

## **Bahar Emgin, Ph.D.**

**Design History and Material Culture Scholar**

**Email:** baharemgin@gmail.com | **ORCID:** 0000-0002-0237-0916

**Google Scholar:** <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=ZuiA0IsAAAAJ&hl=en>

**Research Profile:** My research examines design history and material culture through a humanities-based lens, focusing on the intersection of gender, modernization, and consumption. Through the analysis of design artifacts and visual media, I investigate how design mediates the practices and aesthetics of everyday life. Grounded in archival research and qualitative methodologies, my work situates design within its wider cultural, economic, and social contexts.

### **Professional Appointments and Research Affiliations**

---

**2019 - Present** | **Assistant Professor**, Department of Industrial Design  
İzmir Institute of Technology, İzmir, Türkiye

#### **Institutional Service**

**Department Vice Chair** (2025 - Pr.; 2020 - 2024); **Member, Faculty Executive Board** (2021 - Pr.); **Director, Center of Continuing Education** (2024 - 2025); **Member, Institutional Publicity Committee** (2022 - 2025); **Board Member, Design & Urban Research Center** (2019 - 2024)

**2015 - 2019** | **Assistant Professor**, Department of Visual Communication Design,  
Yaşar University, İzmir, Türkiye

#### **Institutional Service**

Erasmus Coordinator

**Apr 2016 - Jan 2017** | **Visiting Researcher**, School of Art and Design History and  
Theory, Parsons School of Design, New York, USA

**Research focus:** The U.S. Point Four Technical Assistance Program to Turkey,  
focusing on craft production and design knowledge transfer.

**2012 - 2015** | **Lecturer**, Department of Visual Communication Design,  
Yaşar University, İzmir, Türkiye

**2010 - 2012** | **Research Assistant**, Department of Visual Communication Design,  
Yaşar University, İzmir, Türkiye

## Education

---

**2014 | Ph.D.** in Art, Design and Architecture, Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye

**Dissertation:** *“Servant Princess” of the Modern Home: Domesticity and Femininity in Turkey after Electrification, 1923-1950* (Funded by a full doctoral scholarship)

**2008 | M.Des.** in Design Studies, İzmir University of Economics, İzmir, Türkiye

**Thesis:** *Id-ENTITY in Question: Turkish Touch in Design in 'İlk' in Milano* (Funded by a full master's scholarship)

**2006 | B.Sc.** in Industrial Product Design, İstanbul Technical University, Türkiye

## Research Projects and Grants

---

**TÜBİTAK 1001** (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye)

**Researcher**, Feb 2021 - Jan 2024 (PI: Defne Karaosmanoğlu)

Social History of Domestic Appliances in Turkey (1930 - 2020): Modernization in Women's Daily Lives

İzmir Institute of Technology – Internally Funded Scientific Research Project

**Principal Investigator**, May 2021 - March 2023

The Role of American PX in the Modernization History of Turkey

İzmir Institute of Technology – Internally Funded Scientific Research Project

**Principal Investigator**, Aug 2020 - Aug 2021

IZTECH FabLab

Yaşar University – Internally Funded Scientific Research Project

**Principal Investigator**, Mar 2018 - Jun 2019

A Research on the American Design Support Program for Turkey and the Turkish Handicrafts Development Office

## Peer- Reviewed Journal Articles

---

- Karaosmanoğlu, Defne, Leyla Bektaş ata, and **Bahar Emgin**. 2026. "The Unlimited Joy, 'Once You Start You Can't Stop': Masculinity in Domestic Technology Commercials in Turkey." *Visual Studies* 41 (1): 153–68.  
[doi:10.1080/1472586X.2024.2415880](https://doi.org/10.1080/1472586X.2024.2415880)
- Emgin, Bahar**, Leyla Bektaş Ata, and Defne Karaosmanoğlu. 2025. "From Work to Leisure: Transforming Kitchen Spaces, Technologies, and Practices in Türkiye, 1930s-2020s." *Home Cultures*, July, 1–26.  
[doi:10.1080/17406315.2025.2530240](https://doi.org/10.1080/17406315.2025.2530240).
- Karaosmanoğlu, Defne, Leyla Bektaş Ata, and **Bahar Emgin**. 2025. "Exploring Women's Visceral Engagement with Electric Appliances in Turkish Kitchens." *Discover Food* 5: 64. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44187-025-00348-z>.
- Emgin, Bahar**. 2024. "Demir Sıpa: Zanaat ve Tasarım Arasında Türk El Sanatlarını Tanıtma Derneği [The Iron Foal: Turkish Handicrafts Promotion Association in Between Craft and Design]." *YEDİ: Sanat, Tasarım ve Bilim Dergisi* 32: 15–25. <https://doi.org/10.17484/yedi.1387399>.
- Emgin, Bahar**. 2020. "Artisans Meet Design: The Reception of the Turkish Handicraft Development Office in Turkey." *Journal of Design History* 33 (4): 297–312. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jdh/epaa037>.
- Emgin, Bahar**. 2019. "Princesses Versus Maids: Domesticating Electricity in the Early Republican Period in Turkey." *Home Cultures* 16 (2): 109–33.  
[doi:10.1080/17406315.2019.1759935](https://doi.org/10.1080/17406315.2019.1759935).
- Emgin, Bahar**. 2017. "Traces of Peter Müller-Munk Associates in the History of Industrial Design in Turkey." *AIS/Design: Storia e Ricerche* 10.  
<https://www.aisdesign.org/ser/index.php/SeR/article/view/190/177>.
- Balcioğlu, Tefvik, and **Bahar Emgin**. 2014. "Recent Turkish Design Innovations: A Quest for Identity." *Design Issues* 30 (2): 97–111.  
[https://doi.org/10.1162/desi\\_a\\_00265](https://doi.org/10.1162/desi_a_00265).
- Emgin, Bahar**. 2012. "Trashion: The Return of the Disposed." *Design Issues* 28 (1): 63–71. [https://doi.org/10.1162/DESI\\_a\\_00124](https://doi.org/10.1162/DESI_a_00124).

## Books

---

Karaosmanođlu, Defne, Leyla Bektař Ata, and **Bahar Emgin**. 2025. *Mutfak Aletleri Kitabı: Teknoloji, Toplum, Tasarım [The Kitchen Appliances Book: Technology, Society, Design]*. Istanbul: Everest.

Bektař Ata, Leyla, Defne Karaosmanođlu, and **Bahar Emgin**. 2023. *Bu Ev İřlerini Kim Yapıyor Kuzum? Asrileřmeden Robotlařmaya Ev ve Kadınlık Tezahürleri [Who's Doing the Housework, Darling? Expressions of Home and Femininity from Modernization to Robotization]*. Istanbul: İdealkent Yayınları.

## Book Chapters

---

**Emgin, Bahar**, Defne Karaosmanođlu, Leyla Bektař Ata, Büřra Eser, and Ramazan Çakmak. 2026. "The Meeting of House Cleaning and Electricity (1930-1950)." In *As Istanbul Enlightens: Urban, Electricity and the Daily Practices in 20th Century Türkiye*, edited by Amed Gökçen and Lütfiye Çetin, 75-88. Istanbul: Istanbul Bilgi University Press.

**Emgin, Bahar**. 2024. "Hizmetçi Prenseler: Erken Cumhuriyet Döneminde Evin Elektriklendirilmesi." In *Bir Cereyan Hâsil Oldu: Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyet'e İstanbul'da Elektrikli Yařam*, edited by Nurçin İleri, 177-202. İstanbul: Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları.

## Edited Journal Special Issues

---

Fernández García, Ana María, **Bahar Emgin**, Kıvanç Kılınç, Ayça Tunç Cox, F. Zeynep Ata, Lucía Pérez Fernández, and Renata Scalzer Ribeiro, eds. 2023. "Design & Transience." *Res Mobilis* 12 (16).  
<https://reunido.uniovi.es/index.php/RM/issue/view/1412>

## Encyclopedia Entries and Reference Works

---

**Emgin, Bahar**, and Esra Atalay Tuna. 2023. "Süpürge [Broom]." In *100 Sene 100 Nesne: Cumhuriyet'e Nesnelerin Gözünden Bakmak*, edited by Bediz Yılmaz and Esin Gülsen, 977–988. Istanbul: Alfa Yayıncılık.

**Emgin, Bahar**. 2015. "Turkish Design." In *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Design*, edited by Clive Edwards, vols. 1–3. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

## Reviews and Reports

---

Karaosmanoğlu, Defne, **Bahar Emgin**, and Leyla Bektaş Ata. 2022. "Social History of Domestic Appliances in Turkey: Notes on Gender and Technology." *Feminist Asylum* 1: 47–50. <https://doi.org/10.5195/faci.2022.87>.

**Emgin, Bahar**. 2017. Review of *Make It New: The History of Silicon Valley Design*, by Barry M. Katz. *Icon* 23: 187–189.

**Emgin, Bahar**, Georgina Ruff, Matteo Serafini, and Jytte Thorndahl. 2013. "Thirty-Ninth Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology: 'Technology, the Arts, and Industrial Culture,' Barcelona, Spain, 10–14 July 2012." *Technology and Culture* 54 (1): 158–166. <https://doi.org/10.1353/tech.2013.0006>.

## Selected Conference Presentations

---

**Emgin, Bahar**. 2025. "Reimagining Craft in Turkey: Authenticity, Creativity, and the Making of National Identity." Paper presented at the *Design History Society Annual Conference 2025: Converging Paths: Design in the Creative Economy*, Ankara, Türkiye, 4 - 6 September.

**Emgin, Bahar**. 2023. "Old Copper, New Soul: Promoting Crafts in 1950s Turkey." Paper presented at the *Design History Society Annual Conference 2023: Displaying Design: History, Criticism and Curatorial Discourses*, Matosinhos, Portugal, 7 - 9 September.

- Emgin, Bahar.** 2017. "Craftsmen on Behalf of Designers: The Role of Craft Organizations in Introducing Industrial Design into Turkey." Paper presented at *International Design Organizations: Histories, Legacies, Values*, Brighton, United Kingdom, 9 - 10 November.
- Emgin, Bahar.** 2016. "Borrowed Images, Negotiated Lifestyles: A Comparative Study of Electric Appliance Advertisements in Turkey and the United States." Paper presented at the *27th Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association (MAPACA)*, Atlantic City, NJ, United States, 3 - 5 November.
- Erim, Duygun, and **Bahar Emgin.** 2013. "The Playful Crafting of Gender on Derya Baykal's TV Shows." Paper presented at the *Gender Perspectives in Design: Turkish and Global Context*, İzmir, Turkey, 9 - 10 May.
- Emgin, Bahar.** 2012. "Gendering Electricity: The Docile Servant." Paper presented at the *39th Annual Meeting of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC): Technology, the Arts, and Industrial Culture*, Barcelona, Spain, 10 - 14 July.

### **Graduate Supervision**

---

- Sevgi, Pelda. 2025. *Biomimicry in Design Publications: A Thematic Analysis of Content in Wallpaper Magazine*. Unpublished master's thesis, İzmir Institute of Technology, İzmir, Türkiye.
- Yılmaz, Yusufhan. 2025. *The Extent of Representation & Design Rhetoric in AI-Generated Visual Media*. Unpublished master's thesis, İzmir Institute of Technology, İzmir, Türkiye.
- Koyunoğlu, Selen. 2024. *The Effects of Visual Design Principles on Game Experience: The Case of Royal Match and Candy Crush Saga*. Unpublished master's thesis, İzmir Institute of Technology, İzmir, Türkiye.

## **Teaching Experience**

---

### **İzmir Institute of Technology**

Department of Industrial Design

**Graduate level:** Research Methods; Design History

**Undergraduate level:** Basic Design Studio; Design, Society and Culture; Industrial Design History and Theory; Data Visualization; Fundamentals of Creativity

### **Yaşar University**

Department of Visual Communication Design

**Undergraduate level:** Basic Design; History of Visual Communication Design; Material Culture; Visual Reading and Interpretation; Fundamentals of Digital Media; Graduation Project

## **Academic Citizenship and Service**

---

### **Conference and Academic Event Organization**

**Convener,** Design and Transience

Design History Society Annual Conference 2022

(Co-convener: Ayça Tunç-Cox, Erdem Erten, Nilüfer Talu)

İzmir Institute of Technology, İzmir, Türkiye, 8 - 10 September

**Organizing Committee Member & Conference Coordinator** (2012–2019)

4T Design and Design History Society Conferences

Member of the **Organizing Committee** for the 13th Conference, Design and Authority, İzmir Center of Architecture (2019).

Served as **Conference Coordinator** for the 7th through 11th conferences (2012–2016).

### **Peer Reviewer for Scholarly Journals**

The Design Journal (Taylor & Francis)

Home Cultures (Taylor & Francis)

Moment Journal (The Faculty of Communication, Hacettepe University)

ILEF Journal (The Faculty of Communication, Ankara University)

## **Scientific Committee Membership and Conference Reviewing**

**Scientific Committee Member / Reviewer**, 16th 4T Design and Design History Symposium: On the Move: Objects/Images/Spaces, 2024.

**Reviewer, UTAK 2020**: Tasarım ve Öngörü [National Design Research Conference], Middle East Technical University (METU), 2020.

**Reviewer, UTAK 2018**: Tasarım ve Umut [National Design Research Conference], Middle East Technical University (METU), 2018.

## **Professional Memberships**

### **Design History Society**

Member

### **4T – Design and Design History Society (Türkiye)**

Member; Executive Board Member, 2018 - 2022

## **Academic Mobility**

---

### **Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training**

Estonian Academy of Arts, Tallinn, Estonia, 3 - 5 June 2024.

Focus: Knowledge exchange on design pedagogy and studio-based learning.

### **Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training**

Association for Cultural Studies Summer Institute on Critical Literacies,

Ghent University, Department of Educational Studies, Belgium, 11 - 15 July 2011.

Focus: Extensive research training on cultural studies methodologies.

## **Public Engagement and Outreach**

---

### **Curatorial Projects and Exhibition Coordination**

**Exhibition Coordinator**, İyi Tasarım/Good Design İzmir 8: Uzlaşma/Reconciliation, İzmir, Türkiye, 1–23 December 2023.

## Selected Public Lectures and Invited Talks

“The Redefinition of Craft in Mid-Century Turkey: Fragmented Interventions and Development,” Invited talk, Design and Development: Histories, Legacies, and Futures, Design History + Theory, University of Applied Arts Vienna, online symposium, 9 June 2026.

“Labor, Design, and Technology in the Kitchen,” **Invited public talk**, From Farm to Table: Food, Culture, and Politics Lecture Series, Sabancı University Istanbul Policy Center, Minerva Han, İstanbul, 6 October 2025. (With D. Karaosmanoğlu and L. Bektaş Ata; in Turkish)

“Domestic Technologies and Femininities,” **Invited public seminar**, BAYETAV Sanat, İzmir, 14 May 2024. (With D. Karaosmanoğlu and L. Bektaş Ata; in Turkish)

“Housework and Technologies,” **Invited public talk**, SU Gender Saturday Talks, Sabancı University Gender Studies Center, Minerva Han, İstanbul, 6 April 2024. (With D. Karaosmanoğlu and L. Bektaş Ata; in Turkish)

“Who’s Doing the Housework, Darling?,” **Invited talk**, Space and People, Medyascope, online, 12 March 2024. (With D. Karaosmanoğlu and L. Bektaş Ata; in Turkish)

“The Question of the Minor Arts in the History of Industrial Design in Turkey,” **Invited public talk**, Design Chronology Turkey-Talks, 4th İstanbul Design Biennial, İstanbul, 29 September 2018. (In Turkish)

## Design Criticism and Professional Columns

**Monthly Columnist**, Metro Gastro (Turkish gastronomy journal), 2022–2026. Authored 14+ articles exploring the intersection of domestic technology, kitchen design, and social history.

“Televizyon Reklamlarında Aile Temsillerinin Dönüşümü (1972–2025)” [The Transformation of Family Representations in Television Advertisements (1972–2025)], *Strata*, No. 21, pp. 171–178, 2026. (with Leyla Bektaş Ata and Defne Karaosmanoğlu)

“Mutfakta Gereksiz Aletler, İşlevsiz Robotlar” [Unnecessary Tools, Dysfunctional Robots in the Kitchen], *Betonart*, No. 81, pp. 28-31, 2024. (with Defne Karaosmanođlu and Leyla Bektař Ata).

“Tasarımdan Önce Tasarım” [Design before Design], *Arredamento Mimarlık*, No. 358, pp. 48-49, 2023.

### **Public Workshops**

**Workshop Coordinator, "Toy Rehab,"** GREEN NIGHT 2021 (European Researchers' Night), İzmir Institute of Technology, 24 September 2021.

Designed and led an interactive sustainability workshop for children, focusing on material repair through creative play. (With Nilüfer Talu and Canberk Yurt)