

research newsletter



**Eastern
Mediterranean
University**

"For Your International Career"



3rd International ELT Conference
Salamis Bay Conti Hotel
May 5-7, 2010

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Faculty of Education/ ELT Department
Famagusta, North Cyprus

Editor's Message

Editor-in-Chief:

Nilgün Hancıoğlu

Associate Editors:

Jim Kusch

Ulrike Lerner

Editorial Assistant:

Olusegun A. Olugbade

Research Newsletter Secretariat:

Office of the Research Advisory Board

Eastern Mediterranean University

Famagusta, North Cyprus

Phone: +90 392 630 1157

Fax: +90 392 630 3039

e-mail: research.newsletter@emu.edu.tr

Research Advisory Board:

Elvan Yılmaz (Chair)

Ali Hakan Ulusoy

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Şebnem Önal Hoşkara

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the second issue of 2010. The Editorial Team has worked hard all through this summer period as well to bring you all the research news and special features in this latest issue. Special thanks go to Olusegun A. Olugbade for his dedication and hard work.

In this issue, you will find news on a variety of research activities in which EMU academic staff and students have been involved in April, May, and June 2010, as well as their publications and conference presentations in the same period. This issue also presents the post-graduate degrees obtained in the Spring Term.

For this issue, we interviewed Hatice Jenkins and her supervisee, Hassan Dankaka, from the Department of Banking and Finance. They shared with us their views on research, and collaboration in research, and gave information on their current research activities as well as their future plans.

In our Research Spotlight section, Mürüde Çelikağ and Mehmet Özbilen report their research on a serious issue in the construction industry in North Cyprus: Health and Safety. The Student Research section presents two emerging researchers from the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies. Burcu and Riza, both of whom are pursuing their Master's degrees, have conducted research into the social and cultural reality of driving behavior, and they present their findings especially focusing on the parking habits of people living in Famagusta.

This issue also includes a special feature. At the ELT Conference organized by the ELT Department of EMU, we found the opportunity to interview three distinguished scholars, Leo Van Lier, Tom Cobb, and Angi Malderez, and got their views on the do's and don't's in research.

Our website, through which we will be able to reach you more easily, and get your feedback and comments, is about to be completed. We will let you know through e-mail when it is published online.

We hope you find this issue stimulating. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors, and would like to remind you that the *EMU Research Newsletter* relies on your invaluable contributions to further improve and develop.

Wishing you a pleasant summer holiday,

Nilgün Hancıoğlu
Editor-in-Chief

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Research @ EMU

■ 3rd International ELT conference held at EMU

The 3rd International ELT conference 'Telling ELT tales out of school' was held from Wednesday 5th May to Friday 7th May at Salmis Conti Hotel. The conference was organized by the ELT Department of the Education Faculty. The organizing committee including Prof. Dr. Ülker Vancı Osam, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gülşen



Musayeva Vefalı, Asst. Prof. Dr. Elmaziye Özgür Küfi and Senior Instructor Erkan Arkin worked hard for 15 months to bring together language teaching scholars and practitioners from all over the world to this professional event. The conference sub-themes were maximizing learning, empowering teaching, exploiting resources and fostering cultural awareness. The conference delegates shared tales about their teaching, their learners' learning, and discussed, reflected on and benefitted from various ideas, experiences, practices and innovations in their educational contexts. The 3 day conference offered 150 sessions comprising plenaries, talks, workshops and poster presentations, and gave the delegates from 36 countries opportunities to meet leading theorists and experts from various areas of ELT as well as to view the latest published ELT materials and instructional resources at stands set by the British Council, Oxford University Press and Fulbright. The plenary speakers presented on a range of current issues in English language education:

- Leo van Lier on 'The Ecology of Language Learning: Practice to Theory-Theory to Practice';
- Angi Malderez on 'Stories in ELT';
- Tom Cobb on 'Instructional Use of Linguistic and Cognitive Technologies';
- Marlise Horst and Laura Collins on 'Words Used and Words Taught – A Corpus Study of Vocabulary in the ESL Classroom';
- Mark Hancock on 'Motivation: The Inside Story';

- Scott Thornbury on 'A Tale My Grandfather Taught Me About Becoming A Teacher';
- Sylvie Huneault-Schultze on 'Peer Review: Maximizing Students' Potential Writing Communities'.

The Organizing Committee would like to thank the British Council, Oxford University Press, Deniz Plaza, Fulbright Commission and Longman for their valuable contributions to the event, which proved to be a valuable forum for delegates-ELT scholars and practitioners from all over the world.

News submitted by: The 3rd International ELT conference Organizing Committee

■ EMU paper awarded € 500 and honorary mention in Architectural Essay Competition organized by The European Association of Architectural Educators (EAAE)

Assist. Prof. Dr. Isaac Lerner's paper has been awarded € 500 and honorary mention for its very exciting and valuable contribution to the Architectural Essay Competition, 2009-2010. The EAAE 2009-2010 prize, announced on June 2, 2010, seeks to stimulate original writing on architectural education in order to improve the quality of architectural teaching in Europe.

News submitted by: Isaac Lerner

■ Automation Research Group formed at EMU

Automation Research Group (ARG) of Eastern Mediterranean University, which brings together several PhD and MSc students from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been established (<http://automation.emu.edu.tr>). Supervised by Prof. Dr. Majid Hashemipour, the main focus of the ARG is industrial automation and control systems, and the primary aim



is to encourage collaboration between these two Engineering fields and initiate multidisciplinary projects. Mechatronic Engineering is recognized widely as a major field of study throughout the world these days, and therefore we intend to develop this field of study in our university. ARG is sponsored by Teknopark in the TRNC and Tehran Raymand Co. in Iran. Currently, there are two labora-

tories which are equipped with mechatronic and automation devices. The research topics of ARG are as follows:

- **Multi-agent and Holonic Manufacturing:** Multi-agent System (MAS) idea has been widely utilized in many applications. It is very popular in Distributed Control Systems (DCS) especially in industrial automation. DCS model is a replacement of conventional centralized systems. Therefore instead of utilizing a central control unit, the system will be modeled using agents or holons. The agents have the authority to be autonomous, cooperative and self organizing.
- **Distributed Control Systems based on IEC 61499 Function Blocks:** IEC 61499 Function Blocks (FB) is a new standard that has been proposed by International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in order to model the distributed systems. According to the IEC proposal, function blocks are suitable for industrial processes and measurements.
- **Collaborative Wireless Sensor Networks:** The Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) is a technology which is newly adopted in a wide range of applications such as intelligent buildings, environmental monitoring, military, security systems and industrial automation. The network is comprised of many nodes which are developed at low cost, low power and are multifunctional. Each node platform consists of several sensors, a microcontroller (MCU), Analog to Digital Converter (ADC) and a transceiver for communication. A node is able to interact with the other nodes in order to identify its neighborhood and establish negotiation among them. The ability to communicate and negotiate makes the nodes intelligent and collaborative.



- **Automated guided vehicle (AGV) and Industrial Robots:** AGVs have been utilized widely in the area of manufacturing to carry materials to machines or storages. They are fully autonomous and have the ability to collaborate with other automation devices.

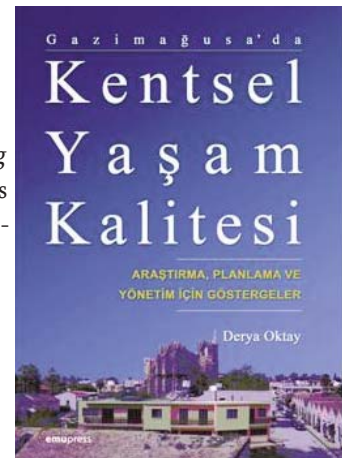
News submitted by: Reza Abrishambaf

■ New release from EMU Press: Gazimağusa'da Kentsel Yaşam Kalitesi: Araştırma, Planlama ve Yönetim İçin Göstergeler (Quality of Urban Life in Famagusta: Implications for Research, Planning and Politics)

Gazimağusa'da Kentsel Yaşam Kalitesi: Araştırma, Planlama ve Yönetim İçin Göstergeler (Quality of Urban Life in Famagusta: Implications for Research, Planning and Politics) represents the findings of a multi-method research combining Professor Oktay's own evaluations and assessments in the city of Gazimağusa with the findings of a comprehensive survey (questionnaires) to tap the thoughts, actions and expectations of local residents and Eastern Mediterranean

University's student body. The book offers researchers, local administrations and government officials including planners in this historic and sprawling city a clear snapshot of urban life in the early part of the 21st century. It is believed that such information can guide them in future research and planning efforts and can be used as a benchmark for assessing changes in the quality of people's lives. The book is expected to serve as a model of what needs to be done in other cities in Cyprus as well, and to contribute to the promotion of urban citizenship, an important factor that may influence the urban environment indirectly. The issues covered in the book are residential history, public services and transportation, schools, parks, recreation and where children play, shopping, participation and involvement, neighbourhood and neighbouring, housing and residential mobility, safety, employment and home-workspace/school relations, health and health care facilities, environment, city and university relationship, other domain satisfactions, and other urban and regional issues.

News submitted by: Derya Oktay



Health and Safety Matters in the Construction Industry in North Cyprus

By Mürüde Çelikağ and
Department of Civil Engineering
Faculty of Engineering

Mehmet Özbilen
Inspector at the European Union project
Northern Cyprus



Mürüde Çelikağ (left) and Mehmet Özbilen (right)

Introduction

Construction is inherently a dangerous process. Historically, the construction industry has had one of the highest accident rates among all industries. The safety of all personnel working on building and civil engineering construction sites is a major responsibility of those involved, whether they are managers or operatives. Safety on site is the responsibility of the Promoter, the Engineer, the Contractor and all the other employers and employees. Representatives of all parties involved should meet regularly to consider the safety aspects in close cooperation (Davies and Tomasin, 1990).

Most of the accidents could be prevented. Forethought and planning are essential at the start of any project to identify the hazards and minimize their dangers. The following construction operations appear to account for

the majority of serious construction injuries (Nunnally, 2001).

- Reinforced concrete building construction; construction of formwork, placing concrete into formwork, and failure of formwork during construction.
- The erection of prefabricated trusses, pre-cast concrete elements, and structural steel.
- The construction and operation of temporary facilities including scaffolding, construction plants, lifts, and storage facilities.
- Working at elevated positions that may result in falls.
- Construction equipment operations.

In the United States, concern over the frequency and extent of industrial accidents and health hazards led to the introduction of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1970, which established specific safety and health

requirements for virtually all industries, including construction. The OSHA is responsible for developing and enforcing regulations implementing these acts. The OSHA has produced a comprehensive set of health and safety regulations and inspection procedures (Nunnally, 2001). In the United Kingdom, Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) was introduced in 1974. In addition, numerous acts of Parliament and regulations may be applied to the construction industry. It is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to enforce them (*Civil Engineering Procedure*, 1986).

Labour Department in North Cyprus has a Work Act and a regulation on Health and Safety of Workers at Construction Sites. This regulation is in the process of being harmonized with European Standards and then it is the Labour Department's responsibility to enforce the regulations by regularly checking the construction sites. Unfortunately, in practice, not enough importance is given to health and safety matters. Therefore, the existing regulations are not effectively enforced in the construction industry and this may lead to unsafe construction methods and procedures to be used at construction sites.

Currently the draft proposal of Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, which has recently been harmonized with the European Union standards, is submitted to one of the committees of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Parliament

for further discussions. Unfortunately, this regulation is subjected to heavy criticism by the workers and employers unions and other parties involved. Draft proposal does not appear to be realistic about the work conditions and economic environment in TRNC. Furthermore, parts of the regulation do not have enough details about workplaces and their responsibilities. Since the regulation does not have clear definitions then it could lead to many unnecessary disputes during application and as a result it could be unfair to both employers and the employees. So, the draft proposal requires wider discussion and clarification among the parties involved and it should be amended to remove the concerns and include the suggestions of the parties involved. Otherwise, as it is, this regulation may not work effectively and could encourage both employers and employees to find ways to get around it.

Project Flow Process in North Cyprus

Project approval, pre-bidding and construction process are the main components of the project flow (Celikag, M, Ozbilin, M., 2007). Physical and site planning are absolutely necessary to carry out construction work within the stated time and budget. In addition, contracts and site investigations play an important role for the correct design and construction of projects. When site supervision is added to the above mentioned activities then the client can get a finished project that is right for the purpose and within the specified quality and budget (Özbilen, 2004).

However, site supervision in North Cyprus is either not present at all or not effectively present on site. Often workers are given the day's duty and left by themselves to carry out the work. Sometimes a more senior worker, who may not be familiar with safety issues, is left in charge of the works. These applications are not adequate to achieve the required health and safety standards at work. For small projects, a qualified

supervisor and for large projects a health and safety officer is required on site. This should be built into the system as a requirement so that the client and the contractor are forced to comply.

Therefore, the authors propose that, at an appropriate stage in the project flow process, a section should be introduced to question the safety aspect of each project. Furthermore, in addition to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, there is a need to establish some kind of Construction Regulations, similar to the one in the United Kingdom (Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM 2007)), where not only the contractors but engineers and architects can be responsible for the safety of their design. This would help the safety inspectors to do a more efficient follow up on projects. CDM-2007, aims to improve the health and safety in industry, helps effective planning and management of risks on site by putting the right people for the right job at the right time.



Figure 1: Unsafe scaffolding was used for external plastering and painting.



Figure 3: Unsafe scaffolding

Survey of Construction Sites

Highlighting inadequacies of health and safety matters in North Cyprus and identifying areas that require urgent attention are the aims of this paper. Over one hundred construction sites were visited to collect comprehensive data about the types of mistakes made on construction sites, including those relating to the health and safety of workers.

Main Observations from Construction Sites

Unsafe scaffolding system is one of the most common problems in construction sites in North Cyprus, (Figures 1 to 4). Besides, even the basic first aid bag is generally missing from most of the construction sites. There are not enough inspectors to do regular checks and enforce the existing regulations at sites. The main causes of accidents on site can be listed as follows: falling down from high places or scaffolding, being squeezed by equipment and being hit by falling material (Özbilen, 2004).

Health and Safety

According to the census in April



Figure 2: Unsafe scaffolding was used for external plastering and painting



Figure 4: Worker without protective hat

2006, the population of North Cyprus was 256,644. Within the last few years there has been a boom in the construction industry leading to increase in property prices, considerable loss of quality due to increased number of unqualified labour and rush to finish more structures (Özbilen, 2004).

Increase in the demand for construction materials caused difficulties in supply. Producers try to meet the demand by supplying sub-standard materials, such as, supply of sand and aggregate that is not well graded. The increase in the number of unqualified and cheap labour also affected the already poor health and safety on site. Cheap labour means that the workers will not demand to be insured and have a safe working environment. Some contractors are not concerned about quality and safety at work and would be in favour of such employment since it will help them to increase their short term profits.

However, the recent political stand of North Cyprus requires, more than ever, hard work to meet the basic standards required by the European Union. Therefore, the matter of health and safety should be taken seriously by not only the construction industry but also by the general industry, small and medium enterprises, government offices, simply by everybody. Acts and regulations similar to those of the European Union should be introduced in the construction industry and enforced by an establishment similar to that of the UK (HSE). This will improve and help to achieve the long sought health and safety in North Cyprus.

Approach to Health and Safety Matters in North Cyprus

Labour Department collects information about industrial accidents from various construction companies in North Cyprus. This information is presented on a monthly basis as a report. However, these reports do not include

the full details about accidents. For example, the precise height of fall is often not given in the report and also the locations of accidents are often not reported. There have been a very high number of unregistered foreign labourers in North Cyprus. These were uninsured workers and therefore the Labour Department was not able to keep a record of the accidents they were involved and these accidents were also not included in the statistical data prepared.

However, it must be noted that during the year 2005 government took serious action against unregistered foreign workers and managed to register nearly 45,000 of them. Hence, the number of unregistered workers decreased dramatically. Figure 5 shows the distribution of the number of registered construction workers and the number of buildings constructed between the years 1985-2005 (Statistical Yearbook 2006, Economic and Social Indicators 2006).

The number of registered construction workers increased from over 4,454 to 21,160, from 7.2 percent to 19.4 percent, respectively, of the total work force within 20 years. When the statistics for the year 2006-08 becomes available the total number of construction workers is expected to be nearly 50 percent above the numbers given in 2005. This is due to the addition of the workers registered in 2005.

Over the twenty years the average number of workers per building is calculated as 18. However, the minimum number was 13 and the maximum 24 (Figure 6). The construction workers per building peaked to 24 in 2002, however, this dramatically decreased to the lowest level of 13 in 2005 when the number of buildings constructed reached a record high of 1597.

Industrial Accidents between 2000-08 in North Cyprus

The major environmental hazards

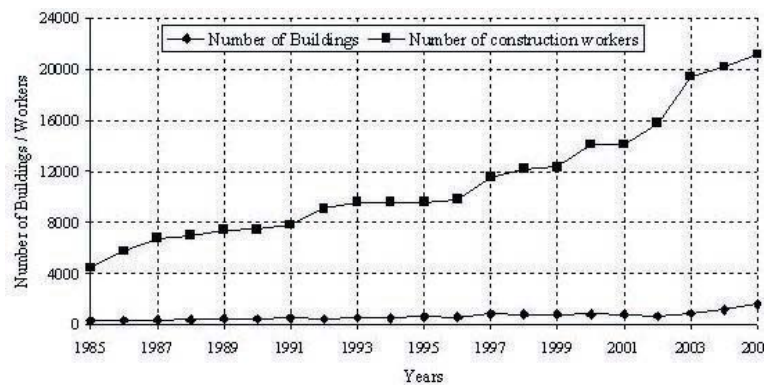


Figure 5: Number of buildings and construction workers between the years 1985 and 2005 (Statistical Yearbook 2006)

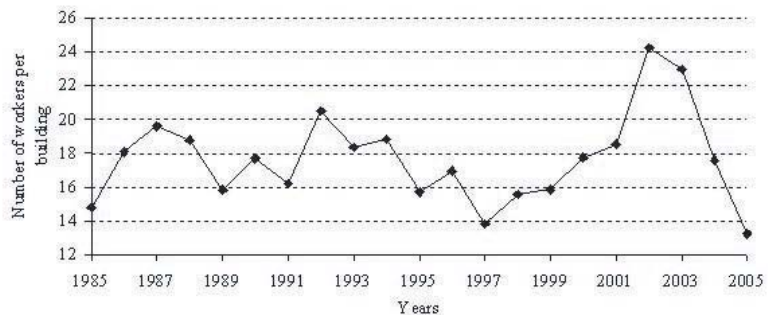


Figure 6: Average number of construction workers per building between the years 1985 and 2005

likely to be encountered by construction workers consist of noise, dust, radiation, toxic materials and extreme temperatures. Dust, radiation and toxic materials may have carcinogen effect on body. Inadequate insulation of con-

struction can cause dampness in the building. Dampness can also play an important role in peoples' health. Table 1 contains data on industrial accidents between the years 2000 and 2008 (Aylık Faaliyet Raporları, 2000-08).

These data were gathered by the Labour Department.

Falling down from scaffold or a high place appears to be one of the main reasons for fatalities. The second main cause of fatalities in recent years is being sub-

Table 1. Construction Industry related accidents between the years 2000-2008 (Aylık Faaliyet Raporları)

Year	Cause of Accident	Equipment Involved	No. of Injury	No. of Fatality	Loss of Working Days
2000	Fall down from high place	Ladder, Water Tank, Scaffold, Wall	5	-	300
	Hit by falling down material	Dozer	2	-	187
	Touching hot tar	-	1	-	45
2001	Squeezing	Electrical railway car	-	1	-
	Fall down from high place	Ladder, Scaffold, Lift	1	4	90
	Earth moving	-	-	1	-
	Collapse of wall	-	-	1	-
	Squeezing	Truck	1	-	105
	Exposure to high level of heat	Truck	1	-	19
	Hit by thrown material	Concrete mixer, Excavator	2	-	110
	Touch to hot matter	Asphalt	1	-	30
	Hit by falling down material	Metal lid, pipe, wooden wedge	3	-	246
	2002	Hit by falling down material	Stone, Crane	3	1
Fall down from high place		Truck, Loader Machine	2	-	15
Exposure to high level of heat		-	4	-	60
Construction Material		-	1	-	15
Fall down to the well		-	1	-	120
2003	Fall down from high place	Ladder	2	-	56
	Hit by falling down material	Excavator, Lift, wooden wedge	4	-	85
	Exposure to high level of heat	-	1	-	50
2004	Fall down from high place	Scaffold, Ladder	2	1	85
	Hit by falling down material	Stone, mechanical machine	2	-	40
	Spend too much power	Excavator	1	-	60
2005	Fall down from high place	Scaffold, Lift	1	1	40
	Hit by falling down material	Steel Machine, wooden wedge	2	-	55
	Squeezing	Wooden wedge	1	-	50
2006	Fall down from high place	-	32	3	1608
	Spend too much power	Hand tools, transfer belt	3	-	81
	Hit by falling down material	Cement bag, plaster, stone, marble, tools	17	-	388
	Hit by moving object	Hand tools, nail, mixer, crane, car, steel	15	-	483
	Traffic accident	Lorry, car	7	-	219
	Squeezing	Digger, crane, mobile ramp/stair	7	-	152
	Touching sharp object	Ceramic cutting equipment	2	-	110
	Subject to electrical current	Hand tools, digger	2	2	52
2007	Fall down from high place	Scaffold, water tank, slippery surface	38	2	1490
	Fall down from high place	Collapse of slab	5	-	2
	Hit by moving object	Hummer, brick, stone, iron rod, hand tools	25	-	859
	Squeezing	Fork lift, hand tools, concrete mixer	10	1	341
	Subject to high heat	Thinner box, gas	2	-	36
	Traffic accident	-	4	1	160
	Subject to electrical current	Aluminium rod, HV Cable, crane, steel bar	-	4	-
2008(Jan-Feb)	Touching sharp object	Electrical hand saw, glass, nail	4	-	74
	Fall down from high place	Scaffold, stairs, lorry, car	9	-	431
	Traffic accident	-	2	-	150
	Squeezing	Steel bending machine	2	-	61
	Hit by moving object	Mixer, hummer	2	-	7
	Collapse of well	-	1	-	90

jected to electric current. Otherwise, hit by material, exposure to high level of heat are also causes of most of the injuries on sites. The number of fatalities has generally been low; none or one person per year except for the years 2001, 2006 and 2007, when there were six, five and eight fatalities respectively (Table 2). Number of injuries and loss of working days was also highest in 2006 and 2007.

It can be concluded that between the years 2001-05 there has been a gradual decrease in the number of injuries, fatalities and loss of working days at construction sites. Unfortunately, the years 2006-07 has seen a noticeable increase in the number of buildings constructed, injuries, fatalities and loss of working days. However, in the absence of the statistical figures relating to the number of buildings constructed in 2007 and number of registered workers in 2006-07, it is not possible to form a clear link among these factors. Therefore, the lack of awareness of the contractors, construction workers, and the lack of enforcement of the health and safety regulations on site by the regu-

latory bodies can directly be linked to the statistics given in Table 2.

Conclusions

- Boom in the construction industry increased the demand for construction workers. As a result this demand increased the number of unqualified and inexperienced labour which in turn affected the rate of injury and fatality.
- Health and Safety regulations should be built into the project flow process. Then enforcement of the regulations through regular checks by the authorities will become a must.
- Education and training of those involved in construction industry is an essential part of the proper establishment of the health and safety process.
- It is very important for workers to be insured against the possible dangers of the job they do. Increased awareness of workers and placement of rules to enforce health and safety at work act will force the employers to take the necessary safety precautions to protect its workers.
- Authorities should have tight con-

trol on the contractors to make sure that they are qualified and strictly following the health and safety requirements.

- Introduction of the Construction Design and Management regulations or equivalent is essential so that, in case of an accident, engineers and architects can be prosecuted for their careless design, as far as safety is concerned. This will minimize the mistakes made during design of the project in office. Such mistakes were observed to be causing considerable site accidents during the 1980's and 1990's in the developed countries. That is why the Construction Design and Management regulations were introduced in the United Kingdom in this period.
- Contractors should be asked to submit suitable work procedures for the various stages of construction before they carry out work on site to minimize the risk of accidents.

Table 2. Construction Industry related accidents between the years 2000-2008 (Aylık Faaliyet Raporları)

Year	No. of Injury	No. of Fatality	Loss of Working Days	No. of Dwellings/Shops		
				Urban Areas	Rural Areas	Total
2000	8	1	532	325	469	794
2001	9	6	600	468	293	761
2002	11	1	305	235	416	651
2003	7	0	191	312	534	846
2004	5	1	185	480	669	1149
2005	4	1	145	477	1120	1597
2006	85	5	3093	572	1537	2109
2007	88	8	2962	-	-	-

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About the Researchers

In 1989, Asst. Prof. Dr. *Celikag* completed her MPhil and PhD studies on “Steel beam to column semi-rigid connections” at the University of Sheffield-UK. She is also a Chartered Engineer-UK. Between the years 1990-2000, Dr. *Celikag* worked for internationally known British companies, JBEC Ltd in UK and Singapore and CORUS Plc in Dubai-UAE before joining EMU in 2000. Since then, Dr. *Mürüde Çelikağ* (BEng, MPhil, PhD, CEng, MICE, Eur Ing, FEANI, AM ASCE) has been teaching in the Civil Engineering Department and doing research into areas of Steel Structures, Building, Repair and Strengthening, Sustainability in Building Construction and Health and Safety at construction sites. Currently she is one of the two local experts running the European Commission funded “Making the Labour Market More Inclusive III” program project on “Health and Safety in Construction Site Management” where 35 Turkish Cypriot engineers are being trained to become Safety Officers. She is regularly involved in local consultation work through Building Sciences Research Centre, where she is one of the founding members. She is also the co-director of ROBUST Engineering and Consultancy at Teknopark. Dr. *Celikag* has supervised 1 PhD and 8 MS students and is currently supervising 4 PhD and 7 MS students. For more information about this research project, please contact our researcher at mürüde.çelikağ@emu.edu.tr

Mehmet Özbilen completed his MSc studies on “Inadequate applications of construction industry in North Cyprus and recommendations” and got his Master’s degree from Eastern Mediterranean University. He participated in several training workshops and seminars related to his field. Between the years 2001-2005, he worked as a site engineer at construction sites. Since 2001, he has designed more than 200 reinforced concrete buildings. *Mehmet Özbilen* is currently working as a civil engineering inspector at the European Union project ‘Supervision of Works Contracts on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in the Northern Part of Cyprus’.

The Three Plenary Speakers of the 3rd International ELT Conference talk about their Do's and Dont's in Research

By Nilgün Hancioğlu and Nibel Tektan
School of Foreign Languages



Nilgün Hancioğlu (left)
and Nibel Tektan(right)

At the 3rd International ELT conference 'Telling ELT tales out of school', which was held from Wednesday 5th May to Friday 7th May at Salmis Conti Hotel, and which was organized by the ELT Department of the Education Faculty, we interviewed three of the plenary speakers for the EMU Research Newsletter. They shared with us their do's and dont's in research.

Tom Cobb has designed, taught, and coordinated almost every type of ESL or EFL reading and writing course possible in a career spanning 20 years and five continents. He was early convinced that whatever the target language skill, there would never be enough time for language learners to get very far with it in a classroom, but that well instructed computers could radically increase the effectiveness of the time available. He now consults in language program development internationally, supplies learning and research tools to the profession through his website The Compleat Lexical Tutor (www.lextutor.ca), and helps young Montreal ESL teachers

get the most out of computers in their classrooms. Of course he has also supervised many research studies (available at www.lextutor.ca/cv) and has developed some guidelines for his students.

Things to NOT DO

- Don't have too many research questions. If you have too many, then you lose focus.
- In your literature review, don't be afraid to use a mix of old and new studies. Some of the old studies are the good ones. If there are no new ones, it's a problem; if there are no old ones, it's a problem. If there are no new ones, people will either think it is a dead subject or you didn't do the reading. If there are no old ones, again it's a problem. The classic studies should be there. There should be a good balance.

Things to DO

- Plan what form of analysis you're going to apply to your data before you collect the data. Don't collect the data and then say what can I do with the data? You may think "what more can I do with the data", but you've

got at least the main thing planned.

- Find a question that is cutting edge. You either need to find a question that is cutting edge or do a really clear replication. Replication is good, but some people do research that has been done already without being aware of it. Therefore you need to do research on a new cutting edge topic, or a topic that has already been done before and clearly needs replication. You obviously need to show that it needs replication.
- Plan your research, you have to do it as a thesis first, but always plan it as a paper. A thesis is a very useful document.... It's big, and detailed, but you should be planning ahead for a 20 page paper coming next. So as soon as your thesis is finished, or even before, get it into that format. So you are using your thesis as a preparation for the paper. You should always be thinking about the main stuff in the thesis that is going to go into the paper. It's the paper that's going to go out. The thesis will sit in the library and collect dust after all.
- Keep your statistics fairly simple. If you use a too complicated statistical model, the whole thing becomes statistics. The research has to be a story that you can tell to your grandmother. If you can't tell it to your grandmother, then it's too complicated.

- Have a database, and collect all your articles in a database. Do collect your papers in a database, and so that when you need them, you've got them. Otherwise, at the end you're looking for bits and pieces.
- When you're writing up your research, you need to give as many examples as possible. Students always want to make a point in an abstract way, because to them examples are in their head already, they know what they mean, but for the reader, examples, examples, examples. Everything needs to be concrete.
- The literature review has to be a story. It can't just be 'this study, this study, this study' It has to be coherent and every story needs to lead to the next story, and there should be a relationship between the stories, and building up to your point so that the story stretches from what your bigger question is to what your study is going to try to do in order to answer it. Most students just tend to pile the references, summary of study x, summary of study y. But where is this leading to?

Leo van Lier was born in The Netherlands and received his PhD in Linguistics from Lancaster University in the UK. He has studied and taught in several countries in Europe, Latin America and Asia, as well as in the USA. His most recent books are the ecology and semiotics of language learning (Springer, 2004) and Scaffolding the academic success of adolescent English language learners (WestEd, 2010). Leo van Lier is Professor in the Graduate School of Translation, Interpretation, and Language Education at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. He is also the Editor of The Modern Language Journal, and of the book series Educational Linguistics, Springer.

As the Editor of a prestigious journal, Professor van Lier focused more on doing research for publication than for a post-graduate degree. He emphasized the increased pressures to get published in the research world especially in the last few years, not only in the US and the UK, but in most parts of the world today. It is more and more becoming a matter of 'publish or perish' as publication is necessary not only for promotion and tenure, but also as a requirement for PhD degrees.

Things to NOT DO

- Don't plagiarize.
- Don't publish clone after clone after clone of the same study. Some people just change the title, and a little bit here and a little bit there and try to publish it somewhere else.
- Don't take a chapter out of your thesis and expect it to be published.

Things to DO

- Know your subject. Don't send any thing before it is ready. Bob Dylan said "I know my song well before I start singing". So know your subject, and show that you know it.
- Have a solid literature review.
- Have a clear organization, and data that is relevant to your topic.
- Make sure that you have a clear analytical way of analyzing the data.
- Make sure that you focus on solid pedagogical implications.
- Watch the length of the paper. Look at the guidelines of the journal and carefully stick to them.
- Make sure that your topic is significant to the audience of that journal. However much it may be important for you in a particular context, to publish in a journal, the topic should be of interest and importance to a wide audience. And it has to have an impact. If at the end of reviewing an article, the editorial

members ask the question 'so what?', then it should not be published.

- Spend time on copy editing and proofreading. You can also do this collaboratively.

Angi Malderez is an education consultant and an honorary senior fellow at the School of Education, The University of Leeds. She has been working in ELT and Education in many different contexts for over four decades. She was co-director of a large, six year longitudinal study, the 'Becoming a Teacher' research project, funded by the English DCSF, GTC and TDA. Her publications include: (with C. Bodozcky) *Mentor Courses* (1999 CUP); (with M Wedell) *Teaching Teachers: Processes and Practices* (2007, Continuum Press); (with A. Hobson & L. Tracey) *Navigating Initial Teacher Training* (2009, Routledge).

Angi made it very clear at the beginning that the do's and don't's in research are totally dependent on the research paradigm used, and the kind of research one is involved in.

Things to NOT DO

- Even when you think you don't find what you think you are looking for, don't think of it as a failure, because not finding something is just as good as finding it, and just as valuable. Just doing research helps you understand the process better.

Things to DO

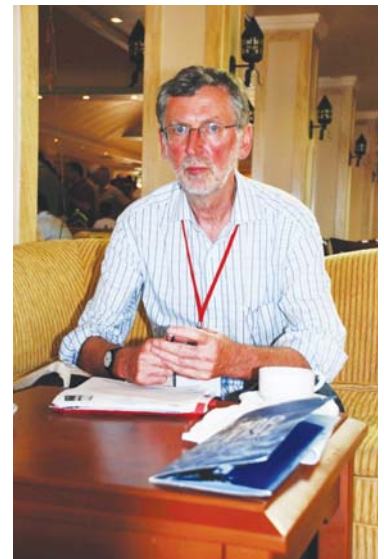
- Be clear about what kind of research you are doing, and what the purpose is.
- In qualitative research, do realize that you are generating data, not collecting data. It's not just sitting there waiting for you to pick up. You can say that you are constructing data.
- Give yourself lots of time to look at your data from lots of different lenses until you find a way of representing the data in meaningful ways for your

purpose.

- Once you think that you have found something, think of who might benefit from that knowledge and try to find ways of disseminating it. Too many research findings are only disseminated to other researchers, while quite often they would be more useful for the teachers.
- Do your research collaboratively if you can. People work individually for their PhDs, but in the real research world, people don't work as individuals. You gain a lot from the perspectives of the people you are working with. Collaboration is very important.



Angi Malderez



Leo van Lier



Nilgün and Tom Cobb

About the Interviewers

Asst. Prof. Dr. *Nilgun Hancioglu* teaches at the School of Foreign Languages. She has an MA in ELT from the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, and PhD from EMU. Her research interests include academic writing, and specifically thesis writing and writing for publication, corpus studies, data-driven learning, and lexical semantics.

Nibel Tektan teaches at the School of Foreign Languages. She has a BA in English Language and Literature from Ege University, Izmir. She is currently doing her MA in Computer Assisted Language Learning at the University of Essex in the UK. Her research interests include teaching English through web 2.0 tools and corpus-based teaching.

The Social and Cultural Reality of Driving Behavior: The Parking Habits of Turkish Cypriots Living in Famagusta

Burcu Demiröz and Rıza Teke
Faculty of Communication and Media Studies



Burcu Demiröz (left) and Rıza Teke (right)

Introduction

It is a well-known fact that transportation vehicles, and other technological developments need a well-synchronized and sufficient investment for infrastructure development. If the needed investment in infrastructure falls behind the development rate in urban areas, it creates problems.

We are witnessing an increasing car population on roads in Northern Cyprus, so traffic congestion has also been increasing day by day. Today we have more traffic problems than previous years. We all see that there is not enough investment on road construction and road renewal, or on new alternative roads, and parking areas. Therefore, people tend to park their cars on the roads, and even on the sidewalks. Sometimes although there are suitable spaces, some drivers do not park their cars in the parking areas because of the distance to parking areas, or for other reasons.

Many countries in the world have the same traffic problems; it seems

obvious to state that the traffic arrangements in many developed western countries are in pretty good condition, and parking structures on the roads are well designed, and drivers obey the rules more than the drivers in the less developed countries. For that reason, all institutions, from the drivers to municipalities and the other related state agencies should be sensitive to the issue of obeying traffic rules.

This ethnographic study aims to describe the driving behaviours of Turkish Cypriots, especially in the town of Famagusta, TRNC. The purpose is to analyze how social situations regarding rules and arrangements, affect driving behaviour. In the process of conducting research, photography as a research tool is a unique way of reflecting descriptive social conditions. The research method and design are used to indicate the selected ethnographic descriptions of the driving behaviors of Turkish Cypriots. In the fieldwork process, taking photo-

graphs as visual research data, participant observations including taking notes and reports, conducting several interviews with drivers have provided insight into the culture, and the social conditions in the selected cultural settings.

The Defined Problem:

Even though drivers recognize that the problematic situation on the roads is also related to insufficient parking areas, the main factor causing traffic chaos is normalized wrong driving behaviours.

The Questions Regarding the Defined Problem:

- Does social learning through modelling in the family have any influence on children's future driving behaviors? Does the family hold a great part of the responsibility in the enculturation process for children's cognitive learning of norms and ethics?
- Is there any difference between the driving behaviors in western and eastern countries?
- Is the culture of respect, in driving behaviors, related to both the educational level of the drivers and the culture they belong to?
- Is the current traffic problem a result of insufficient investment in road development and the irrationality of municipalities?

The Core Definitions:

Ethnography:

“Ethnography is the work of recording, describing, explaining, and interpreting a culture using a wide range of observational techniques to learn about the culture. A central purpose of ethnography is to understand a culture from its point of view.” (Norman, 1997). “Ethnography means learning from people, discovering their culture, and understanding another way of life from their perspective”. (Spradley, 1980).

Culture:

Culture is the socially transmitted knowledge and behavior shared by some group of people (Peoples and Bailey). Additionally, the culture of any society consists of the sum total of ideas, conditioned emotional responses, and patterns of habitual behavior which the members of that society have acquired through instruction, or imitation, and which they share to a greater or less degree. (Birukou, Blanzieri, Giorgini, and Giunchiglia, 2009). Furthermore, the enculturation process provides us cultural knowledge that is shared and learned. “Cultural knowledge provides models for perception, relationships, and interpretations; produces behavior and artefacts; and provides the basic means for the physical, psychological, and social adaptation to society.” (Norman, 1997).

Visual Research Methods:

Photography is an essential tool to record cultural patterns as visual research data, and visual description of community patterns. For any fieldwork, the photograph is helpful to reflect visual sensitivity that directly influences people’s perception of reality, and the cultural vision of the selected research community. In conducting ethnographic research, visual methods are a major element to gather visual

data to understand cultural-social patterns. The ethnographic photograph provides research information for the interpretation process. Viewers decode the visual messages for ethnographic information.

Research Design – Stage 1

Participant Observation:

This method helps to describe a culture from the community’s perspective. Participant observation is a unique method to understand cultural-social behaviors, cultural artifacts, and cultural knowledge. Participation helps us to gain insight or meaning into cultural activity. Participant observation uncovers all dimensions of the activity. During fieldwork activity, researchers should have an opportunity to understand the spoken language of the community to understand the beliefs, customs, and values of the culture. So, both visual and verbal data make cultural-social meaning easily understood at the highest level.

The Ethnographic Interview:

It facilitates the understanding of community concepts and patterns with direct inquiry. Through observation, questions are formed to learn community behaviour, patterns and ideas. After a period of participant observation, the ethnographic interview is used. The viewers decode the meanings of visual data in the projective interview process. Visual research data is gathered through participant observation and the ethnographic interview.

Ethnographic Research Procedures and Data Collection Methods:

In a basic model, according to the ethnographic research cycle, an ethnographic project is selected, and ethnographic questions are asked. After the ethnographic data is collected and recorded through participant observation and the ethnographic interview, the ethnographic data is analyzed and an

ethnographic report is written.

While asking ethnographic questions, both descriptive, structural and contrast questions are asked to make more focused observations at the beginning. The activities of people are observed. Descriptive observation is carried out to get an overview of the social situation. While recording and analyzing data, focused observations are conducted to narrow the research. Through more repeated observations, selective observations are conducted as well to get general descriptive observations. In descriptive observation, both grand and mini tours are repeated.

The field-notes, photographs, and recorded observations are employed when making an ethnographic record. While conducting the ethnographic interview with 10 participants, some nicknames are used to protect the real names of the interviewees. At the end, to write the ethnographic report, some cultural descriptions are included by using universal statements. Cross-cultural descriptive statements are used and general statements about specific cultural scenes are written. Specific statements about cultural domains are also added.

Research Design- Stage 2

The Ethnographic Interviews:

Question 1: If there were enough parking areas, do you think that the visual pollution cars caused would be the same?

Question 2: Are you pleased about the current parking conditions? If you are not, what would you recommend?

Question 3: Why do you think the municipality is not opening up new parking areas? Or do you think that it is unnecessary to construct new parking areas?

Question 4: Do you think that people have an adequate awareness of obeying traffic rules in our society?

Question 5: Do you think that the ones

who are educated are more tolerant and respectful in traffic than the ones who are not educated?

Question 6: Do you feel secure when you drive?

Question 7: Are there any differences between the driving culture in our society and the driving culture in western societies?

Question 8: Do you think that prominent driving behaviors are educational and cultural matters?

Question 9: As a solution for the problems mentioned, if you suggest that the awareness of obeying rules in the traffic should be improved, is teaching the awareness of obeying rules to children in their early lives a viable solution?

Analysis of Interviews:

The ethnographic interviews were conducted with ten participants doing different jobs. The interview questions were designed to find out about community concepts, what people think and feel about current traffic problems, what are the causes of traffic problems, and the possible solutions to be offered to the municipality of Famagusta, and the community at large.

According to the interviewees, the traffic in the town is not safe for drivers; and there are not enough parking areas, so this causes serious noise and visual pollution. If the municipality pays attention to investigating possible parking areas to construct, it would be a great solution for the traffic problem. The taxi driver gave an interesting answer. He said that people park their cars on pavements, and this situation complicates the existing problem even more, by making it impossible for pedestrians to use the pavements.

Many of the interviewees are seriously displeased with the lack of parking areas. They recommend that multi-storey car parks should be con-

structed, and the municipality should look for suitable land for constructing parking areas. Furthermore, people park their cars in wrong places, and the roads get more jammed and crowded, and this becomes a safety threat for drivers in the traffic. One of the interviewees suggested that people should be encouraged to use public transport.

The interviewees think that the municipality does not pay much attention to the traffic problem. Although the municipality has financial sources and the manpower, these resources are allocated or spent for the wrong things.

All of the interviewees think that people do not have sufficient awareness of obeying rules in the society. Compared with Turkey, the traffic in North Cyprus is safer and there is a lower rate of accidents. The drivers are respectful to pedestrians and the law sanctions are quite high and practical. Obeying rules may be connected to which culture people belong to and what education they have obtained. One respondent said that people don't obey the rules, because there are not enough parking spaces, so they are naturally right to park wherever they want. Therefore, the existing situation sometimes forces people to disobey the rules.

Most of the interviewees think that people who are educated may not always obey the rules. Also they could be more aggressive while driving. People who are educated or uneducated may behave in the same wrong manner in the traffic. The wrong behaviors depend on people, and categorizing the wrong driving behaviors by emphasizing education the drivers have obtained would be invalid. Obeying rules is not entirely related to education, it has strong relation with the bringing up style of the families, and children may acquire habits according to whatever they see or hear. So family is the primary institution providing children with an education for the future.

The interviewees stated that they

feel secure at specific times when the traffic is not jammed. Mostly, people feel discomfort while driving; even people who are respectful to each other at some point, but people feel aggressive, selfish and hurried to get home as soon as possible. The ice cream seller believes that the traffic in North Cyprus has more culture of respect in comparison to the traffic in İstanbul, the roads are not so badly jammed for a long time; the situation is much better than the traffic in Turkey. The taxi driver feels more safe in North Cyprus, there is no abuse in the traffic, and the community of North Cyprus has multi cultural values stemming from the Greek, British and Ottoman times.

The interviewees are aware that there is huge difference between the driving culture in the society of North Cyprus and the driving culture of European countries. A very large number of drivers think that although they are educated, they are not that educated as regards traffic rules. The rate of accidents in North Cyprus is more than the rate of accidents in European countries. The ice cream seller says that people of developed countries drive more respectfully, and calmly, and tolerance is a key element in driving in European countries. European people obey rules out of habit. The shoe seller implies that even though people in North Cyprus are aware of the traffic rules, they don't obey them. According to the jewellery store owner, as the rules are stricter in European countries, people obey the rules.

The interviewees believe that education gained in early ages becomes a model of behaviour which can turn into habit in time. The taxi driver says that education obtained in early ages facilitates the future life of the people. The pharmacist thinks that fines are not a solution to the problem, as they create reactions, and do not ensure a healthy learning process.

Participant Observation of Cultural Patterns

The aim of conducting participant observation was to gather accurate information regarding some social situations defined earlier. According to the data, most of the drivers are aware of the wrong things in the traffic, and they naturally connect the current problematic situation to the lack of parking areas. Consequently, drivers tend to normalize their wrong driving behaviors. This is one of the major factors causing the traffic problem. Insufficient parking areas and lack of attention by the municipality are mentioned as probable causes by the interviewees.

According to the data from the interviews, some significant facts have been highlighted. Based on the both mini and grand tours conducted to investigate the social situation, social problems surrounding the driving behaviors of the drivers were observed. These can be listed as visual pollution, insufficient investment on parking areas and infrastructure, insufficient work of the municipality, increased car rates, and cultural patterns that have emerged out of drivers' parking behaviors.

The places regularly visited were the ones where these social situations were easily observed. In the first days of our tours, we have observed the social situations sitting in several cafes and restaurants; later we have sometimes stood up pretending to wait for our friends in front of the supermarkets to catch some distinct angles that clearly help us to associate the cultural patterns and existing social-cultural related traffic problems. In order to describe the culture formed by the drivers on the roads, we were prepared to conduct participant observation in the places where the social situations existed.

The data revealed some remarkable cultural knowledge about the social sit-

uations, and cultural artifacts that helped to interpret what people tried to do during these social situations. It was a great opportunity to see with a certain degree of observational clarity such reactions as aggression and anger; wrong driving behaviors and attitudes towards stressful and jammed roads which offered no parking areas for drivers. We combined observation with direct participation to gain understanding of the social situations. We observed all dimensions of the social situations to get an awareness of cultural-social behaviors of the drivers. Our observational focus through such experiences helped us to analyze cultural – social meanings with great sensitivity.

Analysis of Visual Records

While conducting participant observation, in the visual recording process, we took photographs as a valid perception of visual sensitivity to understand the cultural-social patterns. According to the data gathered, drivers are aware of the jammed roads that cause visual pollution and dangerous situations for both pedestrians and drivers. Moreover, insufficient parking areas and insufficient investment on infrastructure; also normalized wrong driving behaviors, and the lack of respect resulted in people disobeying the traffic rules.

Primarily, we decided to conduct participant observation in order to reveal the facts of the social situation. Then, we went to the places we defined before. The reason for choosing two specific roads was to have more dangerously flowing traffic and insufficient parking areas: Salamis Road and Gülseren Road. Salamis Road is the most jammed and crowded road of Famagusta City. Later, we collected data using a camera. All along this road, there are numerous shopping centres, restaurants, cafes, and other work places. In addi-

tion, a large number of students prefer staying in the apartments located on this road. Even though there are many restaurants and shopping stores on this road, the work places have no parking space for their customers; and they have to park their cars in front of their shops,



Figure 1: A view from Salamis Road, there are many parked cars on both lanes. Also there are no parking areas for stores, restaurants and cafes



Figure 2: Cars are parked on the pavements in front of the shopping stores without parking areas. A young lady can hardly walk on the pavements because of parked cars

cafes, restaurants and offices. (Figure 1-2)

Because of insufficient parking areas, most of the drivers park their cars on the pavements, if the pavements are full, they tend to park on double yellow lines. Hence, on some days it is difficult to find a parking space even on the double yellow lines. When randomly parked cars are on the pavements, pedestrians have no choice but walk on the roads, fully aware of how dangerous and risky doing so is. (Figure 3).



Figure 3: The young boy with the black t-shirt is walking on the road because of parked cars on the pavements. The driver of the white colored car has parked on the yellow line which is forbidden. Also there is another car parked in front of the white car coming from the opposite lane.

On the other hand, some people walk on the roads, even when the pavements are devoid of cars. Furthermore, the lack of parking areas causes the owners of the stores and restaurants to park their cars in front of their work places. The parked cars are major causes making the roads jammed all through the day, and becoming great obstacles for the flowing traffic. When drivers park their cars on the left and right sides of the road, the drivers in the flowing traffic are hardly able to drive, and they need to give way to the drivers coming from the opposite lane (Figure 4-5).



Figure 4: A couple is walking on the road instead of the pavement. There is already a jammed road, and it is a dangerous situation for safety of the people. The driver of the dark blue colored car is waiting for black car because of the parked car on the right lane.



Figure 5: This is the continuation of the same situation. The driver of the white colored truck is still waiting, and another car is coming.

Limitations of the study:

This ethnographic study was conducted on a small scale. Only one city was selected for the study, and this does not reflect the whole population of the country. In addition, time and the number of ethnographic interviews were also limited.

Suggestions for further study:

A follow up study may be conducted on the efforts and the activities of the municipalities regarding traffic problems in the TRNC. Moreover, the most significant driving errors may also be researched as a second further study.

Conclusion

To sum up, this ethnographic study revealed that the driving behaviours of people living in the Famagusta City are highly connected to cultural, educational, political and social conditions. So, driving behavior is a product of a multi-dimensional social reality. The increasing number of cars on the roads causes some serious traffic problems. Even if the municipality is aware that roads are not enough for the rising number of cars, they are desperate because the existing jammed roads create chaotic situations that need efficient solutions. These jammed roads partly result from

inadequate parking areas and normalized wrong driving behaviors.

According to the data from the interviews and participant observations, the majority of people think that insufficient parking areas may be an influential factor causing noise and visual pollution in the traffic. Thus, this situation may create danger for the safety of both drivers and pedestrians. The municipality plays a great role in generating creative and productive ideas for the benefit of the drivers. The municipality should provide some alternative solutions by constructing multi-storey car parks in locations where the traffic flow is always dense, and finding suitable spaces for setting up parking areas. A large number of drivers have low awareness in obeying rules, even double yellow lines and pavements are used by drivers for parking.

If disobeying traffic rules is seen as an endowment in a society, it is easy to make it a common usage as a cultural product. The bringing up style of the families is directly related to children's socialization process. Children can learn cultural knowledge from their family, and the outside world as a form of role-modelling. What children gain as cultural knowledge in their early ages may be helpful in turning this knowledge to good and practical purposes in the future. Basically, behaviours are a reflection of the culture. People are easily recognised by their cultural behaviours.

Therefore, driving behaviors are changeable from culture to culture. People may not be respectful and tolerant in the traffic in some cultures, but in other cultures people may be more calm and respectful. People should be encouraged to obey traffic rules through satisfying their needs and wants. This is

the major role of the municipality. In this respect, as well as the efforts and activities of the municipality, the family, as one of the most significant social institutions for socializing children, should have more social responsibility and understanding to help children gain the proper knowledge for practical civilized life. Impractical knowledge and weak decision making ability gained during adult ages rather than the childhood period may do more harm than good.

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About the Researchers

Burcu Demiröz graduated as a top student from the Department of Public Relations and Advertising, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, EMU in 2008. She is doing her Master's in the field of Communication and Media Studies, EMU. Her academic interests lie in Public Relations, Mass Communication and Society, Visual Ethnography, and International Marketing.
E-mail: burcu.demirz@gmail.com

Rıza Teke graduated from the Department of Public Relations and Advertising, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, EMU in 2007. He is studying for his Master's degree in the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies at EMU. He is also a research assistant in the Dean's office. Rıza's academic interests are Visual Ethnography, Advertising Strategies, and Mass Communication. He has worked in projects on social issues, communication technologies and media relations.
E-mail: riza.teke@emu.edu.tr

Banking and Finance Graduate Student and his Supervisor



For this issue, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hatice Jenkins (Left) and her supervisee Hassan Dankaka (Right) from the Department of Banking and Finance kindly agreed to be interviewed for the EMU Research Newsletter.

■ Could you tell us a bit about yourself? Your nationality, academic and professional background, experience, research activities?

HJ: I am a Turkish Cypriot. I was born in Larnaca and brought up in Beyarmudu. After completing my studies at Namik Kemal High School, I got my BSc degree in Management at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara. Then I continued my education in England. As a British Council scholar, I did my MSc in Economic Development at the University of Keele, and then Ph.D. in Development Finance at the University of Bradford. Right after I completed my PhD studies, I was hired by an international consulting company, Maxwell Stamp Plc in London. For the first two years between 1992-1994 I was sent to Colombo, in Sri Lanka to work on a UNDP/UNIDO joint project as the Program Manager. This was an excellent opportunity for me to build my field experience. My job there was not only managing a large project, hiring other consultants and writing reports but also building the capacity of the Ministry of Industries to carry out research activities. After I completed the project in Sri Lanka, I got married and moved to Cambridge Massachusetts in the USA. In Cambridge, I worked for another consulting company called International Institute for Advanced Studies for one year where I developed a small business finance program. Then I was hired by the Harvard Institute for International Development at Harvard University in order to develop an

executive program on micro and small business finance. In 1994, I developed a new Executive program for Harvard University, called Financial Institutions for Private Enterprise Development (FIPED) and I marketed this program successfully where it became one of the biggest executive programs in a short time. I am happy to say that 16 years later FIPED is still offered at Harvard University by my colleagues and I am still on the advisory board of this program.

At the end of 2000, I moved back to Cyprus with my husband and daughters and started to work for EMU, Department of Banking and Finance. In 2001 I became the Vice-Chair of the Department of Banking and Finance and since 2004, I have been the Head of the Department.

HD: My name is Hassan DANKAKA, student of Banking and Finance in EMU. I came to EMU from Nigeria in 2005 where I studied in both Bachelor and Master's programs in the same faculty, the Faculty of Business and Economics.

■ Could you please give us some information on your department and the post graduate programmes?

HJ: The Department of Banking and Finance is the third largest department in the Faculty of Business and Economics. We also have the largest number of foreign students in our faculty. During the last five years, the number of our students grew from around 200 to 350 students. We started our Master's program in Banking and Finance in Fall, 2001-2002, as a "with thesis" program. In 2007, we introduced the "non-thesis" program. This semester, Spring 2009-2010, we started our Online Executive Master's Program in Banking and Finance, with "thesis" and "non-thesis" options. All our Master's programs are accredited by YOK. We also have collaboration agreements with Queen's University of Canada and the Canadian Securities Institute, where our students receive internationally recognized certificates and qualifications. About 100 Master's students from 29 different countries have graduated from our department over the last 8 years. Currently we have 45 registered Master's students.

HD: My department, Banking and Finance, is one of the best departments in EMU. This is because not only an EMU diploma can be secured, other certificates from Canada, namely AICB – Associate of the Institute of Canadian Bankers, and Queens University program on Investment Appraisal and Risk Analysis can be obtained. Through these opportunities, students can boost their career path.

■ **Could you define good research for us?**

HJ: Good research starts with a good research question which addresses an important issue, and a scientific methodology is used for conducting the research. From a good research, we expect to have contribution to the knowledge and the research results should have some implications for the research area.

HD: A good research is one that is done ethically and all the rules of reference are being observed. It should be free from plagiarism and original, where credit is given to every source used.

■ **Could you tell us about the research you have been working on and its significance in your research field?**

HJ: Just like every semester, this semester I supervised three Master's students. One of these students, Hassan Dankaka, has completed and defended his thesis successfully. The other two will complete their theses next semester. Hassan is from Nigeria. As he was interested in microfinance, I agreed to supervise him. With 150 million people, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, and the 9th populous country in the world. Unfortunately 65 percent of the Nigerian population is still living in poverty. One way of fighting against poverty is to provide poor people with very small credits in order to help them to build their own microenterprises and earn enough income to live on. This is a way to increase employment and income and hence pull people out of poverty. The microfinance Institutions although aim to help the poor by providing them with credit, they also started to collect savings and therefore they had to be regulated by the Central Bank of Nigeria. Hassan's research aimed to examine the regulation and transformation of microfinance institutions into microfinance banks in Nigeria. We tried to find out what happened after these institutions became regulated and supervised by the Central Bank of Nigeria. In other words, we wanted to see the impact of the regulations on the behaviors of these microfinance banks. Were these institutions still meeting the financial needs of the lowest income people in Nigeria, or because of the prudential regulations that they have to meet, they had to behave more like traditional commercial banks and ignore the microenterprises by moving on the larger loans for larger businesses?

The microfinance institutions in Nigeria were regulated in 2005 and the government gave these institutions a grace

period until 2007 to meet the prudential regulations such as minimum capital ratio, liquidity and reserve requirement ratios. We found out that there were 900 microfinance institutions in Nigeria that all became regulated by the end of 2007. However, it was impossible to get any information about these institutions and there was no published data that would help us to do our analysis. Hence, Hassan had to fly back to Nigeria for a month to collect primary data. He interviewed 32 microfinance banks and 31 microenterprises. Collecting sensitive data from banks and businesses is the hardest thing one can do. I must say that Hassan's persistence worked and he was able to get the information and data that we needed to finalize our research. This research was done within 4 months. Therefore, both Hassan and I worked very hard to complete it in such a short time. However, we were a good team, and we worked well together. When we examined the statistical results and the interviews, we came up with many interesting findings. These findings contribute to the knowledge and debate about how to regulate and supervise microfinance institutions successfully. There are also some findings that are important for the the Nigerian financial sector and we should share them with the Central Bank of Nigeria.

HD: I conducted research on Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in Nigeria. MFIs are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who grant micro-credit to poor people so as to empower them to get out of the traps of poverty, which is at very high levels in Nigeria and Africa in general. With the coming of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), one of which was "Poverty Eradication", governments around the world reacted. In 2005, the then Community Banks in Nigeria which were the MFIs, were asked to convert to Microfinance Banks (MFBs), and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) drafted a "Policy and Regulatory Framework" that regulated the activities of MFIs in Nigeria. Before that, the Community Banks were unregulated and now they are fully regulated and they can mobilize savings from the general public. My research focused on the effects of the CBN regulations on MFBs and the financial wellbeing of their clients, which are the microenterprises before and after the regulations. My research was able to identify a lot of shortcomings of the CBN regulations of the MFBs in Nigeria. As a result of the research, which was the first after the CBN regulation of MFBs in Nigeria, interesting cases were observed, and different recommendations were made to the CBN so as to improve the existing regulatory laws.

■ **Do you have plans to promote this research to a wider audience?**

HJ: Yes, we do have plans to write a paper based on the findings of this empirical research. We hope to submit it to international conferences and also for publication in relevant journals.

HD: My research is interesting and therefore, in the future, promotion would be considered.

■ **What has been the most fruitful aspect of your collaboration?**

HJ: The most fruitful aspect of our collaboration has been the fact that this research made it possible for me to pass my expertise and knowledge in microfinance on to my student who will go back to his country and use this knowledge for further research and policy advice in the area of microfinance in Nigeria.

HD: I and my supervisor have been close, we met twice or thrice a week since the start of my research, which allowed my work to be fully scanned and monitored by my supervisor. She helped non-stop and she responded to all my work on time. She is simply the best supervisor!

■ **What advice would you give to researchers involved in postgraduate research?**

HJ: First of all, they should have a good and interesting research topic so that they will enjoy their research. If the topic does not interest the researcher, it will be very difficult for him or her to spend time working on it. It is also important that the research is on a current issue where the findings will be useful for the others.

HD: This advice goes to the people who are willing to or currently conducting research. Try as much as possible to scan through the literature related to your chosen topic. The more you read, the more confident you get, and hence, the more productive you will be. By reading more, you will be able to find “research gaps” which you will be filling in your research. Try also to understand the “context” of your research topic. Concentrate more on your topic and lastly, conducting ethical research is very important. Try as much as possible to give credit to other people’s work.



WHY DON'T YOU...

...share this interview with your undergraduate students as well? Please direct them to <http://research.emu.edu.tr>

Following is the list of students who have successfully completed their postgraduate degrees in Spring 2009 -2010. This list has been provided by EMU Institute of Graduate Studies and Research on 26 July 2010.

■ LL.M. ■

Law

Seyhan Selçuk

Thesis Title: Medeni Usul Hukukunda Dava Vekaletnameleri

Supervisor: Sema Taşpınar Ayvaz

■ M.A. ■

Communication and Media Studies

Roya Alagheband

Thesis Title: Representation of Women in Iranian Cinema Posters: A Semiotic Analysis

Supervisor: Ümit İnatçı

English Language Teaching

Mahsa Abdolalizadeh

Thesis Title: Female Learner's Self- perceptions of Oral Performance in Single- Sex versus Coeducational Iranian EFL Classroom: A Case Study

Supervisor: Ülker Vancı Osman

Seyed Ali Rezvani Kalajahi

Thesis Title: Vocabulary Learning Strategies and Vocabulary size of Undergraduate English Teaching Students at Eastern Mediterranean University

Supervisor: Ali Sıdkı Ağazade

International Relations

Oghogho Hauwa Suleiman

Thesis Title: Conflict Resolution in Africa: Analysis from Global and Regional Perspectives

Supervisor: Wojciech Forsysinski

Usman Mika'il Usman

Thesis Title: Human Trafficking in Women and Children as Vulnerable Groups: International Legal Instruments and National Policies in the Case of Nigeria

Supervisor: M. Moncef Khaddar

Henry Chiedu Irabor

Thesis Title: The Future of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in a Settlement of the Cyprus Conflict

Supervisor: Wojciech Forsysinski

Turkish Language and Literature

Elif Aydın

Thesis Title: Tevfik Fikret'in Gençlik Dönemi Aşk Şiirleri

Supervisor: Ömer Faruk Huyugüzel

■ MBA ■

Business Administration

Amin Pirayandeh

Thesis Title: The Relationship between the macroeconomic variables and the Tehran Stock Exchange Market Index 1999- 2009

Supervisor: Sami Fethi

Naghmeh Niroomand

Thesis Title: Cultural and Hierarchical Differences in Organizational Citizenship Behavior: A Comparison among University Employees

Supervisor: Turhan Kaymak

Josiah Ilemona Ogbadu

Thesis Title: Impact of Service Quality Perception in Higher Education: The Case of Faculty of Business and Economics at the Eastern Mediterranean University

Supervisor: Turhan Kaymak

■ MS ■

Applied Mathematics and Computer Science

Hamid Mir- Mohammad Sadeghi

Thesis Title: Fuzzy Intelligent Traffic Control System

Supervisor: Rashad Aliyev

Banking and Finance

Ghazaleh Boorang

Thesis Title: Capital Structure in Iran: Case of Chemicals and Petrochemical products, Rubber and Plastic Products, Refined Petroleum and Fuel Sectors

Supervisor: Cahit Adaoğlu

Oladotun Larry Anifowose
Thesis Title: The Impact of External Debt and Servicing Economic Growth of ECOWAS Countries
Supervisor: Mustafa Besim
Co-Supervisor: Salih Katircioglu

Hassan Hamisu Dankaka
Thesis Title: Evolution, Regulation and Supervision of Microfinance Banks in Nigeria
Supervisor: Hatice Jenkins

Siroos Khadem Alomoom
Thesis Title: The Determinants of the Real Exchange Rate and the Role of These Fundamental Factors in New Zealand's Economy
Supervisor: Sami Fethi

Karim Chashm Banam
Thesis Title: Impact of Financial Liberalization on Economic Growth in Iran: An Empirical Investigation
Supervisor: Mete Feridun

Omid Dehghan Nejad
Thesis Title: Determinants of Financial Development in Iran: Do Financial Repression Policies Hinder Financial Development?
Supervisor: Mete Feridun

Civil Engineering

Saman Esfandiarpour
Thesis Title: Hybrid Reinforcement of Asphalt- Concrete Mixtures Using Glass Polypropylene Fibers
Supervisor: Mehmet M. Kunt
Co-Supervisor: S. Mahdi Abtahi

Pedram Khajehhesameddin
Thesis Title: Probabilistic Seismic Demand of 2- D Steel Moment Resisting Frames in Estimation of Collapse under Earthquake Ground Motions
Supervisor: Serhan Şensoy

Alireza Bajgiran Tabakh
Thesis Title: Cash Flow Diagramming In Line of Balance Technique by Using Matlab
Supervisor: Tahir Celik

Computer Engineering

Yağız Özen
Thesis Title: Performance Study of Real- world Wireless Mobile Ad Hoc Networks
Supervisor: Gürcü Öz

Economics

Zhanat Jalilova
Thesis Title: Currency Substitution in Transition Economies
Supervisor: Mehmet Balcilar

Ulviya Hajiyeva
Thesis Title: Real Exchange Rate Misalignments: Panel Data Analysis
Supervisor: Mehmet Balcilar

Nesrin Dağ
Thesis Title: Estimation of Production Technology for Turkish Textile Industry
Supervisor: Mehmet Balcilar
Co-Supervisor: Sevin Uğural

Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Leonardo O. A. Itheme
Thesis Title: Un- coded versus Coded QPSK- OFDM Performance over Rayleigh Fading Channels and DL- PUSC Subchannelization for OFDMA
Supervisor: Erhan A. İnce
Co-Supervisor: Hassan Abou Rajab

Mustafa Konca
Thesis Title: Multi- Beam Patch Antenna Design
Supervisor: Şener Uysal

Ali Farzan Moghaddam
Thesis Title: Analysis of a Delay Compensated Deadbeat Current Controller for Inverters
Supervisor: Osman Kükrer

Mechanical Engineering

Cosmoam Abong Fonche
Thesis Title: Manufacturing, Simulation and Implementation of Concurrent Engineering to Improve Production A CaseStudy in Palm Oil Industry
Supervisor: Majid Hashemipour

Tourism Management

Remi Adesoji Ajike
Thesis Title: Implementation Issues in Tourism Planning and Policy Development: the Case of Nigeria
Supervisor: Mehmet Altinay

(Erratum- 2010/1)

Ronate N. Ngeche
Thesis Title: Work Engagement and Job Embeddedness among Frontline Hotel Employees in Cameroon
Supervisor: Osman M. Karatepe

■ Ph.D. ■

Civil Engineering

Saeed Khorram

Thesis Title: Prediction of the Predominant Governing Parameters for the Sediment Flux Equations in Alluvial Rivers

Supervisor: Mustafa Ergil

Communication and Media Studies

Metin Ersoy

Thesis Title: Peace Journalism and News Coverage on Cyprus Conflict

Supervisor: Süleyman İrvan

Suzannah Mirghani

Thesis Title: Piracy in Translation: The Transformation of Commercial Discourse

Supervisor: Tuğrul Ilter

Aysu Arsoy

Thesis Title: Visual Artist or Visual Designer? Visual Communication Design Education

Supervisor: Ümit İnatçı

Industrial Engineering

Orhan Korhan

Thesis Title: Risk Assessment Modeling of Work- Related Musculoskeletal Discomfort and Their Frequencies in Computer Users

Supervisor: Adham Mackieh

Mathematics

Cem Kaanoğlu

Thesis Title: Some Properties of Certain Classes of Polynomials

Supervisor: Mehmet Ali Özarslan

Mechanical Engineering

Sayedali Mousavi

Thesis Title: Intelligent Control of Endodontics Motor-Driven Ni-Ti Rotary Instruments

Supervisor: Majid Hashemipour

Recent Publications and Presentations (April - June 2010)

■ Journal Publications (SCI, SSCI, AHCI) ■

The journal publications listed here are those that are listed in Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI), Science Citation Index (SCI), Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-Expanded), or Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). A search on ISI Web of Science was performed on 12 July 2010 to retrieve articles with at least one author having EMU affiliation. This list may not be comprehensive as some articles could be deposited to ISI after the query date.

Anbarjafari G and Demirel H. (2010). "Image Super Resolution Based on Interpolation of Wavelet Domain High Frequency Subbands and the Spatial Domain Input Image." *ETRI Journal* 32(3): 390-394.

Demirel H, Ozcinar C and Anbarjafari G. (2010). "Satellite Image Contrast Enhancement Using Discrete Wavelet Transform and Singular Value Decomposition." *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters* 7(2): 333-337.

Feridun M and Shahbaz M. (2010). "Fighting Terrorism: Are Military Measures Effective? Empirical Evidence from Turkey." *Defence and Peace Economics* 21(2): 193-205.

Hedayat AA and Çelikağ M. (2010) "Wedge design: A reduced beam web (RBW) connection for seismic regions." *Advances in Structural Engineering* 13(2): 263-290.

Jalil A, Feridun M and Ma Y. (2010). "Finance-Growth Nexus in China Revisited: New Evidence from Principal Components and ARDL Bounds Tests." *International Review of Economics & Finance* 19(2): 189-195.

Jenkins HP and Katircioglu ST. (2010). "The Bounds Test Approach for Cointegration and Causality between Financial Development, International Trade and Economic Growth: The Case of Cyprus." *Applied Economics* 42(13): 1699-1707.

Mahmudov N. (2010). "The moments for q-Bernstein operators in the case $0 < q < 1$." *Numerical Algorithms* 53(4): 439-450.

Mahmudov NI and Kaffaoglu H. (2010). "On q-Szasz-Durrmeyer Operators." *Central European Journal of Mathematics* 8(2): 399-409.

Mahmudov NI and Sabancigil P. (2010). "On genuine q-Bernstein-Durrmeyer operators." *Publicationes Mathematicae-Debrecen* 76(3-4): 465-479.

Mazharimousavi SH, Halilsoy M and Amirabi Z. (2010). "Stability of Thin-Shell Wormholes Supported By Normal Matter in Einstein-Maxwell-Gauss-Bonnet Gravity." *Physical Review D* 81(10): 104002.

Mazharimousavi SH, Halilsoy M, Sakalli I and Gurtug O. (2010). "Dilatonic interpolation between Reissner-Nordstrom and Bertotti-Robinson spacetimes with physical consequences." *Classical and Quantum Gravity* 27(10): 105005.

Nadiri H and Mayboudi SMA. (2010). "Diagnosing University Students' Zone Of Tolerance from University Library Services." *Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science* 15(1): 1-21.

Ozad BE and Kutoglu U. (2010). "The Use of the Internet in Media Education." *Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology* 9(2): 245-255.

Sakthivel R, Ren Y, and Mahmudov NI. (2010). "Approximate Controllability of Second-Order Stochastic Differential Equations with Impulsive Effects." *Modern Physics Letters B* 24(14): 1559-1572.

Shibliyev J and Erozan F. (2010). "Linguistic landscape: Expanding the scenery." *Language in Society* 39(3): 423-426.

Svatos TD. (2010). "A Clash over Julietta: the Martinů/Nejedlý Political Conflict and Twentieth-Century Czech Critical Culture." *ex tempore* XIV(2), Spring/Summer (2009):1-41 [released June 2010].

Uludag O and Yaratan H. (2010). "The effect of burnout on engagement: An empirical study on tourism students." *Journal of Hospitality Leisure Sport & Tourism Education* 9(1): 13-23.

Walsh MJK (2010). "A Crisis of Brilliance: Five Young British Artists and the Great War." *Apollo-The International Magazine for Collectors* 171(577): 100-100.

Yaratan H. and Kural C. (2010). "Middle school English language teachers' perceptions of instructional technology implementation in North Cyprus." *Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology* 9 (2): 161-174.

Yuceer U and Ozacka A. (2010). "A Truck Loading Problem." *Computers & Industrial Engineering* 58(4): 766-773.

■ Conference Papers ■

Amir D. and Chefranov AG., "An Effective Hybrid Swing-up and Stabilization Controller for the Inverted Pendulum-Cart." in *Proceedings of 2010 IEEE International Conference on Automation, Quality and Testing, Robotics AQTR 2010*, THETA 17th edition, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, May 28-30 2010.

Dalgiçoğlu S. and Bitirim Y. "Gadget'larla Sosyal Ağ Yaratılarak Ekonomiye Katkı Sağlama Üzerine Bir Çalışma", in *Proceedings of the Third Symposium on Engineering and Technology*, pp. 78-84, Çankaya University, Ankara, Turkey, April 2010.

Eyyam R. and Yaratan HS. (2010). "The effects of technology use on students' success in English lessons", *Proceedings of the 10th International Educational Technology Conference*, April 26-28, 2010, Boğaziçi University, İstanbul, Turkey, Volume 3, 1481-1484.

Kordal N and Balkan HS. "A TSP-Based Electromagnetism-Like Mechanism for Political Districting Problem", *1st International Symposium on Computing in Science and Engineering*, Gediz University, June 3-5, 2010, Proceeding Number: 327.

Mahmoud AY. and Chefranov AG., "Secure Hill Cipher Modifications and Key Exchange Protocol." in *Proceedings of 2010 IEEE International Conference on Automation, Quality and Testing, Robotics AQTR 2010*, THETA 17th edition, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, May 28-30 2010.

Uğural S. and Lisaniler FG. "Public-Private Wage Determinants and Wage Gap in North Cyprus." in *Proceedings of EBES 2010*, Conference-İstanbul, İstanbul, Turkey, May 2010.

Yaratan H and Yücesoylu R. (2010). "Self-Esteem, self-Concept, self-talk and significant others' statements in fifth grade students: Differences according to gender and school type." In Uzunboylu, H. (Ed.) *Innovation and Creativity in Education, Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences. Proceedings of the 2nd World Conference on Educational Sciences (WCES-2010)* held on February 04th – 08th 2010, at Bahçeşehir University, İstanbul, Turkey. Volume 2, Issue 2, 3506-3518.

■ Conference Presentations ■

Aker SM and Aker AH. "Capital Account Liberalization and the Exchange Rate Regimes in Developing Countries", *Eurasian Business and Economic Studies*, İstanbul Turkey, MAY 26-28, 2010.

Aybay Y. "Girls Magazines and the Body Satisfaction and Consumption Habits of Teenagers", *Child and Teen*

Consumption Conference, Linköping University/ Campus Norrköping /Sweden, June 21-23, 2010.

Heeg M. "Wagner Women and the Legend of Bayreuth: Cosima as Regina Progenitrix." in "Women" As A Category Of Science: *The Third International Women's Symposium On Literature, Language, Culture And Art Studies*, 119 – 134, Konya, Turkey, April 2010.

Lerner I. "The Postmodern Condition of the Commercial Street as Simulacra in the Global Village" *Third (Extraordinary) International Seminar Arquitectonics Network: Architecture and Research (The Beginning of a Transarchitectural World: Exploring New Ways towards Specific Modernity and Architectural Dialogics)* School of Architecture of Barcelona 1st, 2nd and 3rd June 2010.

Naimi S and Çelikağ M. "Problems Of Reinforced Concrete Building Construction In North Cyprus", *12th International Conference on Inspection, Appraisal, Repairs and Maintenance of Buildings and Structures*, 23 - 25 April 2010, Yantai, China.

Vural Y. "Cyprus Dispute: Changing roles of International Community in respect of the Principle of National Self-Determination", *After the Melting of Frozen Conflicts: Systemic Transformations and Legitimation of Secessionist Bids*, Institute of Government and Politics, University of Tartu, Estonia, May 28-29, 2010.

■ Books ■

Oktay D. (2010). *Gazimağusada Kentsel Yaşam Kalitesi: Araştırma, Planlama ve Yönetim İçin Göstergeler*. Gazimağusa: EMU Press.

Oktay YB. (2010). "A Descriptive Case Study of the Academic English Needs of Freshman Engineering and Mathematics Students From Three Different Perspectives." Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing.

■ Book Chapters ■

Hedayat AA and Çelikağ M. (2010). "Reduced Beam Web (RBW) connections with circular openings." In Lena M. Becker (Ed). *Structural Steel and Castings: Shapes and Standards* (pp. 1-56). New York, USA. Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

Kavas ZO. (2010). "Mr. Monk and the Reestablished Harmony." In D. E. Wittkower (Ed.). *Mr. Monk and Philosophy* (pp. 157-166). Chicago and La Salle: Open Court.

Conferences organized by /in collaboration with EMU

Conference Name: 10th International Conference on Clean Energy.

Date: 15-17 September 2010

Web Address: <http://www.icce2010.org/index.html>

Conference Name: The Sixth Symposium on Unforgettable Cypriot Turks

Date: 25-26 November 2010

Web Address: www.emu.edu.tr/daukam/eng_index.html

Conference Name: ICBFP' 2011 The First International Conference on Banking and Finance Perspectives

Date: 13-15 April 2011

Web Address: <http://icbfp.emu.edu.tr/>

Conference Name: Taking Malta out of the Box: Island Cultures, Economies, & Identities Valletta – Malta

Date: 11-15 May 2011

Web Address: <http://www.islanddynamics.org>

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Conferences in North Cyprus (as submitted by contributors)

Conference Name: V. URSI (International Union of Radio Science)-
Turkey 2010 Scientific Congress and National Committee Meeting

METU Northern Cyprus Campus, Güzelyurt

Date: 25 - 27 August 2010

Web Address: <http://www.ursi.ncc.metu.edu.tr/>

Conference Name: 10th Mediterranean Microwave
Symposium - 2010

METU Northern Cyprus Campus, Güzelyurt

Date: 25 - 27 August 2010

Web Address: <http://www.mms.ncc.metu.edu.tr/>

Conference Name: International Conference on Islamic
Civilisation in the Mediterranean

Near East University, Nicosia

Date: 1-4 December 2010

Web Address: <http://www.neu.edu.tr/?q=tr/node/1206>