ERIK MORTENSON

CURRICULUM VITAE

Koç University, Rumeli Feneri Yolu
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EDUCATION:

2003: PhD, Wayne State University, English

1999: Cornell University, School of Criticism and Theory

1997: MA, University of Missouri-Columbia, English

1993: BA, University of California, San Diego, English and Russian Literature / Economics

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Assistant Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey, Fall 2006-present

Fulbright Lecturer, Institute for English and American Studies, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, Fall 2005-Summer 2006

Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow, Honors Program, Wayne State, Fall 2004-Winter 2005

Visiting Lecturer, Oakland University, Fall 2003-Summer 2004

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND TEACHING COMPETENCIES:

American literature and visual culture (particularly post-WWII), Cultural Studies, the Beats, modernism, postmodernism, transnational approaches to literature, film noir, photography, critical and literary theory, multi-ethnic American literature, world literature, the Gothic, translation theory and practice, drama, sociological approaches to literature, composition

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Scholarship (2014)
Cunda International Workshop for Translators of Turkish Literature (2014 and 2015)

Turkish Higher Education Council (Tübitak) 1001 Research Grant (2012-2013)
Koç Summer Research Program for Undergraduates Mentor (2013 and 2014)
DePaul-Koç Global Learning Experience Program Participant (2012-present)
CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title award for *Capturing the Beat Moment* (2011)
KOLT Teaching Innovation Grant (2010)
Harvard University Summer Research Fellowship (2009 and 2012)
Harry Ransom Humanities Center Fellowship (2008)
Fulbright Lecturer in Germany (2005-2006)
Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship (2004-2005)
Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship (2003)
Summer Dissertation Fellowship (2002)
Feigenson Fellowship (2002)
Thomas C. Rumble University Graduate Fellowships (1997-1998, 2000-2001)
Tompkins Award (1999 and 2001)
Suzanne Ferguson Award (1998)
George Blocker Pace Award for Outstanding Graduate Papers (1996)

PUBLICATIONS:

Current Projects:

"Translating Counterculture." Book-length study of the reception of countercultural works as Turkish "underground literature." Manuscript complete.

Monographs:

Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture. Forthcoming from Southern Illinois University Press (February 2016).

Capturing the Beat Moment: Cultural Politics and the Poetics of Presence. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2011.

Journal Articles:

"Turkish Censorship, Cultural Translation, and the Trial of William S. Burroughs's *The Soft Machine*." Under consideration at *Arizona Quarterly*.

"Howling in Turkish: The Cultural Appropriation of Allen Ginsberg in Turkey," Forthcoming from *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture*, Summer 2016

"What the Shadows Know: The Return of the Crime-Fighting Hero the Shadow in Late-1950s Literature." Forthcoming in *American Studies*, Winter 2015.

"Underground Literature and its Influence on Turkish Youth." With Duygu Ergun and Selen Erdoğan. *New Perspectives on Turkey* 52 (2015): 77-104.

"Diagnosing the National Neurosis: The Underground Journal *Şizofrengi* and its Critique of 1990s Turkey." With Rafet Karaoğlu. *Turkish Studies* 16.1 (2015): 20-35.

"The Ghost of Humanism: Rethinking the Subjective Turn in Postwar American Photography." *History of Photography* 38.4 (2014): 418-434.

"A Journey into the Shadows: *The Twilight Zone*'s Visual Critique of the Cold War." *Science Fiction Film and Television* 7.1 (2014): 55-76.

"The 'Underground' Reception of the Beats in Turkey." *Comparative American Studies: An International Journal.* 11.3 (2013): 327-341.

"Capturing the Fleeting Moment: Photography in the Work of Allen Ginsberg." *Chicago Review.* 51: 1/2 (2005): 215-231.

"Existentialism and the Beats: A Renegotiation." *Stirrings Still: The International Journal of Existential Literature.* 1.1 (2004): 26-48.

"High Off the Page: Representing the Drug Experience in the work of Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg." *Janus Head: Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature, Continental Philosophy, Phenomenological Psychology and the Arts*. 7.1 (2004): 54-72.

"Beating Time: Configurations of Temporality in Jack Kerouac's *On The Road*." *College Literature.* 28 (2001): 51-67.

"Xmas Junkies: Debasement and Redemption in the Work of William S. Burroughs and David Foster Wallace." *Dionysos: The Journal of Literature and Addiction*. 9 (1999): 37-46.

Book Chapters:

"Allen Ginsberg and Beat Poetry." Forthcoming in *The Cambridge Companion to the Beats*, Cambridge University Press, 2016.

"John Wieners and the New York Poets Theater." Forthcoming in *Beat Drama: Playwrights and Performances of the "Howl" Generation*, Methuen, 2015.

"Reclaiming the Underground: Turkish Women Writers and their Beat Women Counterparts." Forthcoming in *Out of the Shadows: Female Beats* from Kristiansand University Press, 2015.

"Importing Counterculture: *On the Road*'s Turkish Reception." *The Transnational Turn in American Studies: Turkey and the United States*. Bern, Switzerland: Peter Lang, 2012: 119-140.

"High Off the Page: Representing the Drug Experience in the work of Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg." Reprinted in *The Philosophy of the Beats*. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2012: 163-178.

"Keeping Vision Alive: The Buddhist Stillpoint in the Work of Kerouac and Ginsberg." *The Emergence of Buddhist American Literature*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2009: 123-138.

"Beating Time: Configurations of Temporality in Jack Kerouac's *On The Road*." Reprinted in *The Beat Generation: Critical Essays*. New York: Peter Lang, 2002: 59-77.

Review Articles:

"Beat Generation." *America in the World, 1776 to the Present: A Supplement to the Dictionary of American History*. 2 Vols. Edward J. Blum, ed. Farmington Hills, MI: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2016.

Review of *The Transnational Beat Generation*, eds. Nancy M. Grace and Jennie Skerl. European Beat Studies Network (*ebsn.eu*). July 2014.

Review of *Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg: The Letters*. *American Book Review*. 35.1 (2013): 8-9.

"Text, Image, and the Space Between Them in the Work of Necmi Zekâ." Introduction to *Necmi Zekâ keep blending—keep separating Exhibition Catalogue*. Istanbul, Turkey: Dirimart Gallery, November 2013.

"Writing a New Nation: Literary Bohemianism and the Re-conceiving of America," a review of Michael Hrebeniak's *Action Writing: Jack Kerouac's Wild Form* and Michael Soto's *The Modernist Nation: Generation, Renaissance, and Twentieth-Century American Literature*. *Journal of Modern Literature*. 31 (2008): 137-142.

Encyclopedia entry on Janine Pommy Vega's *Tracking the Serpent: Journeys to Four Continents*. *Encyclopedia of Beat Literature*. New York: Facts on File, Inc. 2007: 317.

Review of *On the Walls and in the Streets: American Poetry Broadsides from the 1960s*, by James D. Sullivan. *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts*. 41 (1999): 568-572.

Translations:

Transvestite Pinocchio by Sibel Torunoglu. Translated with Burçak Bilgin. Manuscript complete.

"Three Poems by Gökçenur Ç." in *Asymptote* (asymptotejournal.com). July 2015.

"Selected Poems of Necmi Zekâ." Translated with Idil Karacadag. *Turkish Poetry Today*. 1 (2013): 75-103.

INVITED TALKS:

"Translating Counterculture: The Beats in Turkey," Bayerische Amerika-Akademie, Amerika Haus, Munich, Germany, May, 2015

"Depictions of the Beats in West German and Turkish Underground Journals," University Duisburg-Essen, Germany, December, 2014

"Translating Counterculture: The Reception of the Beat Generation in West German and Turkish Underground Journals," Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, December, 2014

"Spontaneity and the Beat Generation: Problems and Possibilities," University Stuttgart, Germany, November, 2014

"Defining the Turkish Underground," Orient Institute, Istanbul, Turkey, September 2014

"Postmodern Anachronism: Translating Necmi Zekâ's Poetry," Cunda International Workshop for Translators of Turkish Literature, Cunda, Turkey, September 2014

"The Figure of the Shadow in American Cold War Culture," Aydın University, Istanbul, Turkey, November 2013

"Brain Drain / Brain Gain in Art, Science and Technology," Workshop Co-Facilitator, ISEA International Symposium on Electronic Art, Istanbul, Turkey, September 2011

"Robert Frank and Postwar American Photography," Humanities Lecture Series, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey, April, 2010

"American Photography at Mid-Century," Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey, April, 2010

"Capturing the Ineffable in Beat Dream Writings," University of Delhi, India, January, 2009

"From the Modern to the Postmodern: The Lessons of the Beat Generation," Fulbright Lecture Series, "American Culture, Past and Present," University of Rostock, Germany, July 2006

"Pedagogical Approaches in the United States and Germany: A Critical Comparison," Amerika Haus, Nürnberg, Germany, June 2006

"The Problems of Race and Gender in Jack Kerouac's *On The Road*," Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, November 2005

"The Tradition of Dissent in America," American Studies Committee Seminar, Center for U.S. Studies, Leucorea Foundation and Martin Luther University, Germany, November 2005

"Feminizing the Beat Experience," William Rainey Harper College, Palatine, Illinois, February, 2002

CONFERENCES:

"The Cultural Appropriation of Allen Ginsberg's Work," European Beat Studies Network 3rd Annual Conference, Tangier, Morocco, November 2014

"Reclaiming the Underground: Turkish Women Writers and their Beat Women Counterparts," Out of the Shadows: The Female Beats in Literature, Art, and Film, Kristiansand, Norway, September 2013

"Diagnosing the National Neurosis: Psychology as Social Critique in the journals *Şizofrengi* and *Neurotica*," European Beat Studies Network 2nd Annual Conference, Aalborg University, Denmark, August 2013

"The Reception of *On the Road* in Turkey," European Beat Studies Network Inaugural Conference, Middelburg, the Netherlands, September, 2012

"The Turkish Trial of William S. Burroughs's *The Soft Machine*," American Literature Association's 23rd Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 2012

"Ralph Eugene Meatyard and the Critique of Postwar Humanism," American Studies Association of Turkey Conference, Alanya, Turkey, November 2010

"Fading into Shadow: The Cold War Photography of Robert Frank and William Klein," Cold War Cultures Conference: Transnational and Interdisciplinary Perspectives, University of Texas at Austin, October 2010

"The Gap as a Means to a Heightened State of Consciousness: Allen Ginsberg's Collaboration with Photographer William Webb," Tools of the Sacred, Techniques

of the Secular: Awakening, Epiphany, Apocalypse and Doubt in Contemporary English-Language Verse, Brussels, Belgium, May, 2010

"Disintegrating Figures in the Work of William Klein," Humanities and Social Sciences Series, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey, April, 2010

"Remediating the Beats: Visual, Auditory and Interarts Legacies," Panel Co-Organizer, European Association for American Studies Conference, Trinity College, Dublin, March, 2010

"Shrouded Strangers: Negativity, Shadows, and the Dream in the work of Jack Kerouac," 4th International IDEA Conference, Manisa, Turkey, April, 2009

"LeRoi Jones / Amiri Baraka and the Shadow of the Cold War," Jack Kerouac, Kerouac's *On the Road*, and the Beats, University of Birmingham, UK, December, 2008

"Critiquing the Cold War: The Use of Shadows in Jack Kerouac's *Dr. Sax*," American Studies Association of Turkey, Boğazıçı University, October, 2008

"Straddling the Shadows: Sylvia Plath and the Collapse of a Postwar Moral Order," The Sylvia Plath 75th Year Symposium, University of Oxford, UK, October, 2007

"Can You Dig It?: The Disclosure of Being in Jack Kerouac's Conception of Digging," American Literature Association Conference, Boston, May 2007

"Finding a Language for Dreams: Kerouac and Freud at Mid-Century," Cultural Representations of Psychiatry and Mental Illness, Swietokrzyska Academy, Poland, May 2007

"Bridging the Gap Between Self and Other: Empathy, Representation, and the Drug State," Drugs in the Americas: Societies, Cultures, Politics, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, July 2006

"Apocalyptic Orgasms: The Paradox of Beat Sexual Liberation," European Association of American Studies Conference, "Conformism, Non-Conformism, and Anti-Conformism in the Culture of the United States," Nicosia, Cyprus, April 2006

"Creeley, Kerouac, and the Multiple Authorship of Dreams," "Authorship and the Turn to Language" Conference, University of Tübingen, Germany, December 2005

"What Can and Cannot Be Said About the Vietnam and Iraqi Wars," Vietnam Lecture Series, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, November 2005

"'Miserable Picnic, Police State, Garden of Eden?' The Chicago Democratic Convention and the Politics of OM," Southwest Texas Popular Culture Association, San Antonio, Texas, April 2004 (Panel Chair)

"Beat Photography: The Problems of Capturing the Moment," Southwest Texas Popular Culture Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, February, 2003

"Using the Photograph as a Guide to Discussion in Blackboard's 'Virtual Classroom'," Enhancing Teaching through Technology Conference, Wayne State University, February, 2003

"Heaven in a Cornice: Making Use of the Visionary Moment," Third Annual New Voices Conference, Georgia State University, September, 2002

"Kerouac's 'Real Intellectuals': Making a Place for Existentialism in the Beat Canon," Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, University of Louisville, February, 2002

"Janine Pommy Vega and the Limits of Space and Time," Beat Attitudes Conference, University of Massachusetts Lowell, October, 2001

"Writing Time and Closing Gaps: Intersubjectivity and the New American Poetry," Time, Memory, Text Conference, Binghamton University, March, 2001 (Panel Chair)

"Road, Railroad Track, and Rucksack: Mobile Tensions in the Work of Jack Kerouac," Southwest Texas Popular Culture Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 2001 (Panel Chair)

"High Times: Writing Through the Drugged Body in the Work of Jack Kerouac," Figuring the Body Conference, University of Southern California, March 2000

"Go Dean Go!: The Liberating Temporality of *On The Road*'s Dean Moriarty," Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, University of Louisville, February, 2000

"Xmas Junkies: Debasement and Redemption in the Work of William S. Burroughs and David Foster Wallace," English Graduate Student Conference, University of Missouri-Columbia, February, 1998

"All the World's a Stage: Metadrama and its Implications for Women in *Taming of the Shrew*," Collaboration Between the Disciplines, University of Missouri-Columbia, February, 1997

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey, Fall 2006-present:

- "The American Uncanny: Poe and Lynch," Fall 2015
- "Introduction to American Literature," Spring 2009-2015

- "Literature and the Social World: Representing Istanbul and Chicago," Spring 2014-2015
- "Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States," Fall 2013
- "Honors Thesis Seminar," Fall 2013
- "The 'Underground' in Literature, Film, Comics, and Music ," Fall 2012
- "Visual Texts and the Avant-Garde," Spring 2012
- "Twentieth-Century American Drama," Fall 2011
- "American Culture and the Cold War," Fall 2010
- "Introduction to Literary Theory and Methodology," Spring 2008-2011
- "Humanities II: 500 A.D. to 1700 A.D.," Spring 2013
- "Humanities III: 1700 A.D. to Present—The Gothic," Fall 2010, 2012 and 2015
- "Introduction to Literary Theory," Fall 2009
- "Humanities I: To 500 A.D.," Fall 2008-2009
- "Film Noir," Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008
- "Exemplarity and the Search for Wisdom in World Literature," Spring and Fall 2007
- "Turning Night into Day: The Use of Dreams in World Literature," Fall 2006
- "Capturing Reality: The Desire for 'Truth' in Film, Photo, and Fiction," Fall 2006

Fulbright Junior Lecturer, Institute for English and American Studies, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, Fall 2005-Summer 2006:

- Graduate Seminar, "The Space Between: A Dialogue Between the 19th and 20th Centuries," Summer 2006
- Undergraduate Seminar, "What is a Poem?: The Assumptions Behind 20th Century American Poetry," Summer 2006
- Graduate Seminar, "The Beats and the Shift from the Modern to the Postmodern," Fall 2005
- Undergraduate Seminar, "Transcendent Experience in American Literature," Fall 2005

Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow, Honors Program, Wayne State, Fall 2004-Winter 2005:

- Honors Composition, "Engaging the City: Service Learning in Detroit," Winter 2005
- Honors Composition, "Detroit Revisited: De-Familiarizing the American City," Fall 2004

Visiting Lecturer, Oakland University, Fall 2003-Summer 2004:

- American Literature Survey, "The Real and the False—Uncovering the 'Authentic' American Self," Fall 2003, Winter 2004, and Summer 2004
- Masterpieces of World Literature, "What the Classics Tell Us About Today," Fall 2003-2004

Adjunct Teaching, Wayne State and Lawrence Technological Universities, 2002-2005:

- American Literature Survey, "Getting Beside Ourselves: The Literature of Transcendent Experience," Summer 2005
- American Studies, "Dissent!" Fall 2002

- Introduction to College Writing (Computer-based), "Rhetorics Past and Present: Using the Ancient to Think About the (Post) Modern," Fall 2002
- World Masterpieces I (Lawrence Tech), Fall 2002

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Wayne State University, 1998-2002:

- African-American Literature, "The Changing Same," Winter 2002 and Fall 2001
- Intermediate Writing, "Science Fiction and Society," Fall 2001
- Basic Writing, Project 350: Head-Start Program for Urban Students, Summer 2001 and 2002
- Fiction: Literature and Writing, "Questions of Identity," Winter 2000
- Introduction to College Writing (two sections), Fall 1999

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1995-1998:

- Composition, Winter 1998, Fall 1996, Winter 1997 and Winter 1998
- Major Authors: Shakespeare, "Shakespeare and Film," (team-taught), Fall 1997
- Composition (Honors section), "Defining the Beat Generation," Fall 1997
- Writing Lab Tutor, Winter 1996 and Fall 1995

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

Co-founder of and Curriculum Developer for Koç University's English and Comparative Literature Department (2006-present)
Director of "Teachers' Roundtable" Series (2008-present)
Director of Undergraduate Conference (2009-present)
Recruitment Committee (2007-present)
Reader for Cambridge University Press, *PMLA* and *Turkish Studies*
Society for Cinema and Media Studies member (2013-present)
Committee to Create Media Studies Major (2009-2010)
Modern Language Association member (2000-present)
Beat Studies Association member (2006-present)
European Beat Studies Association Advisory Board member (2010-present)
American Studies Association of Turkey member (2007-present)
Member of Deleuze and Guattari Humanities Center workgroup (2002-2005)
Director of Graduate Student Colloquium Series (2000-2002)
Graduate Committee (2000-2001)
Policy Committee (1999-2000)
English Graduate Student Association member (1995-1998)

LANGUAGES:

Turkish
German

RELATED EXPERIENCE:

Abstractor for Russian history journals, ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, CA
Abstractor for Russian sociology journals, Sociological Abstracts, San Diego, CA
Database Editor, Information Access Company, Redwood City, CA