• Paper / Proposal Title:

“Mediterranean Statue” as a Means to Reproduce Heritage on Istiklal Street, Istanbul

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:

  i. present in person (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):

This study aims at questioning the role of a relocated artwork, Mediterranean Statue that recently reappeared to public from inside of a building on Istiklal Street (Istanbul), in reproducing the intangible heritage of promenading by setting a new landmark both physically and on social media via hashtags.

Istiklal Street has always been a significant promenade for locals and tourists for commercial purposes, and cultural and leisure activities. Especially together with Taksim Square that marks the beginning point of this promenade, Istiklal Street has always been the most popular location by hosting over three million visitors per day. However, especially after Gezi Park protests in June 2013, both Taksim Square and Istiklal Street has undergone major physical and social changes. Promenading on Istiklal Street has
lost its popularity during these changes, either because of never-ending constructions, or because of losing remarkable attraction points.

Having completed renovation, Yapı Kredi reopened its culture and arts center on İstiklal Street in September 2017. Besides opening one of its facades to Galatasaray Square, a major checkpoint on İstiklal Street, the renovation project included exhibiting a very famous artwork, Mediterranean Statue by İlhan Koman, at a visible height behind glazed curtain walls. Since reopening, both the renovated building and the statue have received a significant attention on printed and social media. It seems like promenading on İstiklal Street is remembered, and has been reclaimed as an intangible heritage by visitors of the street. They have found a new reason to promenade, a new landmark in the area, a public artwork that adds to the social quality of urban space by enhancing place attachment, and a new hashtag to mark their daily civic activities.

It is “the Mediterranean Statue” that reproduced our vision of İstiklal Street as a tangible heritage, and #MediterraneanStatue that recreated intangible heritage of promenading.

- Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

**Nevset Gül Canakcioğlu**

Dr. Nevset Gül Canakcioglu, obtained her B.Arch. degree in 2002 and M. Arch. degree in 2011 from Istanbul Technical University (ITU) with the dissertation titled “Analysis of Perceptual Processes of Children Living in Different Settled Social Groups in Istanbul by the Method of Cognitive Maps” and her Ph.D. degree in 2016, from ITU with the dissertation titled “Analysis of Perceptual Processes of Individuals Using Pediatric Healthcare Spaces by the Method of Cognition and Space Syntax”. Worked in architecture offices and construction companies as technic office architect and project coordinator, participated in architectural project competitions both individually and with different teams. She has studies published nationally and internationally. Her research area is focused on pediatric healthcare environments, spatial perception in children, cognition, behaviour maps, cognitive maps and space syntax. She has been teaching at Ozyegin University since 2016 as an academic member.

**Mehmet Saner**

Dr. Mehmet Saner obtained his B.Arch. and M. Arch from Middle East Technical University (METU), Department of Architecture in 2001 and 2004 respectively, and Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from METU in 2014 with the dissertation titled “A Philosophy of Void: Ankara Hippodrome and After”. He visited TU Dortmund and carried on his researches for two years on a grant from DAAD during his doctoral studies. Along with his expertise on urban voids, he is interested in conservation and re-use of old industrial buildings and areas in urban and regional scales. He has been a member of Faculty of Architecture and Design at Özyeğin University since 2016.
Tayfun Gurkas