

**ISTANBUL GELISIM  
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# Istanbul Gelisim University Fortifies Its Global Visibility Through Sustainability-Oriented International Academic Achievements



## PROF. DR. KENAN AYDIN

Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Administrative, and Social Sciences

“The global impact of scientific production is one of the strongest indicators of a university’s capacity to shape the future.”

In alignment with its overarching objective to contribute significantly to international scholarly discourse in the realms of sustainable development, green economy, and circular business models, Istanbul Gelisim University steadfastly continues to augment its scientific productivity and consolidate its visibility across global academic platforms. Within this framework, the international conference held in Bali, Indonesia, themed “Green Economy and Circular Business Models for Sustainable Development” (MBE 2026), has constituted a seminal venue for scientific interaction and institutional representation on behalf of our university.

While numerous scholars represented Istanbul Gelisim University at the conference, Prof. Dr. Kenan Aydın, Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Administrative, and Social Sciences, distinguished himself as an invited Keynote Speaker.

In his address, Prof. Dr. Aydın drew critical attention to the strategic imperatives of the “green economy” approach in the face of intensifying global environmental and economic crises, emphasising that sustainable business models are not merely ecological necessities but foundational pillars of long-term economic stability.

Engaging in an interactive academic dialogue with the participants throughout the session, Aydın delineated the crucial role universities must assume within sustainable transformation processes, pointing to the vital integration of scientific knowledge with policy-making and industry practices. His presentation garnered profound interest from international researchers and laid the groundwork for substantive interdisciplinary deliberations.



Concurrently, during the technical sessions executed within the scope of the conference, faculty members from various academic departments of Istanbul Gelisim University disseminated their original research to the international scientific community. Prof. Dr. Hakan Yıldırım, Prof. Dr. Anton Abdulbasah Kamil, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Onur Özdemir, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emrah Doğan, Asst. Prof. Dr. Burçin Gündoğdu, and Res. Asst. Zehra Makar Çelik contributed substantially to the academic literature with their papers addressing contemporary and multidimensional themes such as the circular economy, environmental sustainability, the managerial implications of digital transformation, and green marketing strategies.

The academic networks established with international researchers during the post-presentation Q&A sessions have engendered a robust foundation for the development of novel collaborative research initiatives and joint publications. These interactions represent pivotal outcomes that directly advance the university's strategic paradigm to expand its international research networks.

The evaluation of the papers presented within MBE 2026 for inclusion in Scopus-indexed academic publications will further amplify the international visibility of Istanbul Gelisim University's scientific productivity. This trajectory unequivocally demonstrates that the university is rigorously elevating its research quality in harmony with global criteria.

This scholarly assembly in Bali has conspicuously manifested Istanbul Gelisim University's capacity to generate solutions not merely for regional challenges but also for global crises. Research conducted in strict alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals reinforces the university's academic identity, which is deeply rooted in fostering societal utility.

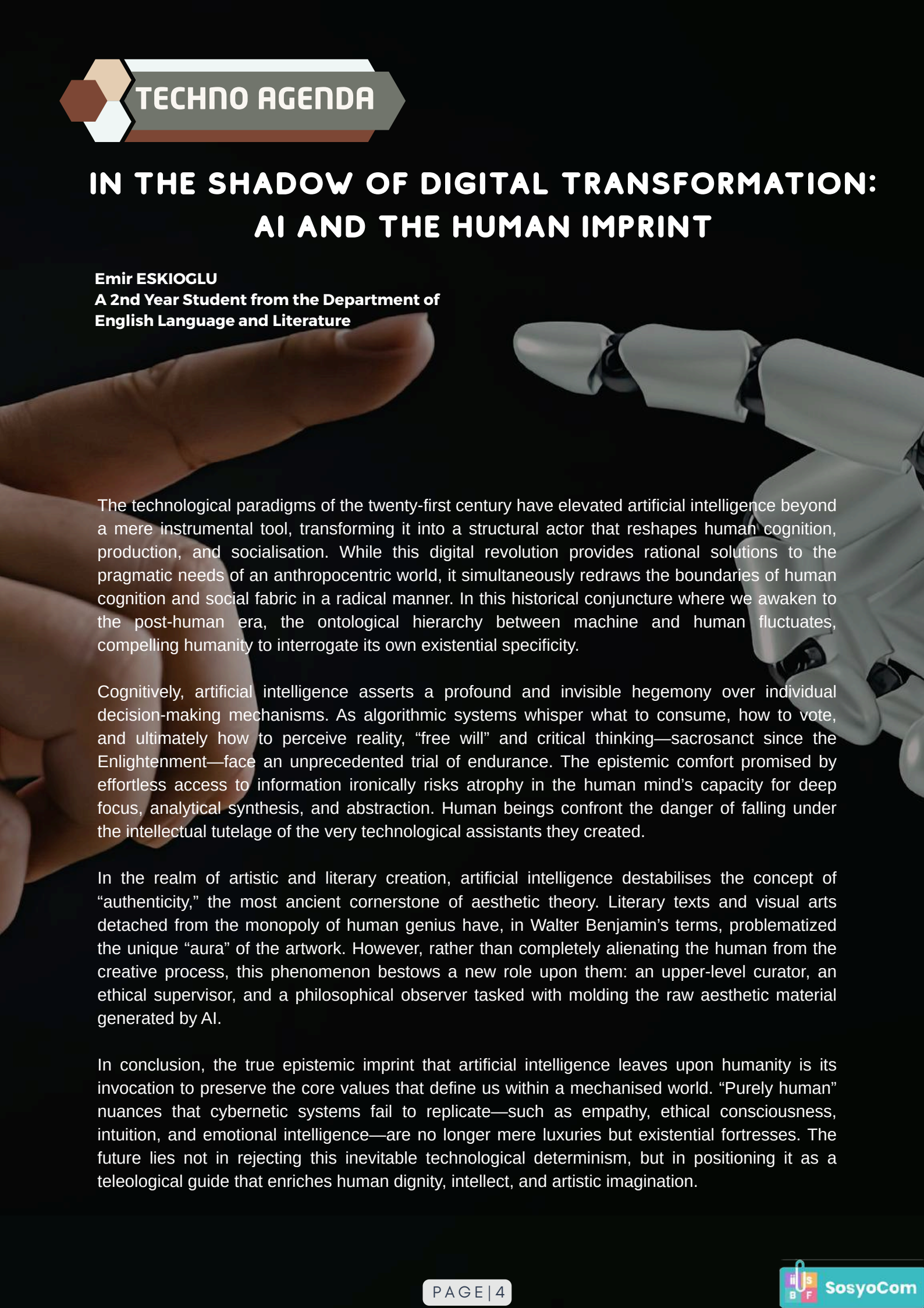
Conforming to its vision of internationalisation and its interdisciplinary approach to knowledge production, Istanbul Gelisim University remains resolutely committed to supporting the achievements of its faculty members on global academic platforms and incentivising research that yields meaningful contributions to the scientific world.



# IN THE SHADOW OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: AI AND THE HUMAN IMPRINT

Emir ESKIOGLU

A 2nd Year Student from the Department of  
English Language and Literature



The technological paradigms of the twenty-first century have elevated artificial intelligence beyond a mere instrumental tool, transforming it into a structural actor that reshapes human cognition, production, and socialisation. While this digital revolution provides rational solutions to the pragmatic needs of an anthropocentric world, it simultaneously redraws the boundaries of human cognition and social fabric in a radical manner. In this historical conjuncture where we awaken to the post-human era, the ontological hierarchy between machine and human fluctuates, compelling humanity to interrogate its own existential specificity.

Cognitively, artificial intelligence asserts a profound and invisible hegemony over individual decision-making mechanisms. As algorithmic systems whisper what to consume, how to vote, and ultimately how to perceive reality, “free will” and critical thinking—sacrosanct since the Enlightenment—face an unprecedented trial of endurance. The epistemic comfort promised by effortless access to information ironically risks atrophy in the human mind’s capacity for deep focus, analytical synthesis, and abstraction. Human beings confront the danger of falling under the intellectual tutelage of the very technological assistants they created.

In the realm of artistic and literary creation, artificial intelligence destabilises the concept of “authenticity,” the most ancient cornerstone of aesthetic theory. Literary texts and visual arts detached from the monopoly of human genius have, in Walter Benjamin’s terms, problematized the unique “aura” of the artwork. However, rather than completely alienating the human from the creative process, this phenomenon bestows a new role upon them: an upper-level curator, an ethical supervisor, and a philosophical observer tasked with molding the raw aesthetic material generated by AI.

In conclusion, the true epistemic imprint that artificial intelligence leaves upon humanity is its invocation to preserve the core values that define us within a mechanised world. “Purely human” nuances that cybernetic systems fail to replicate—such as empathy, ethical consciousness, intuition, and emotional intelligence—are no longer mere luxuries but existential fortresses. The future lies not in rejecting this inevitable technological determinism, but in positioning it as a teleological guide that enriches human dignity, intellect, and artistic imagination.



# FROM ECONOMICS TO PSYCHOLOGY: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MONEY AND HAPPINESS

Özdenur OZYURT

A 1st Year Student from the Department of English  
Language and Literature

Economics is a discipline that goes beyond numbers and mathematical formulas, which is deeply connected to human well-being, preferences, and living standards. The clear effects of economics can be seen in many areas, from individuals' decisions to their future plans, and from their emotional states to their levels of happiness. Factors such as the anxiety caused by unemployment, the pressure of inflation on budgets, and the uncertainties brought by times of crisis are powerful elements that shape the psychological structure of societies (Katona, 1975).

On the other hand, individuals with sufficient income can meet their primary needs like housing, nutrition, and health, thereby experiencing a basic sense of security. According to Maslow's (1943) hierarchy of needs theory, physiological requirements and safety needs are fundamental elements that must be satisfied before individuals attain higher-level psychological and social needs. Economic stability and financial well-being play a critical role in providing these foundational steps.



Katona (1975) emphasizes that as economic well-being increases, individuals' psychological well-being improves and their future expectations are shaped more positively. Frey and Stutzer (2002) show that happiness levels are linked to income and job security, while economic difficulties increase psychological distress. At this point, the improvement of economic conditions also strengthens individuals' capacity to achieve belonging, respect, and ultimately, self-actualization. Therefore, economics, as a multidimensional process ranging from health to education and from the individual to society, will continue to impact our lives as a major part of our existence.

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Maslow, A. H. (1943). A theory of human motivation, *Psychological Review*, 50(4), 370-396.

## English Proverb of the Month: “Let Sleeping Dogs Lie”

Emily MELHEM

A 2nd Year Student from the Department  
of English Language and Literature

“Let sleeping dogs lie.” This commonly used English proverb dates as far back as 1380 AD in renowned poet Geoffrey Chaucer’s epic poem *Troilus and Criseyde*. It is originally written as “It is nought good a slepyng hound to wake.” A proverb, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, is a short sentence usually known by many people stating something commonly experienced or giving advice.

Proverbs have been a common form of expression throughout various cultures across the world for centuries. This particular axiom is used as a metaphor to warn people against disturbing something that is already fine as it is. The original saying has fractured into a few phrases with a similar meaning, such as “if it ain’t broke don’t fix it” or “leave well alone”. Although it was first recorded in Chaucer’s epic, the proverb is believed to predate the work by a significant amount of time, as a verbal expression.

Ultimately, the continual usage of this phrase over centuries is a testament to the significant role that proverbs play in preserving wisdom and connecting us to those from past generations. While this phrase was first documented quite a long time ago, it still continues to carry its meaning and relevance in today’s society.

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# REQUIEM FOR A DREAM

Pinar CAKMAK

A Student from the Department of  
English Language and Literature

Have you ever found yourself choosing something you knew would ruin you — and chose it anyway? Despite knowing what harms us, awareness alone is never enough to keep it away. The solution does not lie in simply knowing.

Requiem for a Dream is a film that sits on your shoulders and makes you face the disturbing truth that you refuse to acknowledge.

Sharing the same fate, these four characters pursue ordinary dreams that every individual in society desires, dreams that the American Dream presents as easily attainable.. But in their desperation to reach them quickly, each one chooses a path that quietly becomes their ruin. This is not a story unique to them. Modern life is built around shortcuts — instant gratification, quick escapes, and comfortable illusions that promise everything while quietly demanding everything in return. The film simply removes the socially acceptable wrapping and shows us the raw, uncomfortable version of what separate individuals are capable of doing.

What makes this film truly special is its ability to hold a mirror up to your own life. The trap you keep falling into, the loop you have been stuck in — all of it rises to the surface through characters you recognize pieces of yourself in. And that recognition doesn't leave when the film ends.

If you are standing at the edge of watching this film, consider this a gentle warning. Requiem for a Dream will not comfort you — it will confront you. Because understanding what is wrong with us was never enough. The resolution lies in facing what we have long ignored and refusing to look away any longer.



# REQUIEM FOR A DREAM

## IAN MCEWAN'S NUTSHELL

Res. Asst. Hilal BILGILI

The Department of English Translation and Interpretation

Nutshell (2016) by Ian McEwan is one of the strangest yet most intellectually compelling contemporary reinterpretations of William Shakespeare's Hamlet. Narrated entirely by an unborn fetus, the novel transforms Shakespeare's tragedy into a darkly comic and deeply existential meditation on consciousness, morality, and helplessness. What initially sounds like an absurd literary experiment gradually reveals itself as a sophisticated exploration of modern anxiety and psychological entrapment.

The story follows a fetus listening from inside his mother, Trudy's, womb as she and her lover, Claude, conspire to murder his father, John. This parallels the plot in Hamlet: Trudy becomes a modern Gertrude, Claude mirrors Claudius, and the unborn narrator embodies Hamlet's intellectual paralysis. Yet McEwan's achievement lies in making this impossible narrator strangely convincing. The fetus reflects on politics, poetry, environmental collapse, and human corruption with remarkable wit and sophistication, creating an unsettling contrast between physical powerlessness and intellectual hyper-awareness. The references to Hamlet are highlighted by the epigraph, which quotes a line from Act II, Scene II: "Oh God, I could be bounded in a nutshell and count myself a king of infinite space – were it not that I have bad dreams."

One of the novel's memorable moments occurs when the fetus attempts to commit suicide by tangling himself in the umbilical cord and trying to suffocate himself. This scene functions as the novel's version of Hamlet's "To be, or not to be" soliloquy. The dark irony here is that Hamlet delays action in life while the fetus attempts non-life because he cannot act. Overwhelmed by disgust toward the world he is about to enter, the narrator considers nonexistence preferable to birth itself. The image is both horrifying and symbolic: the umbilical cord, traditionally associated with nourishment and maternal connection, becomes an instrument of self-destruction. McEwan transforms the womb from a space of safety into one of existential imprisonment.

In the end, Nutshell is not merely a clever adaptation of Hamlet but a meditation on what it means to inherit a damaged world before even being born into it.



# THE GOOD PLACE

Ahmet Hakan SANCAKTUTAN

A 2nd Year Student from the Department of English Language and Literature

The Good Place is a fantastical comedy show created by Michael Schur, starring actors like Kristen Bell, William Jackson Harper and Ted Danson. The show is centered around the concept of afterlife and redemption with most of the story taking place in a fantastical afterlife world. As the name might suggest the show opens in the Good Place, following the main character Eleanor as she learns about the place and travels through it. The first twist of the show happens right at the end of the first episode with the main character Eleanor revealing she is not supposed to be in the Good Place. The following episodes follow a dreamlike series of events while Eleanor and other characters struggle with secrets, feelings and guilt.

This unique setting of the show allows it to delve deep into concepts like redemption. Should Eleanor admit she is not supposed to be there or reveal the truth and be kicked out of The Good Place or keep the secret and continue living this afterlife that is not hers? This question takes the focus for the first season of the story. In the following seasons faith, guilt, innocence, redemption and similar concepts are demonstrated and evaluated through a clever mixture of humour and drama.

The show is also much abundant in twists with almost every episode and season finale making you clench your fists in tension. To conclude, The Good Place is an easy recommendation for anyone who is into grave topics handled with humour and enjoys seeing minor characters become greater than life through their choices.



# “ REVIEW OF THE MONTH ”

## Trapped Between Time and Meaning: A Review of Palm Springs

Emir Ziya GUZELDEMIRCI

A 1st Year Student from the Department of English Language and Literature



Palm Springs is a science-fiction romantic comedy that tells the story of two strangers, Nyles and Sarah, who become stuck in a time loop after meeting at a wedding. They are forced to live the same day over and over again, with no clear way to escape. At first, the situation feels fun and exciting because there are no real consequences for their actions. They spend their endless days doing crazy activities, joking around, and enjoying their freedom. However, as time passes, the repeated cycle slowly becomes emotionally tiring and meaningless.

The movie becomes interesting because of the questions it makes the audience think about. If every day were exactly the same, would life still have meaning? Would people continue to care about their choices, relationships, or future? Through Nyles and Sarah, the film shows two different reactions to this situation. Nyles accepts the loop and stops expecting anything from life, while Sarah refuses to stay trapped and searches for a solution. Their different attitudes create both emotional and humorous moments throughout the story.

Psychologically and philosophically, the movie only lightly touches on themes such as loneliness, regret, and the search for purpose. Instead of giving complicated answers, it encourages viewers to reflect on their own lives and routines. The film suggests that life may sometimes feel repetitive, but relationships and personal choices can still make it valuable.

Overall, Palm Springs is more than just a funny romantic movie. It is an entertaining story that combines humor, emotion, and thoughtful ideas in a simple but effective way. By the end, the audience is left thinking about time, happiness, and what truly gives meaning to life.

# ACADEMIC PLAYLIST



## A SELECTION FOR MAY

Res. Asst. Mustafa Nurkan BITLISLI

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration

This month's selection brings together sounds of labor, solidarity, and the pursuit of freedom from different geographies. From Türkiye to Latin America, from Europe to South Africa, these songs remind us of justice, equality, and the spirit of collective struggle. Happy International Workers' Day.

We dedicate this selection to all peoples of the world, insisting that nothing human is alien to us. We wish you pleasant listening.

Please [click](#) to access the selection.

191		There Is Power in a Union Billy Bragg	Talking with the Taxman A...
192		Bread and Roses Judy Collins	Bread And Roses
193		A las Barricadas - Remastered Frente Popular	Chants Anarchistes de la G...
194		El pueblo unido jamás será vencido Quilapayún	El pueblo unido jamás será...
195		1 Mayıs Cem Karaca, Dervişan	1 Mayıs - Durduramayacakl...
196		Ay Carmela Rolando Alarcon	Canciones De La Guerra Ci...
197		Fischia Il Vento Bandiera Rossa	La Resistenza Continua...
198		Which Side are You On? Pete Seeger	If I Had a Hammer: Songs o...
199		Arbeiter Von Wien Efkan Şeşen	Renkler ve Işıklar Vol. 2
200		Şeyh Bedrettin Destanından Ruhi Su	Şiirler - Türküler Koroğlu





# BAP: "From Images to Expression: Monitoring Linguistic Development Through Literary-Themed Visual Stimuli"

Sinem CAY

A 4th Year Student from the Department of  
English Language and Literature

Hello, my name is Sinem Çay. I am a senior double-major student in English Language and Literature and Turkish Language and Literature. At the beginning of the year, I applied for a Scientific Research Project (BAP); my topic was "From Images to Expression: Monitoring Linguistic Development Through Literary-Themed Visual Stimuli." In this project, I aimed to research the English teaching process for adult learners within a visual and contextual framework by utilizing my own teaching experience.

I have noticed that in English education, in many countries including the Republic of Türkiye, the use of visual and contextual elements is significantly reduced after a certain age. BAP (Scientific Research Projects) was a wonderful opportunity to address this deficiency on an academic ground and produce an innovative solution. Participating in a BAP project at the undergraduate level teaches a student not just to read theoretical knowledge, but to identify an existing problem in the field and produce a concrete solution using scientific methodology. In terms of designing a project, conducting a literature review, and gaining the discipline of academic work, the vision that the BAP process adds to an undergraduate student is truly invaluable.

With this motivation, in our undergraduate student participatory project directed by Asst. Prof. Tuğba Akman Kaplan, I initiated a three-month practical process with 10 adult students attending my online classes. In our project, by using literary-themed visuals such as Macbeth or The Great Gatsby, we are monitoring our students' linguistic and emotional development. This method we apply in the field consists of three stages: Our students first interpret the visuals freely, then they produce language with the vocabulary support we provide, and in the final stage, they develop structured expressions.

Our goal is to draw attention to the dimensions of emotional learning and aesthetic experience, which are frequently ignored in foreign language teaching, and to present an innovative model. It makes me very proud to crown my undergraduate life with such valuable research and turn my ideas into science. If you have an academic curiosity, BAP is the right address to turn that curiosity into a project.

**BİLİMSEL  
ARAŞTIRMA  
PROJELERİ  
(BAP)**



# ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION



## Differences between Two Strategies: Innovation vs Entrepreneurship

Şehed HOCA

A 2nd Year Student from the Department of English  
Language and Literature

In contemporary socio-economic literature, the concepts of innovation and entrepreneurship are frequently conflated, yet they rest upon fundamentally distinct epistemological and operational dynamics. The divergence between these two strategies is not merely a difference in methodology; it inherently stems from the distinction between the ontological existence of an idea and its reflection within the social and commercial spheres. While innovation focuses on producing a new value, an epistemic discovery, or a structural transformation by destabilising the boundaries of the status quo, entrepreneurship is the art of translating this abstract potential into a concrete market reality and constructing a mechanism for sustainable growth.

Semantically, innovation represents a controlled and intellectual incubation phase wherein the theoretical viability of an idea or technical concept is evaluated. This stage functions like a creative spark. However, transforming into a societal utility on its own may not always be possible. This is precisely where the entrepreneurial strategy comes into play. Entrepreneurship is the process of consolidating the human capital, financial resources, and strategic vision required for innovation to transcend the laboratory and survive within the chaotic ecosystem of a competitive market. While innovation designs the essence, entrepreneurship provides its form and longevity.

In this context, the entrepreneur is not merely a risk-taker, but akin to a conductor managing calculated risks and shifting market dynamics. While the innovator is preoccupied with the labour of creating a novel concept, the entrepreneur must confront pragmatic realities such as logistics, market positioning, consumer behaviour, and scalability. Consequently, whereas innovation operates at a micro level, generating intellectual capital within a sheltered domain, entrepreneurship executes this capital at a macro level through real-world instruments in the practical sphere.

In conclusion, although these two notions diverge methodologically, they are teleologically codependent. Innovation endows the system with creative and transformative raw material, whereas entrepreneurship erects the institutional and commercial framework in which this raw material comes to life. Without the other, each is rendered obsolescent. Ultimately, success lies in the harmony of both strategies: while innovation invents the intrinsic value, entrepreneurship actualises and disseminates it to the world.

# IGU MUN '26 and the Diplomats of the Future

**Mehmet Fatih TOPATAN**

**A 2nd Year Student from the Department of English Language and Literature  
Member of the MUN Organizing Committee**

On May 2-3, we successfully held the Model United Nations conference at Istanbul Gelişim University. Our university's 2026 MUN endeavor was actually a more systematic and much more promising effort compared to previous conferences. For me, being a part of the management unit for this major event and owning this success is a great opportunity and a success story. Being there on those days and being a part of this formation, alongside the valuable delegates, chairs, and all other participants, are equally priceless.

Turning to IGU MUN, our main goal as the management team was to dismantle the typical MUN bureaucracy and its tediousness, and instead, enable delegates to speak comfortably and confidently without the fear of being judged. To this end, the topics were first reviewed and changed repeatedly until the day of the event. We even said goodbye to some topics to break free from the classic MUN monotony. Afterwards, we created environments where participants could socialize with each other so they wouldn't feel alone. With many measures like these, we relaxed the tense atmosphere often found in MUN conferences and enabled delegates to comfortably express their opinions in a non-judgmental setting.

In conclusion, IGU MUN 26 has joined our university's "**development**" vision as a young, new direction and will strive to continue this vision in the coming years.



**Model  
United  
Nations**

# What is Health Psychology and What Can We Learn from it?

**Makhabbat KAISAROVA**

**A 2nd Year Student from the Department  
of English Language and Literature**

Health psychology is a relatively new field, the focus of which is to bridge the gap between the mental and physical well-being of humans by understanding how psychological, biological, and social factors shape our daily lives.

Why did health psychology develop? The biomedical model that occurred during the Renaissance dictated that illness can be explained solely by bodily processes, such as biochemical imbalances or neurophysiological abnormalities. This framework failed to recognize the importance of social and psychological processes as equally important influences. Later on, this viewpoint was pushed aside by the rise of modern psychology, particularly with Sigmund Freud's early work on conversion hysteria. The continuous development of psychology brought realization that wellness is not maintained solely by bodily functions.

What are the goals of health psychologists?

1. The Promotion and Maintenance of Health.
2. The Prevention and Treatment of Illness.
3. The Identification of Etiologic and Diagnostic Correlates of Health, Illness, and Related Dysfunctions.
4. The Analysis and Improvement of the Healthcare System and Health Policy Formulation.

Now that we learned about this field, let's view some information that can be useful for self-awareness and wellness.

1. Your biological state is directly affected by your psychological and social environment. Stop viewing your physical state in isolation. When you experience headache, an upset stomach, or fatigue- ask yourself: am I sleeping well? Did I drink enough water? What were the emotions I dealt with this week? Analyzing your mental state and environment will help you avoid the chain of discomfort.

2. Lifestyle choices. Most chronic diseases like heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers are the sole outcome of your daily habits. Use "if - then" planning to automate good choices, and stimulus control by removing temptations from your immediate environment.

3. Stress management. When you face a stressor, your nervous system fires up, releasing adrenaline and cortisol. If you are chronically stressed by finances, exams, or family arguments, your body never gets to rest and reset. Catch early cues like a clenched jaw, frequent colds, loss of concentration, irritability, overeating, undereating, insomnia, reaching for alcohol and match your response either by problem-focused coping or emotion-focused coping.

4. Lean on the community. Seeking social support physically lowers your blood pressure and cortisol levels.

5. Navigating pain and illness. When you do get sick or experience pain, your approach to that changes the trajectory of your recovery. Being positive literally helps you recover.

As health psychologists say "true wellness is not merely surviving illness, but thriving through proactive, holistic care.

# The Architecture of Influence: From Traditional Mass Media to Social Media, and the Crisis of Information Authenticity

Hamta Hatefie NIK  
A 2nd Year Student from the Department of  
English Language and Literature

Mass media first started with printed newspapers in the 19th century, marking a profound social and cultural change, as it enabled millions to read about the latest events and incidents. Then came radios broadcasting news, transforming society once again by making information accessible to nearly every household, creating a shared national and international experience. Then came the visual mass media, TV, and as the saying goes, “seeing is believing”, so the news shown on TV felt more personal, and the masses' reactions to news became more collective and synchronized. With internet access and the emergence of social media, such as YouTube, Facebook, and later Instagram and Twitter, mass media underwent a substantive shift, from consuming information to producing it, turning many of the audience into content creators. Now, individuals can report news instantly, bypassing editors and government gatekeepers, providing real-time updates on nearly everything, including social crises and political unrest.

The content of most platforms—such as newspapers, radio, and television—often operates within structured institutional frameworks, and the depth and authenticity of the news are influenced by the interests and agendas of those governing it. This results in audiences of these platforms forming similar opinions, beliefs, and a sense of responsibility, reinforcing the public image of these media institutions. However, unlike traditional mass media, Social media platforms and mass content creators go beyond these structured frameworks. Social media enables anyone to create and distribute content to global audiences without substantial validation or accountability.

Most social media platforms, such as YouTube, have monetization systems that enable their creators to earn revenue based on audience engagement. This begs the question of whether creators advocate authenticity and accuracy or prioritize financial gain through sensationalism. Accordingly, ongoing social unrest, political conflicts, or public crises can become opportunities for content creators to increase revenue, thus the possibility of information becoming exaggerated, selectively presented, or manipulated in ways that reinforce specific narratives rather than the objective truth. Furthermore, social media algorithms often boost content that provokes strong emotional reactions with high engagement. Meanwhile, hate speech, public shaming, and ideological extremism may become normalized when aligned with dominant online trends and collective narratives. As a result, one group's unrestricted expression can contribute to the marginalization or harassment of others.

Ultimately, all individuals carry a crucial responsibility when watching and promoting content on social media. Individuals should maintain objectivity, question sources, and verify the credibility of the information circulating. From time to time, every individual should take a step back and reflect critically on whether the ideas, opinions, and beliefs they stand for and promote are genuinely theirs and stem from their independent thoughts or are unconsciously shaped and directed by the influence of trending online content. Through careful research, reading, and critical thinking, every individual within society can foster a more accountable stance in public discourse and reduce the spread of manipulative narratives that contribute to social division and unrest.

# Time to Socialize

Res. Asst. Zehra MAKAR CELIK  
Department of Business Administration (English)

IGU English Language and Literature Club

The English Language and Literature Club aims to boost students' motivation and vision by making English fun through activities such as film and book analyses, drama workshops, plays, and speaking events. It ensures the development of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through these dynamic activities. Open to applications from all students at Istanbul Gelişim University, the club appeals to anyone interested in English.

Don't forget to follow the club's social media account for events and announcements:  
Instagram: @igu\_ell



## Agenda at IGU

### New Semester Excitement on Campus

We're all tired of these indecisive days when the weather feels different in the morning and evening, and of spending way too much time figuring out what to wear. One of the best motivations for summer is knowing that very soon, we'll say goodbye to coats and carrying cardigans around, and simply head out in a light T-shirt. The exhaustion of exams and all the hustle will soon melt away with an iced coffee on a sunny day — and it will definitely be worth the wait! 😊

## Let's Socialize

Those bright, sunny days when we can finally ditch the layers and spread out on the campus lawn are just around the corner. We'll leave behind all the stress of exams and the busy rush by meeting up with friends, enjoying an ice-cold coffee, and chatting about everything and nothing under the sun. Get ready to reserve your spot for the best garden conversations of the season! 😊



# June in Istanbul

We have compiled some of the prominent events taking place in Istanbul in June for you.

Res. Asst. Asel ATAUGLU  
The Department of Business Administration (English)

Type of Event	Name of Event	Location	Date
Theatre	Konken Partisi	Ses 1885 Ortaoyuncular Theatre	3 June Wednesday
Theatre	Ruh Öküzüm	Duru Theatre Watergarden Performance Centre	4 June Thursday
Stand Up	Tahsin Hasoğlu	Duru Theatre Watergarden Performance Centre	10 June Wednesday
Concert	Gökhan Türkmen	Dream Park İstanbul	21 June Sunday
Concert	Emre Aydın	IF Performance Hall Beşiktaş	26 June Friday
Concert	Three Days Grace	KüçükÇiftlik Park	30 June Tuesday

## THE MONTH OF ACTIVITIES AND CONNECTIONS

Helin SUH

A 2nd Year Student from the Department of English  
Language and Literature  
& ELL CLUB President

Students of Istanbul Gelişim University had an active, productive, enjoyable, and busy month with a full schedule of educational and social activities organized by the ELL Club (English Language and Literature Club). Throughout this month, our students came together via different events. These events improved friendships, communications, and cultural interaction within the community of our university.

One of the most memorable events of this month was the English Universe Festival hosted by Sabahattin Zaim University. In this event, various students from other universities participated alongside our university. Kültür University and Biruni University shared the joy of joining us with their own individual ELT Clubs (English Language Teaching Club). With each university having its own designed games and activities, we encouraged students to use their English skills actively while also promoting teamwork, creativity, and communication.

ELL Club, led by me, Helin Suh, had exciting guessing games, quick-answer word competitions, literary and Mythological tests, puzzles, and mind-scratching quizzes for this event. Every activity created a safe place where laughter filled the arena, joy, and enthusiastic, friendly competitions were presented by our club. Regardless of their university, everyone had the opportunity to participate in this festival, improve themselves, have fun, communicate, and socialize with new people, which our students made sure to accomplish these tasks. As the ELL Club, our main goals were to encourage students and welcome them to our educational, enjoyable games and activities. The positive feedback we received from other universities, students, visitors, and professors showed that our efforts paid off, and this was the most valuable review we got after a successful, tiring day.

In addition to the festival, the ELL Club has begun to organize weekly activities with the Speaking Club. Every week, participants discuss different subjects, exchange ideas, and practice their speaking skills in a comfortable environment. Accompanied by soft drinks and treats, students always find a seat reserved for them to ease all their stress and exhaustion by just sharing their opinions and discovering new perspectives on each interesting subject. As the ELL Club, we want to expand this calming atmosphere among every student who has brilliant ideas but nowhere to share, and turn the Speaking Club into that safe space they are looking for.

Overall, this month, through these activities and events, IGU students strengthened their skills, interactions, and communications, and will continue to build a stronger, supportive community in our university.



Amina Begüm KURU

A Graduate Student from the Department of English Language and Literature

After graduating from the Department of English Language and Literature, Istanbul Gelişim University, I focused on improving myself both academically and personally. I completed my Pedagogical Formation Training to strengthen my teaching skills and gain more professional experience in education. During this period, I also prepared for my Master's Degree by researching international academic programs and improving my academic background.

In addition, I continued developing my second foreign language because I believe learning languages helps people connect with different cultures and perspectives. Alongside my academic studies, I became more involved in creative writing and theatre. I wrote several theatre plays, especially for children, combining education with creativity and drama.

I also participated in internships and volunteer projects that allowed me to improve my communication, teamwork, and organizational skills. These experiences helped me better understand educational environments and social responsibility.

Looking back, the time after graduation became much more than a preparation period for me. It was a valuable journey of self-development, creativity, and personal growth that helped me become more confident about my future goals.



Sinem CAY

A 4th Year Student from the Department of  
English Language and Literature

Hello, my name is Sinem Çay. I am a senior majoring in English Language and Literature and Turkish Language and Literature. I applied to my double major in Turkish Language and Literature when I entered my sophomore year, and I began the program after being accepted. Since my primary major is English and my double major is Turkish, I had to retake some of the core courses I had already taken in my double major; however, I felt a great sense of intellectual fulfillment because I chose a field that is just as broad, deep, and inspiring as English Language and Literature.

Pursuing a double major at Istanbul Gelişim University is free, so I recommend it to anyone who believes they can manage their time well and has an interest in different fields. Studying two departments simultaneously—especially those that are interconnected or can be pursued in parallel—not only fosters strong observational and comparative skills but also builds analytical strength, laying the groundwork for becoming a competent individual capable of integrating two fields into a multidisciplinary vision. For me, it was a challenging process at first; I had a total of 14 courses. However, even though my academic workload increased significantly, this experience gave me incredible life and career management skills; the theoretical and practical knowledge I gained here allowed me to move much more strategically when mapping out my own path and to identify the steps and methods I needed to follow.

Doing a double major is a highly rewarding experience for self-motivated students and helps guide you in shaping your career path. If you can be exempted from the core courses taken in the first two years—provided they are offered in a common language, this process will be less demanding and more enjoyable for you. If you are required to take the common courses, your double-major programme may extend by one year; however, the benefit of this process is that it provides you with two degrees and a high level of expertise.

In conclusion, opening the doors to two different languages, two different literatures, and two different cultures at the same time was not just an academic achievement for me, but a transformation of the mind. If you, too, want to build a multifaceted future for yourself, don't hesitate to embark on this journey. Remember that every course you invest in lays a strong foundation for your future self. I wholeheartedly recommend this experience to all my friends who wish to write their own story from two different perspectives.



Erasmus

Diaries

## Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility in Kosovo: An Evaluation of an Academic Visit

Asst. Prof. İsmail AYDIN

The Department of English Language and Literature

Within the scope of the Erasmus+ KA-171 Teaching Mobility programme, I carried out an academic visit to Universum College in Kosovo between 4 and 11 May. The visit proved more productive than I had expected, both in terms of teaching and of intercultural contact. Over the course of a week, I had the opportunity to share my work in the field of English Language and Literature with students and academic staff. In my lectures, I focused in particular on the following questions: How does literature shape individual and social identity? What function does narrative serve in human life? Does fantasy literature have a meaningful place in the modern world?

The central idea I wished to emphasise was that literature is not only a field of aesthetic production, but also a powerful mode of thinking through which individuals and societies make sense of themselves. Drawing on *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*, we discussed themes such as moments of crisis, responsibility, historical heritage, solidarity and individual transformation. In one of the sessions, the discussion turned to the way national narratives operate; the idea that a founding narrative which holds one society together is often built upon the catastrophe of another opened a discussion that was both uncomfortable and productive. This resonated especially strongly when discussed in the context of the Balkans: the fact that the same event can be remembered simultaneously as a victory by one society and as a destruction by another made concrete the role of literature in rendering this plural memory visible.

During the same period, the International Staff Meeting allowed me to come together with academics from different universities in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece and Türkiye. This year, the discussions centred on the place of artificial intelligence in university education. In this context, it was emphasised that if the university is understood solely as an institution that defines itself through access to knowledge, then the institution needs to be reconsidered and structural changes are required. These sessions and workshops provided a useful basis for examining the approaches and teaching practices of different higher education institutions in a comparative way; they also made the possibilities for institutional cooperation and the value of intercultural academic communication concretely visible.

The mobility was not limited to classroom teaching. The time I spent in Prizren, Pristina and Ferizaj allowed me to observe the multi-layered cultural fabric of the Balkans more closely; these observations overlapped in unexpected ways with the question of “narrative and memory” that we had discussed in class.

In conclusion, this visit was an experience that strengthened academic cooperation, enriched my teaching methods and deepened intercultural dialogue. I believe it has provided a productive starting point for joint courses, academic projects and international work that may be carried out in the future.



# Turkmen Manti: A Traditional Family Meal

Seher YILDIZ

A 2nd Year Student from the Department  
of English Language and Literature

Turkmen manti is a popular traditional dish in Turkmenistan. Many people appreciate this dish for its taste and its connection to family traditions. In Turkmen families, people often prepare manti together during weekends, holidays, or special celebrations. Cooking manti is usually a long process, so family members help each other in the kitchen. Preparing the dough and filling can take about one to two hours.

Manti is made with thin dough, minced meat, onions, and spices. Most families use lamb because it gives a richer flavor, but some people also add potatoes or pumpkin. The dough is cut into small squares and filled with the meat mixture. After that, the manti are folded carefully by hand. They are cooked in steam pots for around 40 to 50 minutes until they become soft and juicy. People usually serve manti with yogurt, melted butter, or tomato sauce. Many families also drink tea while eating together.

One interesting thing about Turkmen manti is that every family has its own recipe. Some people enjoy spicy flavors, while others prefer a simpler taste. However, the meaning of the dish is always the same. Turkmen manti brings people together and represents family, hospitality, and tradition in Turkmen culture.



## ABOUT ACADEMIC LIFE

### PUBLICATIONS

Assoc. Prof. Festus Victor Bekun's article titled "How do renewable and fossil energy R&D efficiencies impact environmental sustainability in Germany? Fresh evidence from ILCC theory with fourier approach" was published in Energy.

Assoc. Prof. Festus Victor Bekun's article titled "Effect of domestic material production on environmental sustainability in EU countries under changing financial development: a dynamic panel threshold regression approach" was published in Environment, Development and Sustainability.

Asst. Prof. Aybike Esra Şahin and Res. Asst. Şeyma Özekinci's article titled "A multi- criteria assessment of decarbonization pathways for heavy-duty trucks" was published Environmental Research: Infrastructure and Sustainability.

# STAFF AGENDA



## ACADEMIC-ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Assoc. Prof. Seda MUMLU KARANFİL has been appointed as an Associate Professor in the Department of Aviation Management.

Assoc. Prof. Serkan ÇAKMAK has been appointed as an Associate Professor in the Department of Management Information Systems.

Assoc. Prof. Onur ÖZDEMİR has been reappointed as the Head of the Department of International Trade and Finance.

Şenay KOCAKAPLAN has started working as an Office Clerk in our Faculty Secretariat.

## ACADEMIC STAFF DEPARTEES

Asst. Prof. Abdulkadir BÜYÜKBİNGÖL has left the Department of New Media and Communication.



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[metsis.gelisim.edu.tr](https://metsis.gelisim.edu.tr)



## IGU Alumni Tracking System

The Alumni Tracking System (Metsis) has been launched to determine and follow the current status of our graduates, such as their employment and higher education careers, and to generate statistical data. Moreover, Istanbul Gelisim University aims to strengthen its relations with its graduates and contribute to their employment process through the METSİS platform. IGU alumni can subscribe to the platform for free. ([metsis.gelisim.edu.tr](https://metsis.gelisim.edu.tr))

Our graduates who are members of the platform can update their profiles and follow job postings.

### How to subscribe to the METSİS platform?

1. Enter the platform ([metsis.gelisim.edu.tr](https://metsis.gelisim.edu.tr)) via internet-connected devices.
2. You can follow the job postings by clicking on the jobs.
3. You can create an account from the New Candidate section to apply.
4. After creating an account, you can see job postings from the jobs section on the top and apply for open positions.

# M A S T H E A D

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