

# KHAS COMM NEWSLETTER

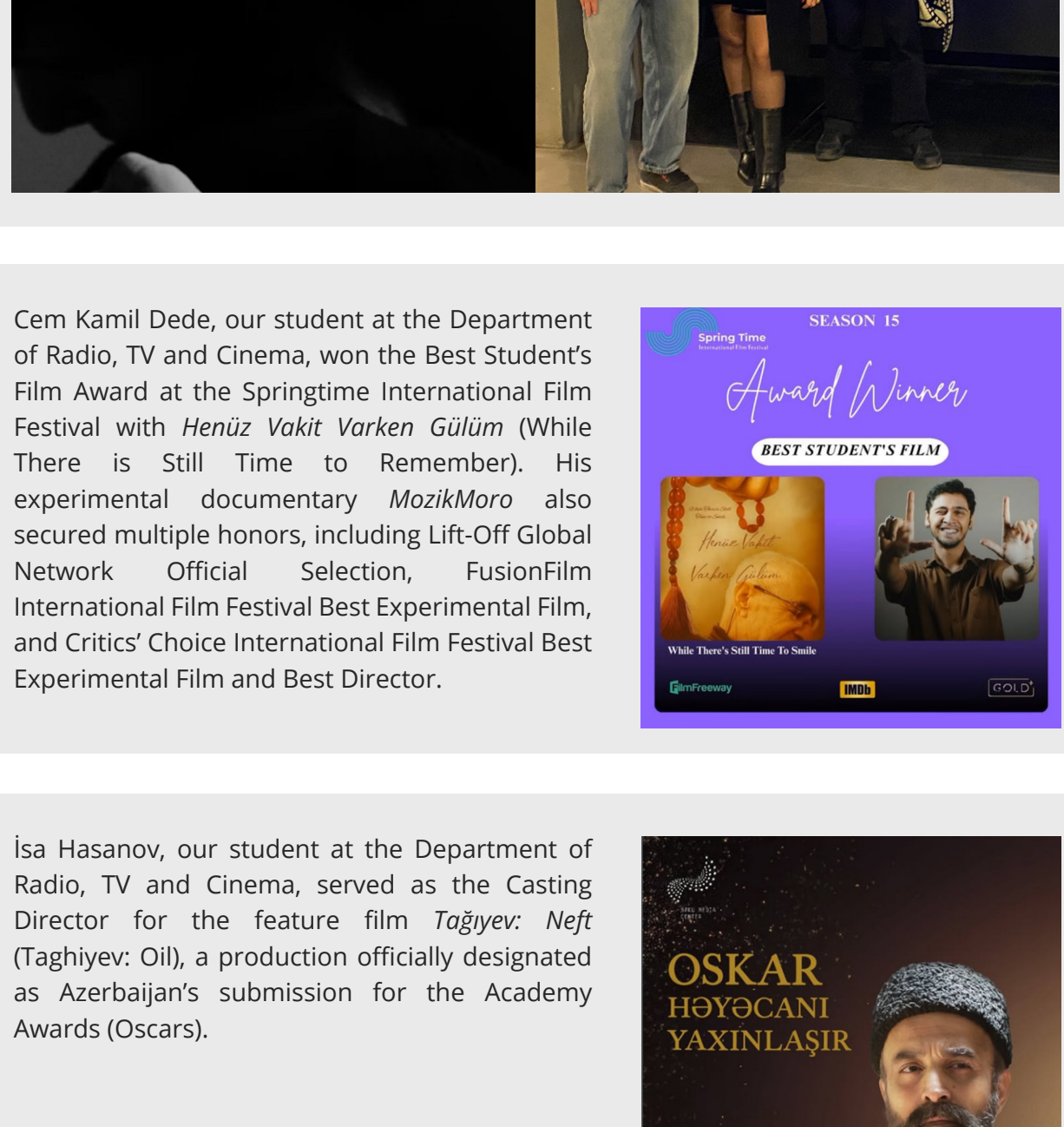
## OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025

by KHAS School of Communication, İstanbul, Türkiye

### LATEST UPDATES

## FROM OUR STUDENTS

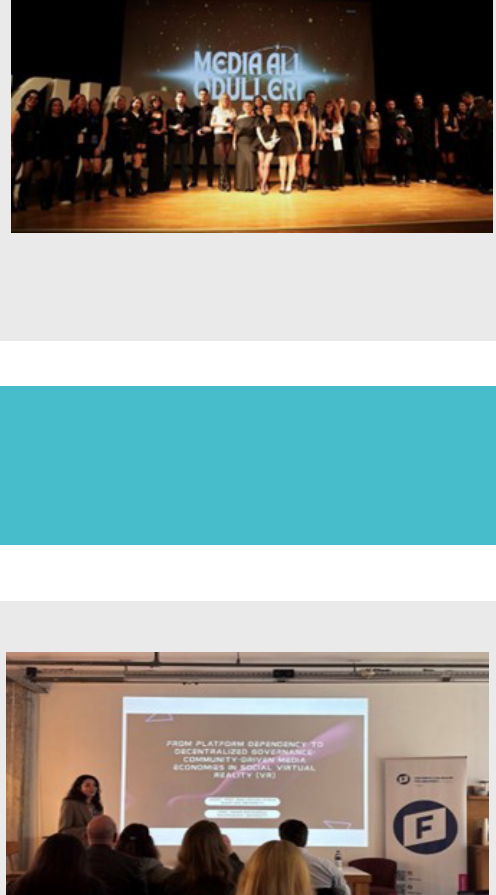
Artworks by Besme Mine Kaya, our senior student at the Department of Visual Communication Design, were selected for the 12th Edition of the Mamut Art Project. Her portfolio was exhibited at Bomontiada from 10-14 December.



Cem Kamil Dede, our student at the Department of Radio, TV and Cinema, won the Best Student's Film Award at the Springtime International Film Festival with *Henüz Vakit Varken Gölüm* (While There is Still Time to Remember). His experimental documentary *MozikMoro* also secured multiple honors, including Lift-Off Global Network Official Selection, FusionFilm International Film Festival Best Experimental Film, and Critics' Choice International Film Festival Best Experimental Film and Best Director.



İsa Hasanov, our student at the Department of Radio, TV and Cinema, served as the Casting Director for the feature film *Taghiyev: Neft* (Taghiyev: Oil), a production officially designated as Azerbaijan's submission for the Academy Awards (Oscars).



### Graduate Achievements

**Yiğit Altar Batuk:** His graduation-based short film, *The Ones Who Can Fly in Their Dreams*, was featured in the Official Selection of the IndieEx Film Fest.

**Doğu Su Dönmez:** His project *Edip* was screened at Bomontiada during the 12th Edition of the Mamut Art Project.

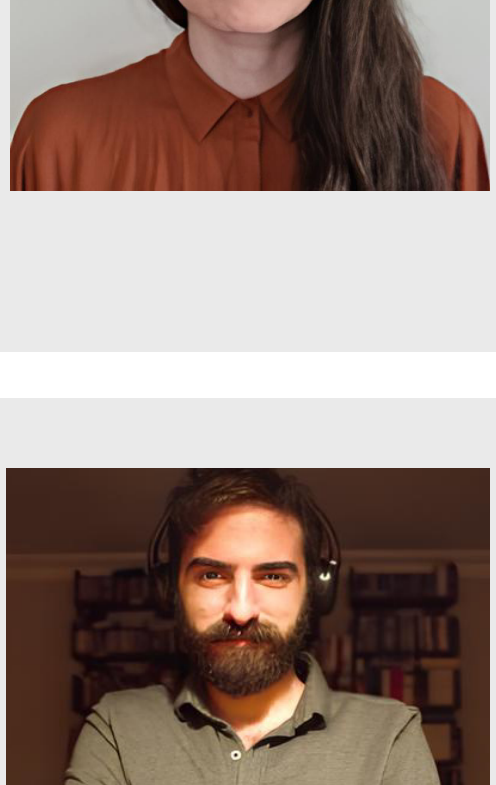
**Gökşin Doğa Egesoy:** Received the Best Debut Film Award at the Budapest Film Festival for *Icarus*, which she wrote and directed.

**Merve Bozcu:** Directed the film *Cennetsiz* (Without Heaven), featuring cinematography by alumnus and Kagan Kerimoğlu, part-time lecturer. The film secured three awards, including Best Cinematography (Izmir International Short Film Festival) and Best Film (Güzeli Ordu International Short Film Festival).

**Atakan Yılmaz:** Awarded the Jury Prize at the 31st Festival Chéries Chéris for his film *Hi Mom, It's Me Lou Lou*.

### Media All Awards

On 7 December, the KHAS New Media Club successfully inaugurated the first-ever *Media All Awards*. The ceremony bridged the gap between academia and industry by honoring influential projects and professionals in the Turkish media landscape. Reflecting high student engagement, the winners were determined by a university-wide vote totaling 600K+ ballots.



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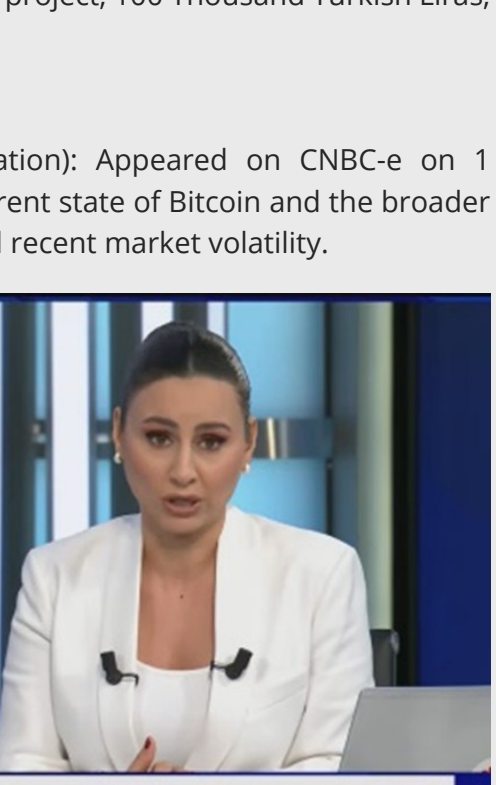
## FROM FACULTY MEMBERS

**Dr. Mine Bertan Yılmaz** (Advertising): Presented "From Platform Dependency to Decentralized Governance: Community-Driven Media Economies in Social VR" at the emmahub 2025 Conference, organized by the European Media Management Association, 7-8 November, İstanbul Bilgi University, Türkiye.



**Dr. Emre Sünter** (Visual Communication Design):

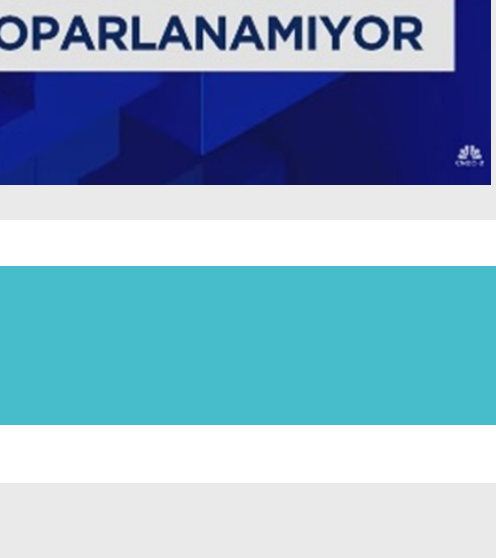
- His project, "Designing a Participatory and Interactive Science Communication Model: A Case Study on Microalgae," was awarded a grant from the TÜBİTAK 3501 - Career Development Program.



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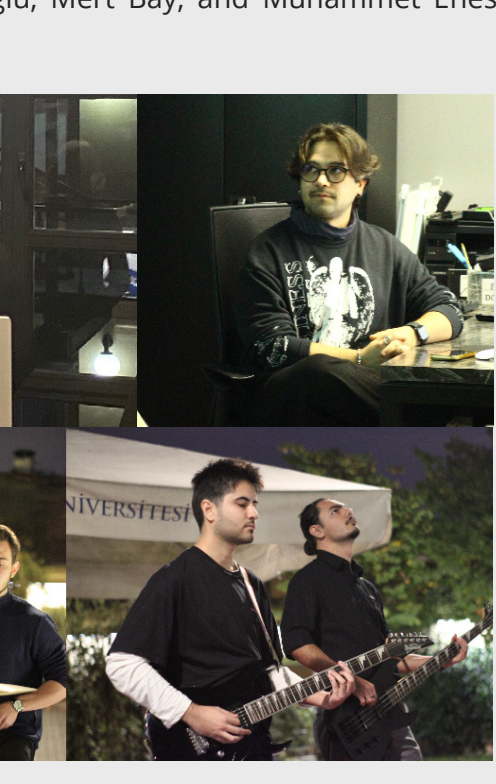
- Delivered keynote addresses at the *Creative Ecologies* Symposium hosted by Özyeğin University, and *Kazandıbi Talks* by Bilgi University, both located in Türkiye.

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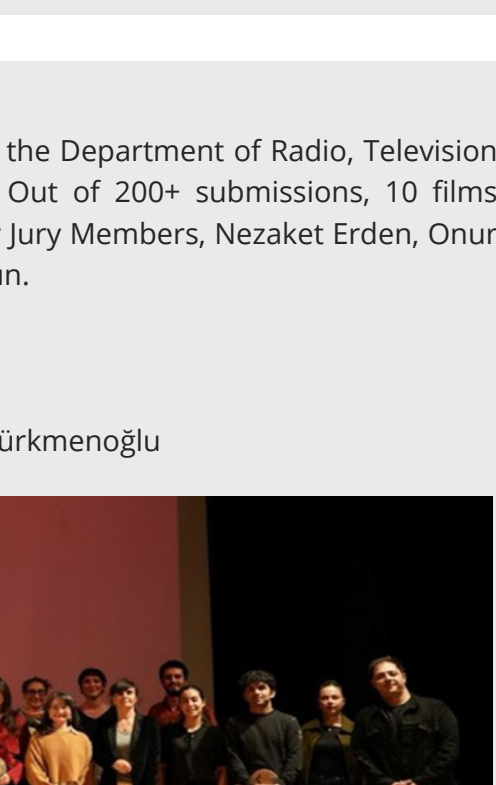
**Dr. Melis Behlil** (Radio, TV and Cinema):

Presented her commentary on *Susuz Yaz* (Dry Summer) directed by Metin Erksan at the 15th Lanzarote Film Festival held in the Canary Islands, Spain.



**Dr. Gözde Cöbek** (New Media and Communication):

Presented an affective analysis of digital dating and "swiping" practices in Turkey at the 2nd International Media and Cultural Studies Conference, held on 5-6 November. Cöbek presented her research titled "Choosing a Partner in the Age of Dating Apps: An Affective Analysis of 'Swiping' Practices of Users in Turkey." Her presentation offered an in-depth analysis of the emotional and sociocultural dynamics surrounding digital dating platforms, specifically focusing on how the "swiping" mechanism shapes user experiences and partner selection processes within the Turkish context.



**Dr. Onur Sesigür** (New Media and Communication):

- Delivered a keynote on 12 November at Frankfurt Goethe University on personal playlisting and provided expert commentary on Medyascope regarding streaming ecosystems and algorithms. His talk on the personal playlisting and curating repetition examined the transition from mixtapes to streaming playlists, highlighting how curated repetition functions as a tool for human agency in the digital era. Dr. Sesigür's insights offered a deep dive into the shifting dynamics of music consumption and the emotional significance of personal curation.
- Appeared on Medyascope's "Ben Devri," contributing to the episode titled "Streaming ecosystem, algorithms, and digital platform discussions," on 30 November. He provided critical insights into how digital platforms are reshaping the media industry and the shifting relationships between creators and viewers in



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### News from Part-time Lecturers

**Merve Akdağ and Dilek Yördem** (Visual Communication Design): Presented their Bot\*anica Workshop series at the 15th International Illustration Research Symposium, organized under the theme "Apparatus: The Role of Technology in Illustration," on 21-22 November, Koç University, Türkiye.

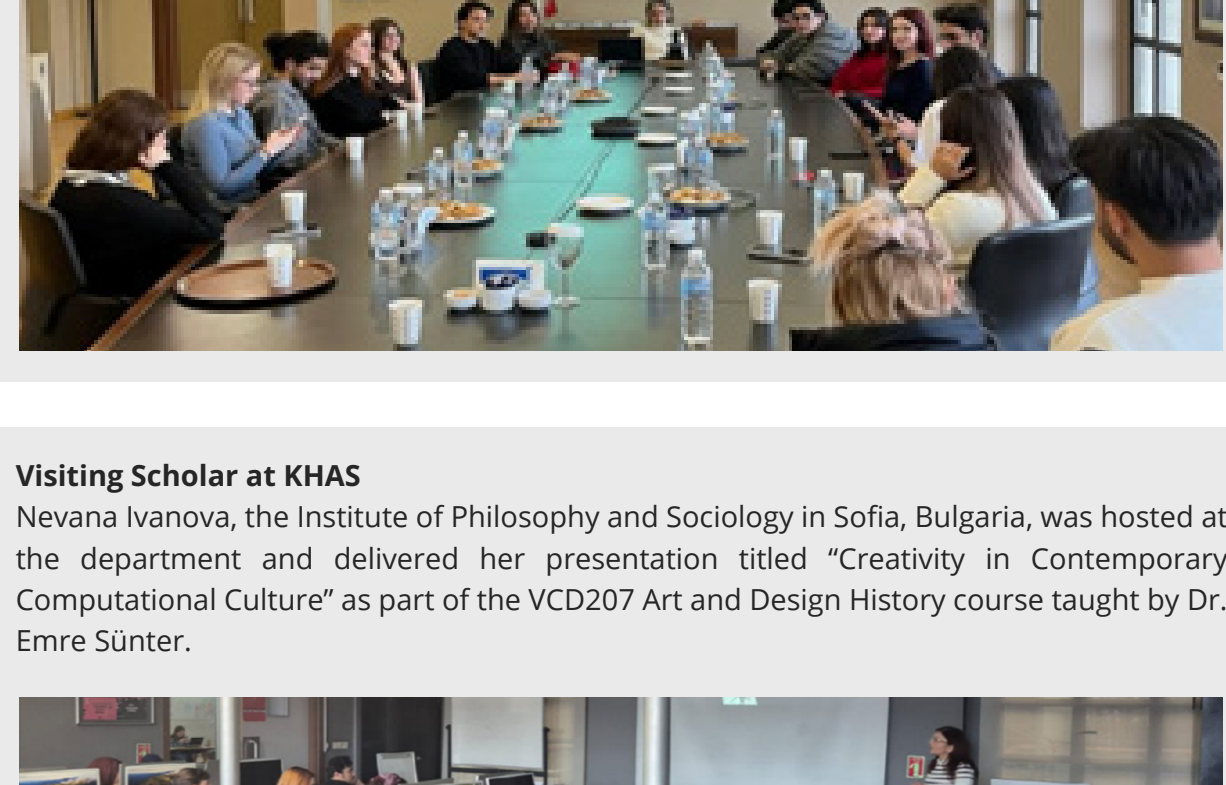
**Hakkı Kurtuluş and Melik Saraçoğlu** (Radio, TV and Cinema): Had their new project, *Garağoyun*, selected for the Sümer Tilmaç Antalya Screenplay Fund Pitching Platform within the "20 New Projects of Our Cinema" Film Forum at the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, Türkiye.

**Emine Yıldırım** (Radio, TV and Cinema): Received a Special Mention Award at the Dracula Film Festival for *Apollon by Day Athena by Night*, which she wrote and directed.

**Nazlı Elif Durlu** (Radio, TV and Cinema): Had her film project, 100 Thousand Turkish Liras, selected for support by the Netherlands Film Fund.

### Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency Markets

**İsmail Hakkı Polat** (New Media and Communication): Appeared on CNBC-e on 1 December to provide expert commentary on the current state of Bitcoin and the broader cryptocurrency markets, analyzing the factors behind recent market volatility.



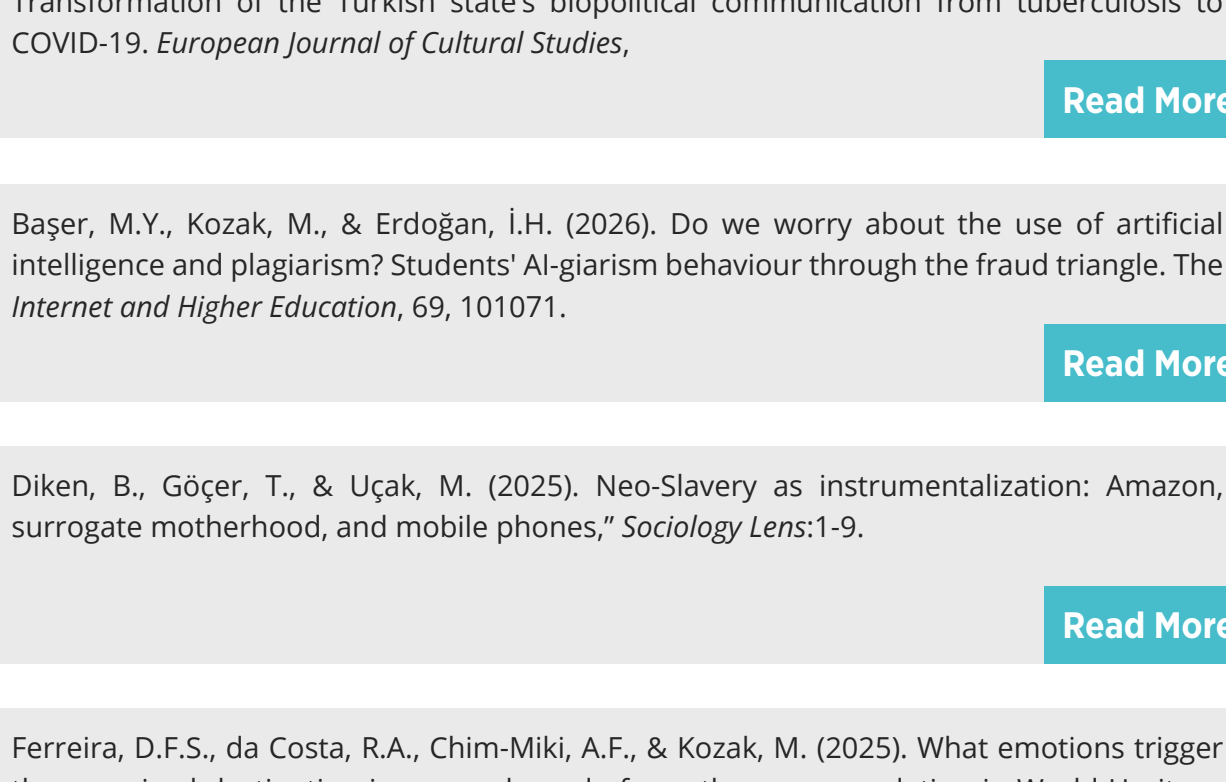
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### LATEST UPDATES

## FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS

### Designers Meeting Designers

The Department of Visual Communication Design welcomed new students at the housewarming event "Designers Meeting Designers," featuring an opening by the academic staff, followed by showcases from the department's alumni with the participation of Deniz Yurttaş (Project İstanbul), Nur Banu Büyükyılmaz (Lyrebird Studio) and Veli Emir Kahraman (Codeway Studios). The event was followed by Kart Band Concert (Gülce Esin Yavaş, Hamza Çetinkaya, Demir Savcıoğlu, Mert Bay, and Muhammet Enes Şahin).



### KHAS Short Film Competition

The 2nd KHAS Short Film Competition, organized by the Department of Radio, Television and Cinema, concluded with an award ceremony. Out of 200+ submissions, 10 films reached the finals, and the winners were selected by Jury Members, Nezaket Erden, Onur Saylak, Melis Behlil, Esin Paça Cengiz, and Defne Tüzün.

First Prize: *Taşın Regi* — Tuğba Yaşar  
Second Prize: *Sakin Söyleme* — Ezgi Temel  
Third Prize: *Thrifted* — Bilge Olcay Yılmaz & Yağmur Türkmenoğlu



### Collaboration with Akbank Sanat

In collaboration with Akbank Sanat, the Department of Radio, TV and Cinema organized the program "Çizginin Neresinde?" (Where Do You Stand on the Line?). Lasting from 1 November to 13 December, the event was coordinated by Elif Akçalı and Ruken Doğu Erdede. The talks and workshops invited participants to reflect on a more inclusive future, inspired by the experiences of women filmmakers working across cinematography, editing, sound, production, art direction, and directing.



### New Media Conference

The Department of New Media and Communication organized the 13th New Media Conference on 22 October under the theme "New Media and Games." The event brought together industry leaders like Burak Şahin (Burak Oyunda), Dr. Fasih Sayın (THQ Nordici), Öğüz Türekli (Vuvy Games), and Meral Didar Ağlaç and Zeynep Burcu Kaya Alpan (Games for Change), with academics Dr. Selen Çalık Bedir (Boğaziçi University) and Prof. Dr. Ayşe Bilge Selçuk (DevelopMental) to discuss the evolution of the gaming industry and its profound cultural and psychological impacts. The conference served as a vital platform for industry-academic synergy, featuring insightful panels on the future of game and gaming culture.



### AltMedya Workshop

The Department of New Media and Communication hosted the *AltMedya* on 13 November. The event brought together various alternative news platforms, journalists, and academics, featuring a series of insightful panels and hands-on workshops that addressed the critical shifts in today's news environment. Participants explored the current state of the digital journalism ecosystem, identifying the primary obstacles faced by stakeholders and brainstorming collaborative ways to overcome them.



### Collaboration with the Industry Partners

The Department of Advertising met with the leaders representing *Publicis Groupe Turkey* to discuss strategic partnerships for the faculty's practice workshop, "Atölye". The meeting featured a productive dialogue on future joint projects and innovative partnerships specifically designed for the faculty's practice workshop - *Atölye*.



### Internship Opportunities

The Department of New Media and Communication established new protocols with *İçerikPlus*, *Hayal Akademisi*, *Digital Gateway*, and *IPS İletişim Vakfı* to provide enhanced internship opportunities.



### Career Office - Senfonico Collaboration

In collaboration with the Career Office, we recently hosted the team from *Senfonico*, one of the digital world's leading agencies, for our "Industry Talks" (*Sektör Sohbetleri*) event. The session offered our students a deep dive into the fast-paced dynamics of the advertising industry, providing a transparent look at agency life and various career trajectories. The Senfonico team shared their professional journeys and offered invaluable advice to the next generation of communicators. The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where students engaged directly with the guests to gain inspiration and firsthand knowledge from the field.



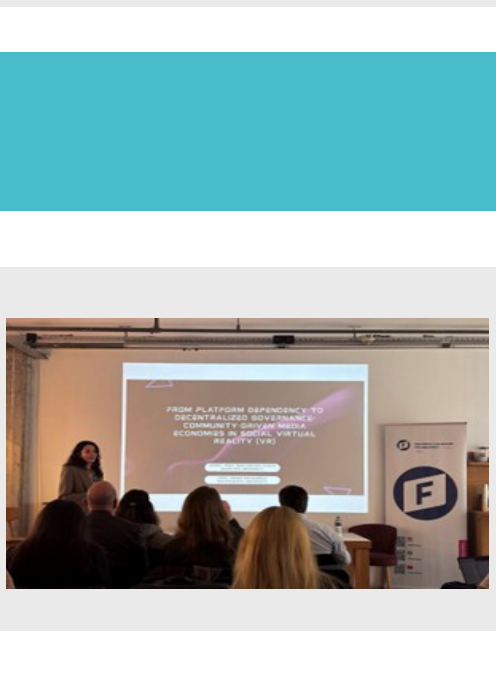
### Visiting Scholar at KHAS

Nevana Ivanova, the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology in Sofia, Bulgaria, was hosted at the department and delivered her presentation titled "Creativity in Contemporary Computational Culture" as part of the VCD207 Art and Design History course taught by Dr. Emre Sünter.



## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL

During a productive two-week visit to Al-Farabi Kazakh National University—ranked 166th worldwide—Dr. Metin Kozak, our Dean, engaged in an academic diplomacy and knowledge exchange. He delivered a keynote address at a conference hosted in collaboration with the Kazakh National Academy of Sciences, connecting with young scholars across the fields of earth sciences and communication. Strategic meetings with Dr. Aliya Aktymbayeva, Dean of Geography and Environmental Sciences, resulted in plans for student exchanges and a joint summer school. Furthermore, a visit to the School of Journalism, attended by faculty and doctoral students, culminated in the signing of a formal bilateral protocol with Dr. Kanat Auyesbay, Dean, to facilitate educational tours and institutional collaboration.



### OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Arda, B., İlikan Rasimoğlu, C. G., & Güney, K. M. (2025). Visualizing children's health: Transformation of the Turkish state's biopolitical communication from tuberculosis to COVID-19. *European Journal of Cultural Studies*.

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Başer, M.Y., Kozak, M., & Erdoğan, İ.H. (2026). Do we worry about the use of artificial intelligence and plagiarism? Students' AI-garism behaviour through the fraud triangle. *The Internet and Higher Education*, 69, 101071.

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Diken, B., Göçer, T., & Uçak, M. (2025). Neo-Slavery as instrumentalization: Amazon, surrogate motherhood, and mobile phones. *Sociology Lens*:1-9.

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Ferreira, D.F.S., da Costa, R.A., Chim-Miki, A.F., & Kozak, M. (2025). What emotions trigger the perceived destination image and word-of-mouth recommendation in World Heritage Sites? *International Journal of Tourism Research*.

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Sünter, E., & Aslan, N. T. (2025). Entangled histories, healing spaces: Ecological and therapeutic dimensions in Hale Tenger's Appearance. *Journal of Applied Arts & Health*, 16(2-3), 339-348.

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Way, L.C.S., McLoughlin, S., & Inceoğlu, İ. (2025). Fighting authoritarian populism with populism in polarised Turkey. *Journal of Language and Politics*.

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Wen, J., You, J., Xiong, W., Kozak, M., & Hu, F. (2025). Integrating oncology, travel therapy and health economics: exploring synergistic approaches to enhance cancer care and well-being. *Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing and Logistics*.

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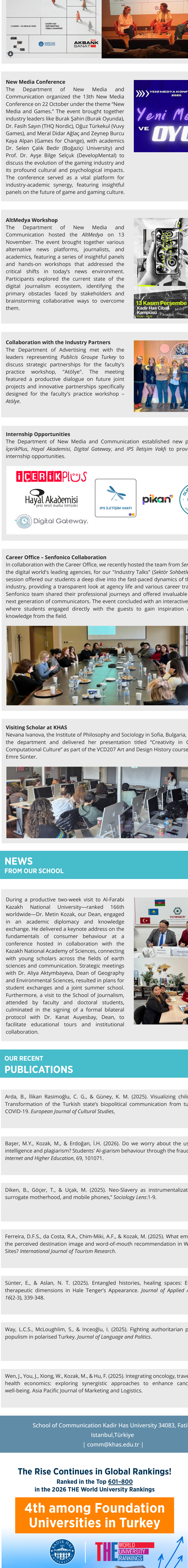
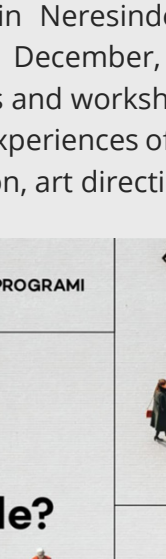
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## The Rise Continues in Global Rankings!

Ranked in the Top 601-800 in the 2026 THE World University Rankings

4th among Foundation Universities in Turkey



Faculty of Communication

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