, CSUSB Mediterranean Studies Academy**  
**Arts & Letters Fellow for Faculty Research & Creative Activity**

Dr. Luz Elena Ramirez is co-founder of the Mediterranean Studies Academy with Professor Jerez-Gómez. She specializes in Victorian and early twentieth-century British literature and transatlantic studies.



In summer 2018, Professor Ramirez developed an online version of *Humanities 340, Interpretation and Values*, with a focus on British imaginations of the Mediterranean. Readings, all available free at [gutenberg.org](http://gutenberg.org) to reduce textbook costs, include Bram Stoker's *Jewel of Seven Stars*, Percy Shelley's *Ozymandias*, John Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn," Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess" and Robert Louis Stevenson's "Olalla".

Accepted for inclusion in Eleanor Dobson's edited volume, *Victorian Literary Culture and Ancient Egypt* (Liverpool University Press), is Ramirez's essay, "The Doppelgänger and Revisions of History in *The Jewel of Seven Stars*."

The Mediterranean Studies Academy goes transatlantic with Ramirez's graduate teaching and research. In fall 2018, she offered a graduate seminar entitled *Conquest and Reclamation in the Transatlantic Imagination*. Students analyzed novels by H. Rider Haggard, George Henty, and George Griffith that rewrite or reimagine the story of the Spanish Conquest. Students correlated the themes and arguments of Haggard, Henty, and Griffith with chapters from Prescott's *History of the Conquest of Mexico* and *History of the Conquest of Peru*.

In March 2018, Ramirez presented "Imagining Victory in Cartagena, 1741: Admiral Vernon vs the One-armed, One-legged, One-eyed Admiral Blas de Lezo" at the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara.



The British, Ramirez points out, claimed victory that was more imagined than real. Pictured above are coins that commemorate this imagined victory.

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**The Mediterranean Studies Academy would like to thank:**  
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