PROGRAMME · PROGRAM

STORYBRIDGE ’26

1st International Congress on Narrative Heritage and Cultural Diplomacy

From the Silk Road to the Caribbean

26–27 November 2026 · Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul & Online

DAY 1 *1. GÜN*

Thursday, 26 November 2026 · In person · Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul

26 Kasım 2026, Perşembe · Yüz yüze · Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi, İstanbul

DOMINICAN HALL	TÜRKİYE HALL	KAZAKHSTAN HALL
Dominik Salonu	*Türkiye Salonu*	*Kazakistan Salonu*
Main Conference Hall · Ana Konferans Salonu	Room B302 · B302 Sınıfı	A Block Mini Conference Hall · A Blok Mini Konferans Salonu

09:00–09:45 · Foyer · Fuaye

Registration, Welcome and Coffee

Kayıt, Karşılama ve Kahve İkramı

- **Special handcrafted welcome:** handcrafted silk-cocoon lapel pins, specially crafted for the congress by Meral Evcin Özdemir (Bearer of Intangible Cultural Heritage), will be presented and attached to the lapels of all registered participants.

  Özel el yapımı karşılama: *Somut Olmayan Kültürel Miras Taşıyıcısı Meral Evcin Özdemir tarafından kongreye özel hazırlanan el yapımı ipek kozası yaka çiçekleri, kayıt yaptıran tüm katılımcıların yakalarına takılarak takdim edilecektir.*

09:45–10:00 · Foyer · Fuaye

Opening of the Exhibitions and the Dominican Corner

Sergilerin ve Dominik Köşesi’nin Açılışı

- **Embassy of the Dominican Republic Exhibition:** manuscripts and historical narratives reflecting the historical connections from the Ottoman Empire to the Caribbean.

  Dominik Cumhuriyeti Büyükelçiliği Sergi Seçkisi: *Osmanlı’dan Karayipler’e uzanan tarihî ve kültürel bağları yansıtan el yazmaları ve nadide eserler.*

- **The Language of Organic Materials:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vedat Akman (Plekhanov University, Dubai).

  Organik Malzemelerin Dili: *Doç. Dr. Vedat Akman (Plekhanov Üniversitesi, Dubai).*

- **Encounter: An Ottoman Ambassador’s Digital Journey to France:** selections from the AI-assisted digital art exhibition retracing Yirmisekiz Mehmed Çelebi’s 1720–1721 embassy to Paris (istanbulparis.com).

  Karşılaşma: Bir Osmanlı Elçisinin Fransa’ya Dijital Yolculuğu: *Yirmisekiz Mehmed Çelebi’nin 1720–1721 Paris elçiliğini yapay zekâ destekli dijital eserlerle yeniden yorumlayan sergiden seçkiler (istanbulparis.com).*

10:00–10:15
Dominican Hall
Dominik Salonu

Opening Remarks
Açılış Konuşmaları

M. Agah Karlıağa, Congress President · Prof. Dr. Pınar Dönmez, Chair of the Scientific Committee
M. Agah Karlıağa, Kongre Başkanı · Prof. Dr. Pınar Dönmez, Bilim Kurulu Başkanı

10:15–10:30
Dominican Hall
Dominik Salonu

From a Master Storyteller: Chinese Art and Greek Art Storytelling
Bir Hikâye Ustasından: "Çin ve Yunan Sanatı" Canlı Hikâye Anlatımı

Cem Alfar

10:30–11:00
Dominican Hall
Dominik Salonu

Keynote Address and Interactive Q&A with the Ambassador
Onur Konuşması ve Büyükelçi ile Etkileşimli Soru-Cevap

- **10:30–10:45 · Keynote address:** H.E. Elvis Antonio Alam Lora, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Türkiye
  10:30–10:45 · Onur konuşması: *Ekselansları Elvis Antonio Alam Lora, Dominik Cumhuriyeti Türkiye Büyükelçisi*
- **10:45–11:00 · Open floor and audience Q&A:** an interactive dialogue with participants and guests on cultural diplomacy, historical ties and Caribbean–Silk Road relations.
  10:45–11:00 · Katılımcı soruları ve söyleşi: *katılımcı ve konukların kültürel diplomasi, tarihî bağlar ve Karayipler–İpek Yolu ilişkilerine dair sorularıyla etkileşimli bölüm.*

11:00–11:10
Dominican Hall
Dominik Salonu

Video Address
Video Mesaj

Dr. Gamal Michelén Stefan

Vice Minister of Culture, Dominican Republic
Dominik Cumhuriyeti Kültür Bakan Yardımcısı

11:10–12:10
Dominican Hall
Dominik Salonu

Invited Speakers' Panel: Narrative, Heritage and Cultural Diplomacy
Davetli Konuşmacılar Paneli: Anlatı, Miras ve Kültürel Diplomasi

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Pınar Dönmez
Moderatör: Prof. Dr. Pınar Dönmez

Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Narlı · Prof. Dr. Nilay Ulusoy · Assoc. Prof. Dr. Başak Kuzakçı · Rıdvan Gölcük
Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Narlı · Prof. Dr. Nilay Ulusoy · Doç. Dr. Başak Kuzakçı · Rıdvan Gölcük

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12:10–12:30
Dominican Hall
Dominik Salonu

The Legends' Treasures – Objects with a Story: Turning Cultural Assets into Economic Value through Story
Legends' Treasures – Hikâyesi Olan Nesneler: Kültürel Varlığın Hikâyeyle Ekonomik Değere Dönüşmesi

Presentation of 15 rare pieces on stage and Q&A
Sahnede sergilenen 15 nadide parçanın sunumu ve soru-cevap

Dr. Emre Kamçılı

12:30–12:40
Dominican Hall
Dominik Salonu

Commemorative Group Photo
Hatıra Fotoğrafı

12:40–13:40
Foyer · Fuaye

Midday Break, Coffee and Special Book Signing
Öğle Arası, Kahve İkramı ve Özel Kitap İmza Buluşması

- **Book launch and signing:** Zuhal Ayanoğlu's "Taş Konuşur Mu?", celebrating 26 years of field research on Mardin's architectural heritage, at the foyer desk. All participants are warmly invited.

  Kitap tanıtımı ve imza: *Zuhal Ayanoğlu'nun Mardin'in mimari mirası üzerine 26 yıllık saha araştırmasını taçlandıran "Taş Konuşur Mu?" adlı eseri, fuayedeki imza masasında. Tüm katılımcılarımız davetlidir.*

- **Refreshments:** tea and coffee in the foyer.
  İkram: *fuayede çay ve kahve.*

13:40–14:00
Dominican Hall
Dominik Salonu

Documentary Screening: Documentary as a Tool of Cultural Diplomacy

Belgesel Gösterimi: Kültürel Diplomasi Aracı Olarak Belgesel

Excerpts from In the Footsteps of Travellers and Ottoman America, with commentary
Seyyahların İzinde ve Osmanlı'nın Amerika'sı belgesellerinden bölümler ve yorum

M. Agah Karlıağa, Director, BAU MEDAM
M. Agah Karlıağa, BAU MEDAM Direktörü

14:00–14:10
Dominican Hall
Dominik Salonu

Discover the Caribbean

Karayipler'i Keşfedin

A visual presentation of the culture, iconic figures and global role of the Caribbean by Explaining the Caribbean (USA), Official Media Partner
Resmî Medya Partneri Explaining the Caribbean (ABD) sunumuyla Karayipler'in kültürü, ikonik isimleri ve küresel rolü üzerine görsel sunum

14:10–15:30
Dominican Hall
Türkiye Hall

Parallel Sessions I

1. Paralel Oturumlar

Dominican Hall and Türkiye Hall (see session tables)
Dominik Salonu ve Türkiye Salonu (oturum tablolarına bakınız)

14:10–17:00
Kazakhstan Hall
Kazakistan Salonu

Kazakh Academic Delegation: Presentations and Workshop

Kazak Akademik Heyeti: Sunumlar ve Workshop

One continuous session until the end of the parallel sessions
Paralel oturumların sonuna kadar süren tek oturum

15:30–15:45
Foyer · Fuaye

Coffee Break

Kahve Arası

15:45–17:00
Dominican Hall
Türkiye Hall

Parallel Sessions II

2. Paralel Oturumlar

Dominican Hall and Türkiye Hall (see session tables)
Dominik Salonu ve Türkiye Salonu (oturum tablolarına bakınız)

17:00
Dominican Hall
Dominik Salonu

Closing of Day 1

1. Günün Kapanışı

Organising Committee
Düzenleme Kurulu

PARALLEL SESSIONS *PARALEL OTURUMLAR*

Thursday, 26 November 2026 · In person · Bahçeşehir University

26 Kasım 2026, Perşembe · Yüz yüze · Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi

KAZAKHSTAN HALL · 14:10–17:00 *Kazakistan Salonu*

K · KAZAKHSTAN HALL *Kazakistan Salonu* **14:10–17:00**

Kazakh Academic Delegation: Presentations and Workshop *Kazak Akademik Heyeti: Sunumlar ve Workshop*

Chair · Oturum Başkanı: Agit Ferhat Özel

1	**Prof. Dr. Pınar Dönmez** **Invited Speaker** · *Davetli Konuşmacı* *Chair of the Scientific Committee*	
2	**Zhanna Akbergenova**	
3	**Aigul Balmagambetova**	
4	**Zhanargul Zeinegabiyeva**	
5	**Bayan Olzhabayeva**	
6	**Aizhan Nurdyyeva**	
7	**Bibigul Khatpina**	
8	**Zhanna Baimuratova**	
9	**Gulzhan Konissova**	
10	**Dinara Sansyzbayeva**	
11	**Ziyoda Artukmatova**	
12	**Sandugash Ryskeldiyeva**	
13	**Workshop**	Workshop with the Kazakh academic delegation · Kazak akademik heyetiyle atölye çalışması

PARALLEL SESSIONS I · 14:10–15:30 *1. Paralel Oturumlar*

I-A · DOMINICAN HALL *Dominik Salonu · Main Conference Hall / Ana Konferans Salonu* **14:10–15:30**

Narrative, Legend and Living Tradition *Anlatı, Efsane ve Yaşayan Gelenek*

Chair · Oturum Başkanı: Prof. Dr. Evrim Ölçer Özünel

1	**Prof. Dr. Evrim Ölçer Özünel** **Invited Speaker** · *Davetli Konuşmacı* *President, Intangible Cultural Heritage (SOKÜM) Association and Institute*	Sınırları Kim Çizer, Hikâyeler Nasıl Aşar? Kültürel Mirasın Diplomasisi
2	**Dr. Batın Durmaz** **Invited Speaker** · *Davetli Konuşmacı* *Marmara University, Institute of Turkic Studies*	The Journey of a Legend along the Silk Road: The Sorcerer and the Yada Stone
3	**Dr. Esra Çam**	Can Tradition Be Sustained through State Policies? State Initiatives Concerning Oral Narrative Tradition in Uzbekistan
4	**Asst. Prof. Dr. Serdar Gürçay** *İstanbul Kültür University*	The Ethical Limits of Diplomatic Communication in the Book of Dede Korkut: Envoyship, Deception, and Reconciliation in the Inner–Outer Oghuz Conflict
5	**Gizem Demiral** *Akdeniz University*	From Mythos to Logos: The Philosophical Transformation of Wisdom Narratives in Ancient Greek Thought
6	**Mustafa Cem Alfar** *Cappadocia University*	Storytelling as a Tool for Cultural Heritage Transmission: The Role of Tourist Guides
7	**Asst. Prof. Dr. Nükte Sevim Derdiçok** *Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University*	The Master's Narrative: Personal Experience Narratives and Cultural Transmission in Traditional Occupations

I-B · TÜRKİYE HALL *Türkiye Salonu* **14:10–15:30**

Gastronomy, Memory and Belonging *Gastronomi, Bellek ve Aidiyet*

Chair · Oturum Başkanı: Asst. Prof. Dr. Öncel Sençerman

1	**Gökçe Durmuşoğlu** *İstanbul Nişantaşı University*	Yarım Kalan Sofralar, Yaşayan Hatıralar: Deprem Sonrası Hatay'ın Gastronomik Mirasının Korunmasında Gastrodiplomasi ve Dijital Hikâye Anlatıcılığı
2	**Burcu Yılmaz** *İstanbul Nişantaşı University*	The Power of Gastronomic Storytelling: Küllüoba Bread as a Bridge between 5,000 Years of Anatolian Heritage and Cultural Diplomacy
3	**Asst. Prof. Dr. Öncel Sençerman** *Aydın Adnan Menderes University*	Gastrodiplomacy without a Campaign: The Rwandan Case
4	**Asst. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Sali** *Kırklareli University*	Carrying the Culture: Yogurt, Conflict Cuisine and the Evidence of a Shared Heritage
5	**Teuku Muammar Rizki Taqwa** *Ankara Social Sciences University*	Sofradan Diplomasiye: Türkiye ve Endonezya'nın Gastronomik Miras Anlatıları ve Kültürel Diplomasi Yaklaşımları
6	**Elif Hatip** *İstanbul Nişantaşı University*	The Language of State Banquets: Cultural Identity and Image Construction through Diplomatic Menus
7	**Adesanya M. Alabi** *Karabük University*	At the Intersection of Homeland and Diasporic Space: Migration, Reconstructed Past, and the Postcolonial Precarity of Social Inclusion in V.S. Naipaul's The Enigma of Arrival

PARALLEL SESSIONS II · 15:45–17:00 *2. Paralel Oturumlar*

II-A · DOMINICAN HALL *Dominik Salonu · Main Conference Hall / Ana Konferans Salonu* **15:45–17:00**

Heritage, Narrative and Cultural Diplomacy *Miras, Anlatı ve Kültürel Diplomasi*

Chair · Oturum Başkanı: Dr. Fethi Ahmet Yüksel

1	**Dr. Fethi Ahmet Yüksel** **Keynote Speaker** · *Davetli Konuşmacı* *Director, Center for Shared Heritage Research, Shared Heritage Foundation*	Innovation, Sustainability, and Preservation for Future Generations: Protecting Archaeological Sites along the Silk Road
2	**Muhammed Murat Arslan** *Producer and Researcher*	Anlatı Mirası ve Yapay Zekâ: Yirmisekiz Çelebi Mehmed'in Fransa Sefâretnâmesi Üzerine Bir Sergi Deneyimi
3	**Asst. Prof. Dr. Hasan Hakses** *Selçuk University*	The Transformative Power of Cultural Diplomacy: Cinema, Ideology, and the Image of the West through Chuck Norris vs. Communism
4	**Nesligül Keskin** *Marmara University, School of Foreign Languages*	Healing through Narration
5	**Koray Erdoğan** *Archaeologist and Journalist*	Hikâyeyi Kim Anlatıyor? Yabancı Okura Yönelik Kültür-Sanat Haberciliğinin Türkiye'nin Kültürel Diplomasisine Potansiyel Katkısı
6	**Prof. Dr. Ömer Solak · Ayşe Nur Erkan** *Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University*	Representing Language and Culture in Diplomatic Discourse: A Comparative Critical Discourse Analysis of the Yunus Emre Institute and the Balassi Institute
7	**Dr. Yasemin Dağdaş** *İstanbul Beyoğlu Refia Övüç Olgunlaşma Enstitüsü*	Nakış Desenlerinden Kültürel Diplomasiye: İstanbul'da Bireysel ve Kolektif Kadın Belleği, Anlatı Kültürü ve Desenlerin Geleneksel Nakışlarla Kuşaklararası Aktarımı

II-B · TÜRKİYE HALL *Türkiye Salonu* **15:45–17:00**

Heritage, Museums and the Arts *Miras, Müze ve Sanat*

Chair · Oturum Başkanı: Prof. Dr. Fethiye Erbay

1	**Prof. Dr. Fethiye Erbay** *Istanbul University*	New-Generation Museums Emerging from the Film and Game Industries
2	**Zuhal Ayanoğlu** *Conservation Architect, Independent Researcher*	Spaces of Coexistence at the Crossroads of the Silk Road: From Mardin's Architectural Heritage to Intercultural Dialogue
3	**Res. Asst. Gamze Varol · Asst. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Kaş** *KTO Karatay University*	Spatial Storytelling: An Evaluation of Cultural Heritage in the Context of Interior Architecture through the Case of the Mevlana Museum
4	**Reyhan Çelik** *MEB İstanbul Beylerbeyi Sabancı Olgunlaşma Enstitüsü*	Türkiye Dokuma Atlası Projesi'nin Türkiye'nin Kültürel Diplomasisi Açısından Değerlendirilmesi ve Anadolu'da Zamana Dokunan İzler Anlatısı
5	**Mutlu Erbay** *Boğaziçi University*	The Role of Puppet Art in Social Orientation: Lyon's Puppeteer Laurent Mourguet (1769–1844)
6	**Pınar Yücel Sarı** *YZHane Studio*	Anadolu'dan Avrupa'ya Kibele: Tarihsel Dönüşüm ve Kültürel Bellek Bakışıyla Madrid Kibele Çeşmesi
7	**Leyla Tepecik · Hülya Narsap** *Kadıköy Bostancı Public Education Centre*	Anatolian Legends with Miniatures

DAY 2 · ZOOM SESSIONS

Friday, 27 November 2026 · Online (Zoom)

All times are Türkiye time (UTC+3). Local times of speakers abroad are shown in brackets.

ZOOM ACCESS

Meeting ID: 987 4766 5353 Passcode: 620249

Link: https://zoom.us/j/98747665353?pwd=kyFHXpGRTMD9S0wi7oJPrZiKzPjmfd.1

Zoom opens at 09:30. Zoom Room A is the main meeting room; Zoom Rooms B and C run as breakout rooms within the same meeting. All participants are kindly invited to join the Opening Panel at 10:00.

ONLINE SESSION GUIDELINES

- All participants are muted on entry by the technical host; only the session chair and the current presenter speak.
- Please rename yourself as “Name Surname – Session / Room” (e.g. “Ayşe Yılmaz – Session 1 C”) so the host can place you in the right room.
- Presenters join at least 15 minutes before their session for a microphone, camera and screen-sharing check, and share their own slides.
- Each session opens with a short welcome by the chair; presentations are 10 minutes each. Questions are written in the chat or asked with “Raise Hand” during the Q&A at the end of the session.
- Breaks between sessions are used for room transitions and technical checks.

OPENING PANEL · LIVE FROM DUBAI · 09:45–11:40

PARTNER PANEL · ZOOM ROOM A 09:45–11:40 (Dubai 10:45–12:40)

Beyond Borders: Art, Education, and Cultural Diplomacy in the Digital Age

Hosted by Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Dubai, and broadcast live to all StoryBridge '26 participants

09:45–10:00 Registration and Welcome

10:00–10:05 Opening Remarks
Dr Svetlana Malkarova · *Director, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Dubai; Vice-Rector, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics*

10:05–10:10 Panel Introduction · Moderator
Dr Vedat Akman · *Associate Professor, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Dubai*

10:10–10:25 Beyond the Classroom: Museums as Bridges Between Universities, Research, and Culture
Ameena Alobeidli · *University Programmes Unit Head, Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi (NHMAD)*

10:25–10:40 Beyond the Opening: Museums as Living Classrooms in the UAE
Tauseef Khan · *Museum and Cultural Operations Leader; Global Advisor to Museums and Governments; Visitor Experience and Cultural Strategy Expert; Founder, Liquid AI (People and Transformation)*

10:40–10:55 From Istanbul to Dubai: The Evolution of Contextual Restoration Connecting Museums, Sites, and Digital Twins
Dr. Uğur Genç · *Senior Conservator – Heritage Science Researcher, Antiquities Department, Dubai Culture & Arts Authority*

10:55–11:10 Beyond Borders: Culture and the Classroom of Tomorrow
Dr Vedat Akman · *Associate Professor, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Dubai*

11:10–11:30 Questions and Answers
Moderator: Dr Vedat Akman

11:30–11:40 Closing Reflections
Closing remarks and presentation of letters of appreciation to the speakers, followed by the art exhibition

FOLLOWING THE PANEL · ART EXHIBITION

The Language of Organic Materials

An exhibition of works by Dr Vedat Akman, Associate Professor, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Dubai

ONLINE SESSIONS · 27 November 2026

11:40–12:00 *Break · Zoom Rooms B and C open · Presenters move to their rooms and test microphone, camera and screen sharing with the technical host*

Session 1 · ZOOM ROOM A 12:00–14:00

Literature, Heritage and Cultural Exchange

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milica Golubović Tasevska

1	**Prof. Michele Domenico Todino** Keynote Speaker *Italy*	The Soft Power of Culture: Promoting Cultural Heritage through Technology to Build Bridges of Dialogue
2	**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milica Golubović Tasevska** *Metropolitan University, Serbia*	From the Silk Road to the Caribbean: Turkey, France and the Transformation of Cultural and Literary Exchange
3	**Elvira (Balla) Xhamani** *University of Tirana, Albania*	Authorial Modifications of Phraseological Units in F. M. Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment: A Russian–Albanian Comparative Study
4	**Monika Jitchonaia** *Akaki Tsereteli State University, Georgia*	Georgian Emigrant Writers in the United States: Storytelling, Cultural Memory, and the Preservation of National Identity
5	**Naride Gasimli** *Nakhchivan State University, Azerbaijan*	Documentary and Literary Adaptations of Jalil Mammadguluzadeh
6	**Dr. Thai Cong Dan · Le Minh Hieu · Thach Chanh Da** *Can Tho University, Vietnam*	Cultural Storytelling and Intercultural Communication in Tourism Education: A Case Study of Graduate Students in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam
7	**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Habil. Mirela Coman · George Coman** *Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania*	Maramureș Wooden Gate: Symbol of Crossing
8	**Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Stefan Stamenov · Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Stamenova** *Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*	Natural Diversity as Foundation of Cultural Diplomacy and Sustainable Development
9	**Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Stefan Stamenov · Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Stamenova** *Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*	Products of Traditional Agriculture and Livestock Breeding as a Factor in Cultural Diplomacy
10	**Asst. Prof. Dr. Sunčana Tuksar** *Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, Croatia*	Cinema and Transmedia Storytelling for Shared Meaning and Collaborative Knowledge Construction

Session 1 · ZOOM ROOM B 12:00–14:00

Narrative Heritage in Türkiye and the Turkic World: Media, Language and Memory

Chair: Prof. Dr. Volkan Yücel

1	**Prof. Dr. Murat Özkan** Keynote Speaker *Ordu University*	A Princess's Travelogue along the Silk Road: Human and Spatial Stories in Maria Baryatinskaya's Tashkent Memoirs
2	**Prof. Dr. Volkan Yücel** *İstanbul Kent University*	Code Migration: The Two Directions of Skilled Labour Mobility in Turkey's Game Industry
3	**Havva Gökçe Çavdar Paksoy** *Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University*	From Cultural Narratives to Linguistic Functions: An Integrated Materials Design for Teaching the Turkish Aorist at the A2 Level through Turkish and Dominican Folk Narratives
4	**Asst. Prof. Dr. Esra Eren** *Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University*	Anlatı Mirası Olarak Sinema ve Kültürel Belleğin Korunması
5	**Gülay Yıldırım · Assoc. Prof. Dr. Methiye Gül Çöteli** *Bursa Technical University*	From the Screen to the Exhibition Room: A Multiple-Case Analysis of Museum Representations of Shadow Theatre
6	**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sehrana Kasimi** *Institute of Architecture and Art of ANAS, Azerbaijan*	The Common Musical Memory and Aesthetic Paradigms of the Turkic World: From Ancient Roots to Modern Cultural Synthesis

Session 1 · ZOOM ROOM C 12:00–14:00

Cultural and Public Diplomacy: From Türkiye to the World

Chair:

1	**Asst. Prof. Dr. Okan Güven** *Sivas Cumhuriyet University*	Diplomacy Spanning from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean: Ottoman–Colombian Relations
2	**Assoc. Prof. Dr. H. Burcu Önder Memiş** *Istanbul Esenyurt University*	Intercultural Communication and the Silk Road
3	**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ergün Köksoy** *Marmara University*	Nation Brands and Culture
4	**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gülşen Şeker Aydın** *Atatürk University*	TÜRKSOY and the Cultural Diplomacy of the Turkic World
5	**Asst. Prof. Hakan Aydın** *Kırklareli University, Vocational School of Social Sciences*	Ghana's Year of Return Initiative: A Case Study of Public Diplomacy
6	**Asst. Prof. Dr. Münevver Çiçekdağı** *Selçuk University*	Examining Familiarization Trips for International Tour Operators and Travel Agencies from a Cultural Diplomacy Perspective: The Case of TGA Familiarization Trips

14:00–14:15 *Break · Room transition · Technical check for Session 2 presenters*

Session 2 · ZOOM ROOM B 14:15–15:45

Storytelling and Identity in South and Central Asia and the Caucasus

Chair:

1	**C. Ashmitha Chellam · Dr. C. Vairavan** *Academy of Maritime Education and Training, India*	Oral Traditions and Storytelling as Living Instruments of Social Memory, Intercultural Dialogue and Cultural Diplomacy in Richard Powers's The Overstory
2	**Suhani Nath · Jannu Vashisht** *Banaras Hindu University · IIT Madras, India*	Digital Diaspora and Reverse Cultural Diplomacy: How Indian Global Narratives Shape Domestic Youth Identity and Mental Well-Being
3	**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Naseem Akhter** *Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Pakistan*	Peshawar's Qissa Khwani Bazaar and the Role of Storytelling in Intercultural Dialogue
4	**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Naseem Akhter** *Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Pakistan*	Women's Agency in Waris Shah's Heer and the Storytelling Heritage of Punjab
5	**Dr. Aamir Ramzan** *LIMHS Thatta, Pakistan*	The Thalassemia Belt as a Living Narrative: Blood, Kinship and Cultural Memory from Anatolia to the Indus via the Silk Road
6	**Prof. Dr. Mehrinigor Akhmedova** *Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan*	Eco-Friendly Approaches to Textile Heritage Business: Strategic Toolkits and Sustainability Frameworks for Suzani Production
7	**Tamam İsmayılova** *Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction*	Psychological Aspects of Satire in Classical Russian and Azerbaijani Literature (Based on Jalil Mammadguluzadeh's Molla Nasreddin Magazine and the Creativity of A. P. Chekhov)

Session 2 · ZOOM ROOM A 14:15–15:45

Heritage, Society and Memory in the Middle East, Africa and Europe

Chair:

1	**Prof. Mohammed Waheeb** *Hashemite University, Jordan*	Documenting Stories Associated with Archaeological and Heritage Sites in Jordan: Towards a National Atlas of Spatial Memory and Narrative Tourism
2	**Prof. Mohammed Waheeb** *Hashemite University, Jordan*	Drawing on the Past and Foreseeing the Future in the Economics of the Silk Road
3	**Obada Ahmed Alobid Ali** *Independent Researcher, Sudan*	From Suakin to Jebel Barkal: Digital Storytelling and the Documentation of Sudan's Cultural Heritage
4	**Ossama Mouncif** *Ibn Tofail University, Morocco*	Between Trust and Belonging: Everyday Social Relations among African Families in Rabat, Morocco
5	**Veronica Cheptene** *Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava, Romania*	From Stone to Story: Monuments and the Construction of Collective Memory
6	**Dr. Israel O. O. Odewole** *University of South Africa*	Sacred Performance from East to West: Drama, Music, and Ritual as Cross-Cultural Missional Witness along the Silk Road and in the Caribbean
7	**Armanda Xhani Baça** *Primary School "Vasil Ziu", Durrës, Albania*	Cultural Heritage of Durrës through Storytelling and Cross-Curricular Projects in Primary Education
8	**Dr. Nuradeen Gidado Yanhoho · Sagir Gambo · Umma Abdulmumini Kabir** *Federal College of Education, Katsina, Nigeria*	A Comparative Analysis of Maritime Laws in Classical Islamic Jurisprudence and Modern International Law: With Special Reference to the Strait of Hormuz

15:45–16:00 *Break · All participants return to Zoom Room A · Technical check for Session 3 presenters*

Session 3 · ZOOM ROOM A 16:00–19:30

From the Silk Road to the Caribbean and the Americas: Diaspora, Memory and Cultural Diplomacy · with Folklore RD and ProMueve RD

Chair: Prof. Dr. María Dolores Castellón-Pérez

1	**Dr. Jonathan De Oleo Ramos** **Keynote Speaker · 16:00 (Santo Domingo 09:00)** *Folklore RD, Dominican Republic*	Sazones de la diáspora y la transculturación: La cocina dominicana en la trama del Caribe y la diplomacia cultural contemporánea
2	**Prof. Dr. María Dolores Castellón-Pérez** *King Juan Carlos University, Spain*	Wagnerian Routes: A Mobile App
3	**Asst. Prof. Mehmet Kahyaoğlu** *Yaşar University*	Baptizing Chocolate: Myth, Migration and Narrative Authority in Tommaso Strozzi's De Mentis Potu (1689)
4	**Dr. Giuseppina Calenda** *Guglielmo Marconi University, Italy*	Translating Cultural Memory in Louise Bennett's Colonization in Reverse
5	**Dr. Mirtha Mella** **Keynote Speaker · 17:00 (New York 09:00)** *President, ProMueve RD*	Beyond Borders: Cultural Identity, Diaspora and Cultural Diplomacy as Bridges for International Cooperation (in Spanish)
6	**Miguel Luis García Corrales · Dr. Ana María Wegmann Saquel · Dr. Diego Canales Ramírez** *Universidad Central de Chile*	Del Bósforo al Cabo de Hornos: el extremo austral de América como paisaje narrativo de rutas globales en el contexto de las diásporas «turcas»
7	**Dr. Antonella De Blasio** *eCampus University, Italy*	Colonial Heritage and the Cognitive Construction of Narrative Identity in Junot Díaz's The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
8	**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlína Flajšarová** *Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic*	Old Talk on the Thames: Sam Selvon's The Lonely Londoners as Vernacular Cultural Diplomacy, from the Meddah's Coffeehouse to Windrush London
9	**Gabriel Enrique Sánchez Ramírez** *Ankara University*	Turkish Television Series and Soft Power in Latin America: Cultural Attraction and Public Diplomacy (2014–2026)
10	**Prof. Ananda Majumdar** *Kennedy University of Saint Lucia*	Bridging Divides: Cultural Diplomacy in the Current Crisis of International Relations
11	**Prof. Dr. Albrecht Classen** **Keynote Speaker · 18:30 (Arizona 08:30) · Closing Keynote** *The University of Arizona, USA*	Literature is Global: The Continuous Process of Narratives across Cultures from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern Age
12	**Organising Committee**	Closing of the Congress · 19:15–19:30

CONGRESS INFORMATION *Kongre Bilgileri*

Honorary Presidents *Onur Başkanları*	Ambassador Dr. Hasan Yavuz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye · H.E. Elvis Antonio Alam Lora, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Türkiye *Büyükelçi Dr. Hasan Yavuz, T.C. Dışişleri Bakanlığı · Ekselansları Elvis Antonio Alam Lora, Dominik Cumhuriyeti Türkiye Büyükelçisi*
Congress President *Kongre Başkanı*	M. Agah Karlıağa, Director, BAU MEDAM *M. Agah Karlıağa, BAU MEDAM Direktörü*
Scientific Committee *Bilim Kurulu*	Prof. Dr. Pınar Dönmez, Chair *Prof. Dr. Pınar Dönmez, Başkan*
Organising Committee *Düzenleme Kurulu*	Dr. Kaldygul Adilbekova, Chair *Dr. Kaldygul Adilbekova, Başkan*
Organisers *Düzenleyenler*	BAU MEDAM · Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Ankara · TDEABP · Capital Conferences *BAU MEDAM · Dominik Cumhuriyeti Ankara Büyükelçiliği · TDEABP · Capital Conferences*
Partners *Ortaklar*	Gulf Regional Partner: Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Dubai · Official Media Partner: Explaining the Caribbean (USA) · ProMueve RD · Folklore RD *Körfez Bölge Partneri: Plekhanov Rus Ekonomi Üniversitesi, Dubai · Resmî Medya Partneri: Explaining the Caribbean (ABD) · ProMueve RD · Folklore RD*
Venue *Yer*	Day 1: Bahçeşehir University Conference Hall, Çırağan Cad. Osmanpaşa Mektebi Sk. No: 4–6, Beşiktaş, Istanbul · Day 2: Online (Zoom) *1. Gün: Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi Konferans Salonu, Çırağan Cad. Osmanpaşa Mektebi Sk. No: 4–6, Beşiktaş, İstanbul · 2. Gün: Çevrim içi (Zoom)*
Languages *Diller*	Opening programme and panels mainly in English; sessions also in Turkish and Spanish *Açılış programı ve paneller ağırlıklı olarak İngilizce; oturumlarda Türkçe ve İspanyolca da*