TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S) – DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Sound Journey between Asia and Europe: Comparing İstanbul’s Old and New Ferries

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with/without a written paper)
  ii. present via pre-recorded film (with/without a written paper)

• Abstract:
İstanbul is a city divided by the bosporus. Its ferries being used for public transportation are like moving islands carrying passengers from one side to another. These habitats give a chance to city dwellers, local and foreign tourists to experience the city not only being in the massive crowd but also being in a micro version of it. Listening to these moving public spaces in daily routine gives a chance to analyse the rhythms of daily life.
In this work, one of the main line which gives transportation service between Karaköy Pier (Europe) and Kadıköy Pier (Anatolia) will be the case. Ferries of this route, these temporary sharing spaces¹ transport populations which are quite different from each other.

¹ The writer chooses these spaces as a daily passenger of the route.
other in cultural and economic base. During the day and night (from 6.10 am to 01.10 am); the sound of seagulls, voices of rushing people, machine noises, wave sounds, tea services are ordinary sonic events while street musicians, hawkers, fans, night drinkers at the back are typical marginals in soundscapes of these ferries.

As cultural heritages, the old style ferries which are made between 1950’s and 1980’s are the iconic symbols of the Istanbul’s city image and they still give service today. On the other hand, changing political and economical scenes effect the daily practices of the city. In 2015 the municipality of Istanbul started to use the newest ‘modern’ design ferries on public transportation without asking for public opinion. Changing the style of ferries caused the breaking of many routines as passenger behaviour and as experience of space in the daily travel between two continents. If we consider sound as surrounding element of the space, does listening enable us to understand transformation of the public space and inevitably the culture? How does conscious or unconscious manipulation of space affect acoustic community and its daily life?

This work aims to criticize the soundscapes of these two types of ferries. Gathering data from field recordings of the ferries and comparing the spatial differentiation. In this micro scale analysis socio political and spatial conditions of these soundscapes will give a chance to understand acoustic politic of the space and changing the rhythm of daily life for city dwellers.

• Author Biography:

Sena Karahan (BA Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, MA student in Cultural Studies Istanbul Bilgi University) is an architect who writes her thesis while focusing on terms like acoustic politics of space, urban soundscapes, rhythms of daily life, etc... During her travel from Argentina to Colombia (more than a year), she was amazed by the affection between sound and space. This motivation re-create her path in academic and professional career. As a freelance architect, she works on acoustic design projects.