

Nihat Argun Cakir

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Education

present **PhD in Kurdish Studies**, Centre for Kurdish Studies, University of Exeter. Supervisors: Christine Allison and Tia DeNora. Tentative PhD dissertation title: "Between social exclusion and high artistic esteem: The transformation of the social meanings of Dom performers and their performances in the Tor area".

2011 **Master of Arts in Kurdish Studies**, Centre for Kurdish Studies, University of Exeter. (with distinction). MA Dissertation: "The Representation of the *Dengbêj* Tradition in Kurdish Contemporary Popular Discourse." Advisor: Christine Allison; Markers: Clémence Scalbert-Yücel and Yiannis Kanakis.

2010 **Master of Arts in Ethnomusicology**, MIAM (Centre for Advanced Studies in Music), Istanbul Technical University. (GPA: 3.88 over 4.00; 97%). MA Dissertation: "An Investigation of the Singing Style of the Kurdish *Dengbêj* Reso." Advisor: Robert Reigle.

2006 **Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronics Engineering**, Istanbul University.

Research Experience

- Fieldwork in Istanbul. 2009-2010
- Fieldwork in Diyarbakir, southeastern Turkey. June-July 2011
- Planned fieldwork in Tor (Tur Abdin), southeastern Turkey. Apr-Oct 2013; Apr-Oct 2014

Conference Presentations

- "The transmission of conflict: The Kurdish *dengbêj* tradition." 6-7 May 2011
Paper given at the INTERCONNECTIONS, The Science, Art and Practice of Music, Postgraduate Conference, Bangor University.
- "The transmission of conflict: The Kurdish *dengbêj* tradition." 9-10 May 2011
Paper given at the Symposium on Music – Conflict – Transformation, University of Exeter.
- "Between Social Exclusion and High Artistic Esteem: Dom musicians and their patrons in the Tur Abdin area in southeastern Turkey." Paper to be given at the Fifth Doctoral Workshop in Ethnomusicology. Hildesheim, University of Hildesheim. 26-29 June 2013

Publications

- Review of Lokman Turgut's *Mündliche Literature der Kurden in den Regionen Botan und Hekarî* (2010, Logos Verlag) in *Fabula*, vol.53(3/4), pp.343-346, 2012.
- Review of Khanna Omerkhali's *Kurdish Reader: Modern Literature*

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and *Oral Texts in Kurmanji* (2011, Harrasowitz) in *Iranian Studies*, vol.46(1), pp.145-148, 2013.

- Review of Özgür Akgül's *Romanistanbul: Şehir Müzik ve Bir Dönüşüm Öyküsü* (2009, Punto) for the Romani Studies journal. In progress.

Languages

- **Turkish:** Native
- **English:** Near native (TOEFL IBT score 113 out of 120)
- **Kurmanji (northern Kurdish):** Good spoken and written skills
- **German:** Good written skills

Work Experience

• Electric guitar instructor in Zuhal Music, Istanbul.	May 2003 - May 2004
• Tutor in Western tonal harmony. Istanbul.	May 2008 - Aug 2010
• Bartender at Joker Bar, Istanbul.	June 2008 - June 2009
• Free lance translator/interpreter between Turkish & English	2009 - present
• Bartender at the John Baird, Muswell Hill, London.	Dec 2011 - June 2012
• Copyist for the composer Michael Ellison (University of Bristol) on his opera "Say I am You - Mevlana."	Mar - May 2012

Selected Translation/Interpretation Experience

• Turkish-English interpreter for the British music band The Quails and the Pangea TV film crew. First Lake Van International Youth and Cultural Festival (Festivan). Van, Turkey.	25-29 June 2009
• Turkish to English translation of the Quality Manual of the ESITAS GROUP COMPANIES for use in their international branch PT. ESITAS PACIFIC.	Feb - Mar 2009
• Turkish-English interpreter for Dr. Şükrü Aslan in the seminar "Academic Research and Turkey: The Case of Dersim as a Taboo Subject for Academic Research". SOAS, London.	21 Nov 2011
• Turkish-English interpreter for İbrahim Can in the seminar "Ahmet Yıldız is My Family: The Struggle for LGBT Freedom in Turkey". SOAS, London.	9 Dec 2011
• Turkish-English interpreter for Altan Tan, the Diyarbakır MP of the BDP (Peace and Democracy Party), in the seminar "Turkey's New Constitution Drafting Process and Human Rights". SOAS,	15 Dec 2011

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London.

- Turkish to English translation of legal/court documents for an individual client. Apr - May 2012
- Translation and proofreading of the contents of Turkish language websites and related documents for MVF Global. Aug 2012 - present
- Translation and proofreading of Turkish, Kurmanji-Kurdish, and English fund-raising campaign texts for the documentary *This Was Hasankeyf*. Sep 2012 - present

Compositions

- String Quartet No.1 2007
- Confluence. For Bb and bass clarinet. 2007-2008
- Confluence. Rearranged for solo Bb clarinet. Premiere by Richard Faria. MIAM, Istanbul. 2008

Additional Musical Experience

- Guitar player, co-composer and co-arranger in the indie-pop music band “Before the Heyday”. 2008-2009
- Guitar player, co-composer and co-arranger in the indie-pop music band “Up Up & Away”. 2009-2010
- Guitar player and arranger for the North-London based singer-songwriter Frances Browning. Feb 2012-present

Software Literacy

- Windows, all versions.
- Mac OS X, 10.5 and over.
- Microsoft Office Word, all versions.
- *Live Ableton*. Music production software. Versions 7 & 8.
- *Sibelius*. Music notation software. All versions.
- *Finale*. Music notation software.