

Education

2025 – present Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete

Ph.D. Candidate

Dissertation: *Unfree on Board: Illicit Maritime Mobility of Women and Children across the Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean in the Age of Slave-Trade Prohibition*

The dissertation is conducted within the framework of the Ph.D. co-supervision agreement between the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete, and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (IMS-FORTH), and forms part of the STASH project.

2018 – 2025 Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete & IMS-FORTH

Master of Arts, Joint English-language M.A. Program in Ottoman History

Thesis: *Legible Discontents, Illegible Bodies: The question of female and nomadic subjects in general census practices and statecraft in the late Ottoman Empire*

Supervisor: Antonis Anastasopoulos

2008 – 2018 Department of History, Boğaziçi University

Bachelor of Arts

Scholarships & Awards

2026 **Award for the Best Master's Thesis on Gender Issues**

Gender Equality Committee, University of Crete

2025 **William Stanley Moss Award**

Department of History and Archaeology, University of Crete

2022 **Ottoman Summer Program**

Full scholarship, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), Koç University

Research Interests

Late Ottoman social and legal history; gender and childhood; post-abolition regimes of unfreedom; mobility; maritime history; spatial history; digital humanities

Research Experience

- 2026 – present **STASH. Shadow Trade: Unraveling Maritime Smuggling Between the Russian and Ottoman Empires (1853-1914)**
Ph.D. Candidate, IMS-FORTH
- 2020 – 2023 **JaNet. Janissaries in Ottoman Port-Cities: Muslim Financial and Political Networks in the Early Modern Mediterranean**
Research Assistant, IMS-FORTH
- 2019 – 2021 **GHOST. Geographies and Histories of the Ottoman Supernatural Tradition: Exploring Magic, the Marvelous, and the Strange in Ottoman Mentalities**
Postgraduate Research Fellow, IMS-FORTH
- 2018 – 2019 **Economy, Environment and Landscape in the Cypriot *Longue Durée***
Team Member, Geography Department, Harokopio University
- 2018 **OttRec: Ottoman Recogito Project**
Team Member, Pelagios Network
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Conference & Workshop Presentations

- “Early Archival Glimpses of Illicit Seaborne Journeys of Women and Children in the Late Ottoman World.” *Kick-Off Workshop, Beneath the Waves: Launching the STASH Project*, IMS-FORTH, Rethymno, 28 November 2025.
- “OttRec: Ottoman Recogito.” *Linked Pasts IV: Views from inside the LOD-cloud*, Mainz, 11–13 December 2018.
- “In Quest of Female Public Space: A Spatial Analysis of Readers’ Letters in *Kadınlar Dünyası* Magazine.” *Women’s Press – Women of the Press: Women’s Periodicals and Women Editors in the Ottoman Space*, Rethymno, 9–11 November 2018.
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Publications

- Han, Nesli Ruken, and Sefer Soydar. “Annotating and Tagging a 16th century Ottoman Source with Recogito.” *EuropeanaTech Insight*, Issue 12 (*Pelagios*), 2019.
- Mardikjan, Haygan. *Turnanın Çağrısı: Soykırımdan kurtulan Ermeni dede ve yayamın izinden*. Translated from English by Nesli Ruken Han and Ekin Kaan. Nisan Yayıncılık, Istanbul, 2019.
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Editorial & Publishing Experience

- 2020 – 2021 *Aca’ib: Occasional papers on the Ottoman perceptions of the supernatural*, GHOST Project (IMS-FORTH)
Support Staff

2013 – 2014 İletişim Yayınları
Editorial Intern
2010 *Yazınca, Tûrika Wêjeyê*
Compositor
2005 – 2008 *Adı Yok Gençlik Edebiyat Dergisi*
Writer, Editor, Graphic Designer

Technical & Research Skills

Research Methods: Ottoman paleography; archival research; source evaluation; GIS and spatial analysis; data visualisation; qualitative coding

Digital Humanities & Data Practices: Semantic and metadata annotation; gazetteer and database compilation; data modelling and querying; Linked Open Data

Editing & Academic Production: Copy-editing; proofreading; transliteration; translation (English–Turkish); page layout, editorial work, and document formatting

Tools & Software: Office productivity software (Microsoft Office, LibreOffice, LaTeX); GIS software (ArcGIS, QGIS); Digital Humanities Platforms (Recogito; Tropy; Transkribus; Nodegoat; Palladio; Voyant Tools); Graphic design and image editing tools (Adobe Creative Suite; GIMP)

Languages

Turkish: Native

English: Advanced

Ottoman Turkish: Advanced (reading)

Greek: Conversational

Kurdish: Conversational (simultaneous bilingual)

French: Intermediate (passive)

Western Armenian: Elementary (passive basic literacy)