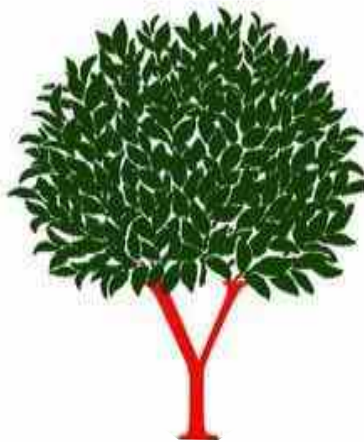




**CUKUROVA**  
UNIVERSITY  
School of Foreign Languages

# CU SoFL

MAGAZINE ONLINE



No:10  
JULY 2024

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## Greetings from the Director:

The theme of this issue of our newsletter is *Festivals and Carnivals*. We, members of humanity, and probably of the animal kingdom, have been experiencing an immense plethora of various feelings ranging from the most negative to the most positive as we plod through our daily lives trying to fulfill our duties, be they resulting from a strong sense of responsibility to those closely related to us or from being a social constituent of a social group to which we serve and expect to be served by. Duality seems to rule our lives, with joy and sorrow, fear and bravery, hope and despair, and many, many other countless apparently opposing yet intertwined feelings and emotions playing out in our routines; routines that, on the one hand, facilitate our existence and help us with performing our mundane tasks, yet on the other, with their tedious and monotonous nature, may tend to suffocate and deprive us of excitement and delight. When we look deep into the faces of those chanting, flailing arms, donned in costumes and bearing laurels on their heads as they march the streets in social gatherings, we see not a ‘crazed’ mad mob of senseless and utterly intoxicated ‘herd;’ on the contrary, it is the outflow of a thrill of a genuine human nature breaking the bonds of monotony and mundaneness that we see put on display. It is this characteristic of festivals and carnivals that is most meaningful and probably indispensable as a human activity that binds us even tighter and closer to ease our as well as others’ lives by injecting some *change*, albeit tiny and transient, enabling us to better cope with day-to-day hardships while navigating the troubled waters of our existence.

Prof. Dr. Yonca ÖZKAN

Director

## *Institutional News in Brief*

### *Green Tales (GRETA) Erasmus+ Launches in Brussels, with the Participation of CU SoFL Instructors*

*09 May 2024*

Cukurova University School of Foreign Languages is delighted to announce the launch of the new Erasmus+ Project "Green Tales" (GRETA in short) during a kick-off meeting in Brussels, with Asst. Prof. Dr. Figen YILMAZ and Dr. Eda KAHYALAR from the School of Foreign Languages representing our school as a partner to the project. Our faculty joined the consortium led by the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation. The consortium includes partners from France, Germany, Greece, Spain and Türkiye. The GRETA project focuses on children, artists, and teachers in Iceland, Türkiye, Spain and Germany, aiming to foster environmental awareness in children through artistic and digital practices.



## *Cultural Box Exchange Project Continues with Gift Exchange*

*09 May 2024*

Cultural Box Exchange Project is not only immersion into a different culture but also sharing your own culture with others. Ukrainian students from Stepan Demianchuk International University of Economics and Humanities received boxes full of presents from our students at CU SoFL's Intercultural Club. Items in each box symbolize Turkish identity and represent our unique traditions and way of life.



## *Intercultural Club Virtual Exchange Activity on Festivals*

*16 May 2024*

Students from three different countries attended a joint project to overcome communication barriers, promote intercultural competency, develop soft skills and digital competencies, and enrich their knowledge of festivals. The virtual exchange event took place with all the participants attending the meeting which was held via Google Meet on the 16th of May at 18.00 Turkish time, 18.00 Ukrainian time, 10.00 Columbian time. The moderators gave an opening speech and introduced their institutions. The participants were put into groups according to their countries followed by an icebreaker activity. They gave their presentations and then were given time to exchange ideas and take part in an activity. Students who completed all the steps successfully received their certificates following the event.



**"Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Standardization Conference" was hosted by CU SoFL**

**21 May 2024**

The second "Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Standardization Conference", QUAAS in short, was hosted by Cukurova University School of Foreign Languages in collaboration with Oxford University Press. Plenary speakers and engaging workshops included Asst. Prof. Dr. Merve SELÇUK, Sinem ATAMSOY KOŞAR, Turgut TURUNÇ, İlkey BÜLBÜL and Ian COLLINS. The conference took place on May 31 and June 1, 2024, Friday through Saturday at TEKNOKENT, Cukurova University

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS**

**QUALITY ASSURANCE, ACCREDITATION AND STANDARDISATION CONFERENCE**

**QUAAS 2024**

**BEST PRACTICES**

|                        |                         |                        |                          |                        |                       |                     |                            |                      |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
|                        |                         |                        |                          |                        |                       |                     |                            |                      |
| <b>BEN KNIGHT</b>      | <b>DİLEM MUTÇALOĞLU</b> | <b>DR DONALD STAUB</b> | <b>ÖZGE COŞKUN AYŞAL</b> | <b>DR MERVE SELÇUK</b> | <b>IAN S. COLLINS</b> | <b>İLKEY BÜLBÜL</b> | <b>SİNEM ATAMSOY KOŞAR</b> | <b>TURGUT TURUNÇ</b> |
| <b>PLENARY SPEAKER</b> | <b>PLENARY SPEAKER</b>  | <b>PLENARY SPEAKER</b> | <b>PLENARY SPEAKER</b>   | <b>TRAINER</b>         | <b>TRAINER</b>        | <b>TRAINER</b>      | <b>TRAINER</b>             | <b>TRAINER</b>       |

**Çukurova Üniversitesi, Teknokent & Tömer**

**31 May & 1 June, 2024 Friday - Saturday**

**ÇUKUROVA ÜNİVERSİTESİ 1973**

**ÇUKUROVA ÜNİVERSİTESİ YABANCI DİLLER FAKÜLTESİ**





## ***Third International Language-for-All Conference***

**Dear colleague(s),**

We would like to invite you to the Third International Language-for-All Conference (LFAC '24) which will be held on 17 – 18 October 2024 at Çukurova University, Adana, Türkiye, with an aim to bring scholars together, enable them to benefit from the network with leading members of academia from all over the world, and exchange ideas and experiences by exploring the latest trends and challenges. The scope of this year's conference is *Artificial Intelligence* and the fields of study are as follows:

AI-Assisted Language Teaching & Learning

Applied Linguistics

Corpus Linguistics

Discourse Analysis

English as a Lingua Franca (ELF)

English for Specific Purposes (ESP)

Global Issues in Language Education

Language Acquisition

Language and Education Policy

Language and Identity

Language Education in the Digital World

Language Teaching and Learning

Language Testing and Assessment

Language, Culture and Society

Literature and Cultural Studies

Literature and Gender Studies

Literature and Language

Material and Curriculum Development


Psycholinguistics

Teacher Cognition and Teacher Development

Teacher Engagement with Theory and Research

Teacher Education

Translation and Interpretation Studies



Our keynote speakers are **Prof. Dr. Mehmet DEMİREZEN** from Hacettepe University, **Dr. Alessia COGO** from Goldsmiths, University of London, **Dr. Caroline FELL KURBAN** from MEF University, **Dr. Jonathan M. ROSS** from Boğaziçi University, and **Dr. Emmanuel KEULEERS** from Tilburg University.

***Key Dates***

**Call for Papers: March 18 – July 31**

**Notification of Acceptance: August 16**

**Registration and Payment Deadline: August 16 – September 16**

**Language-for-All Conference: October 17 – 18**

**Full Paper Submission Deadline: October 1**

All accepted abstracts and selected proceedings will be published online with an ISBN as *The Third International Language-for-All Conference: Book of Abstracts* and *The Third International Language-for-All Conference: Book of Proceedings*, respectively. The books will also be indexed by Bookcites. You can visit the event website to submit your abstract.

For more information, please visit the conference website or contact us at [lfac@cu.edu.tr](mailto:lfac@cu.edu.tr).

Very best regards,

LFAC Organising Committee

## ***Why CU SoFL MAGAZINE?***

### ***AIMS AND SCOPE***

We wanted to create an online magazine for the School of Foreign Languages at Cukurova University to share experiences, to communicate, to network, to find useful tips for teaching and learning English.

#### ***Aims:***


- to create a digital environment for English learners and instructors at schools of foreign languages where they can share their knowledge, experiences, achievements, and useful tips for colleagues and students.
- to create an online magazine for talented prep year students who would like to develop their personal and academic skills.
- to invite both teachers and students for brainstorming about the challenges and achievements at preparatory schools.
- to engage more students into creative projects and organize contests, podcasts and vcasts, video materials.
- to publish the interviews/essays/reflections of English instructors and learners from different cities in Türkiye (also foreign instructors teaching in Türkiye)
- to create a dynamic community, new bridges and exchanges among schools of foreign languages, departments and institutions at Cukurova University and other universities to create a new community based on common personal and professional development goals.

### ***SUBMISSION GUIDELINES***

- The submission should be a single-spaced Word document in standard 12-point font, Times New Roman. (Check the template)
- The submission should include your name, affiliation, the title of your work and brief biodata with a photo of the author/s. The biodata should not exceed 8 lines. (Check the template)
- The submission should be between 500 and 1500 words. It should not be longer than 2000 words.

#### **Please follow the submission guidelines!**

- You can download the template from the following website:  
<https://yadyo.cu.edu.tr/cu/Dergi/Say%C4%B1lar>

- 
- We only accept your submissions online via e-mail. Please send all your written works to the following e-mail address: [cusoflmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:cusoflmagazine@gmail.com)

**Important Note!!!**

We do not accept submissions from any other platforms.

***PLAGIARISM POLICY***

All submissions should be original and authentic content. Plagiarism software is used to analyse the similarity index. The similarity index should not be more than %25. Please share the sources of any content, photos, graphics, etc. that you benefited from. If not, your submission will not be accepted for publication.

***CU SoFL MAGAZINE EDITORIAL TEAM***

Cemile BUĞRA (Managing Editor), Office No: 12

Ülkü GÖDE ÖDEMiŞ (Editor), Office No: Z5

Neslihan GÜNDOĞDU (Copy Editor), Office No: 12

Olha KUNT (Online Editor), Office No: 17

***Contact Info:***

For all your inquiries, please send an email to [cusoflmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:cusoflmagazine@gmail.com)

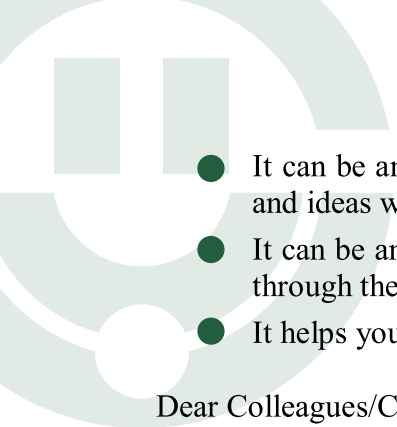
***MESSAGES FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM***

Dear students,

Our online magazine is open for you all. We accept all your creative written works such as news, memories, stories, letters, book or film reviews, poems, songs, scenarios, interview reports, etc. You are all welcome to send us any creative work of yours at any time during the academic year. You can even work collaboratively with your classmates or friends in other classes in our school. We would like to publish your creative works regularly.

We will have prompts or themes from time to time for the students who need some kind of inspiration but you can touch upon different kinds of issues that can grab the attention of your readers. You can also send your reaction letters to the written works for each issue. We will be happy to read and share them in the following issues.

Why should you write for this magazine?

- 
- It can be an opportunity for you to improve your writing skills and share your creative skills and ideas with others on a platform.
  - It can be an opportunity for you to realize your boundaries and maybe go beyond your limits through these writing experiences.
  - It helps you to explore yourself and find your self-voice as a language learner and writer.

Dear Colleagues/Contributors,

We are all looking forward to your contributions to our online magazine. It would be a great opportunity for our readers to benefit from your ideas and experiences. Let's create an inspiring space for each other!

### ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENT***

We would like to express our deepest appreciation for the efforts of everyone who has contributed to our magazine since we started to publish the first issue.

Special thanks go to graphic designer **Serdal TORLAKLI** and our colleague **Berna TORLAKLI** for designing our magazines.

Finally, we would like to thank our colleague **Dr. Ali AVŞAR** for his contributions to the final editing of the 10<sup>th</sup> Issue.



***The Theme of the Tenth Issue:***  
*Festivals and Carnivals*



## Biodata

*Lindsay is an English language instructor at the School of Foreign Languages at Cukurova University. She was born in Canada and has been living in Türkiye for over 10 years.*

## NUITBLANCHE

*Nuit blanche* is a French saying. It literally means white night, but it is also an idiom that means *sleepless night*.

In early autumn in Toronto, Canada's largest city, people get ready to go out all night (from sunset to sunrise) in celebration of contemporary art. This event isn't so old; it started in 2006 and was inspired by a similar event in Paris, France. Generally, in Canada, nothing is that *old* or *original* as it is a colonized country and was only formed a hundred and fifty-seven years ago. That being said, I'd like to acknowledge that Toronto is on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

There is something special about having a *Nuit Blanche*. This is the time that we are normally all home or tucked into bed (if we are so lucky). Being out and about in a darkened city in the middle of the night roaming around famous landmarks and buildings, University campuses, alleyways, carless roads, bars, and stores feels forbidden, which perhaps adds to the excitement. The city is transformed into a large, curated open-air museum. Popular squares, parks, and paths are transformed into interactive art displays, and buildings on the University of Toronto campus are opened to the public to display artists' art pieces and installations. In fact, these buildings can be transformed themselves. Bars offer drinks while patrons browse the works hung on the walls or taking up staircases, basements, or small gardens. While there are unusual locations for art, there are also traditional ones like art museums. Friends and families roam the city in groups, discussing the themes and the art, exploring it like they can't do during the day. Some restaurants and cafes are also open for breaks or nourishment between art displays.

Every year, a theme is set and artists and festival attendees explore these thought-provoking themes through art. There are also “Nuit Talks” with discussions, artist Q&As, and performances taking place online and off leading up to and following each annual Nuit Blanche.

Lindsay HUMPHREYS  
Lecturer



### **Biodata**

*I am **Sara HERRERA** and I am an English Teacher at YADYO. I graduated in Language Sciences with a major in English Translation and Interpretation, from the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Monterrey México. Certificated by TEFL to Teach English as a Foreign Language with over 10 years of experience. Until 2022 I worked as a Business English Teacher for different companies through TECMilenio University in México. I volunteered as an Elementary School English Teacher in Denmark in 2018. Recently I moved with my husband and baby to Türkiye in 2022 to look for new opportunities to grow as a person and to gain experience in the field of teaching English as a foreign language. I am passionate about leading others to bring out the best of them through learning.*

### **MOTHER'S DAY FESTIVAL IN MEXICAN AND TURKISH CULTURE AS A SIGN OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTHERHOOD IN SOCIETY**

***“All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.” —Abraham Lincoln***

If we consider that the previous quote was said by a great President and leader that changed the way a whole nation built their society and that he addressed everything he ever became to his mother, then we should take a moment to meditate on the importance of "mothers" in our lives, society and cultures.

As we can see in the example of the life of Abraham Lincoln, mothers play a fundamental role in our cultures, and their influence is reflected in various aspects of society. Some of the reasons why mothers are so significant in our cultures include: 1) Mothers are often the main transmitters of family values such as respect, solidarity, and responsibility. 2) It is often mothers who pass on their recipes and cooking techniques to future generations. 3) Mothers are known for their warm care and support throughout their children's lives, offering unconditional love.

In Mexico, the mother figure is a solid reference for society. Our culture gives great respect to mothers and this is also due to the religious base on which our nation is founded.

The formalization of Mother's Day took place in 1922 due to the prominence of the Catholic-Christian religion in the country, in the fifth month of the year, which is associated with the most important maternal figure for our culture "the Virgin Mary" (who was the mother of our religious leader and God), May 10th was decided as the date for this celebration where it was also sought to adapt to the payment system of the time, thus highlighting the cultural and religious significance of the holiday.

I have been living in Türkiye for 2 years now and it was a pleasant surprise for me to realize that in this country and within this society people also give place to the mothers and dedicate one day of the year (specifically in May as in Mexico) to celebrate them.

In both Mexico and Türkiye, the Mother's Day festival is an extremely important day that is worth celebrating and enjoying.



The expressions of love and honor that Mexicans have on the Mother's Day festival range from family luncheons, flowers and gifts to Mariachi serenades, religious gatherings and musical festivals or recitals.

All schools in the country prepare their own festival where children sing and recite poetry in honor of mothers. Each city decorates its streets with red roses and many flowers to paint a beautiful scene where every mother in the country walks with confidence and dignity. Husbands and children seek to strive to find the best gift for those who preserve the chain of life in society. Religious Mexicans show their affection and admiration through prayers that show gratitude to God for the care, love and prayer that their mothers give them daily.

Türkiye is not far behind. This year I had the opportunity to experience my first Mother's Day in this beautiful country and see the love and colors that also embrace the hearts of mothers here.

Türkiye is filled with flowers which are the traditional gift for mothers. Some schools in the country also hold celebrations for them where children participate in speeches of admiration and gratitude.

Even in the year 2022, the current president of the Turkish Republic, Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, shared a message on Mother's Day where he quoted the following: "I congratulate all our mothers on Mother's Day, symbols of sublime virtues, such as affection, work, consecration and mercy. As members of a civilization that expresses the value placed on mothers by stating that 'heaven is under the feet of mothers', *our mothers are a merciful refuge for us*. It should never be forgotten that mothers' prayers in the struggle of daily life are one of the most important sources of strength. We must not make them lack the respect and affection they deserve. Our wish for mothers, the supreme glory, is that they do not stop praying and making efforts for their children, for our country and our nation. I congratulate Mother's Day to all our mothers who dedicate their lives to their families, deserving the greatest respect, and I remember with glory and gratitude all the mothers who have died."

The previous quotes just highlight the importance of mothers in the construction of Turkish society where their hard work in families, their love and prayers are some of the listed reasons for this.

I should add that I never thought I was going to experience my first Mother's Day out of my culture but besides the wrong expectations I had about feeling I was going to miss the special feeling and worth to motherhood, I must say that it didn't feel like that at all. Actually, it was even more special and beautiful because I had the opportunity to celebrate twice, on May 10th and 12th. I felt home. And I have to thank Türkiye for that.

I received beautiful flowers from my husband and baby, I had a nice meal in one of my favorite restaurants and some of my Turkish best friends visited me to show their love by bringing flowers to me, my co-workers prepared a beautiful present to me and others sent chocolates to my house to make my day remarkably happy. The memories I made about my first mothers festival are so precious that I'll keep them in my heart forever.

In conclusion, we can highlight that in both Mexican and Turkish cultures there is a similarity in the admiration, respect and affection that is held towards the role of "mothers" due to their clear positive influence on our societies.

The mothers of our cultures guide, raise, teach, protect and sustain each generation, directing their loved ones towards goodness, effort and excellence, thus building a society that promotes love, respect and honesty towards an admirable future.

Reasons enough why, in my opinion, it is worthy to continue celebrating one festival a year to honor them and to continue to value that which, as Abraham Lincoln said, it is because of our mothers that we can become who we are meant to be in this life.

Sara HERRERA

Lecturer



## **Biodata**

*Tuğba TÜYSÜZ is an English language lecturer at Cukurova University, School of Foreign Languages, Adana, Türkiye. She graduated in English Linguistics from Hacettepe University in 2010. She received her MA in Curriculum and Instruction from Bilkent University. She has experience of teaching English for almost 13 years.*

### **THE IMPACT OF FESTIVALS: CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Festivals serve as a vibrant expression of community spirit and cultural heritage, playing important roles in societies worldwide. In Türkiye, a country rich in history and cultural diversity, festivals not only commemorate traditions but also bring people together. From ancient rituals to modern celebrations, these events contribute significantly to the fabric of Turkish society, reflecting its values, beliefs, and aspirations.

Festivals fulfil essential social needs by providing a sense of belonging and solidarity among community members. They provide opportunities for people to come together, share experiences, and strengthen social bonds. In a fast-paced world, festivals offer moments of respite and reflection, allowing individuals to reconnect with their cultural roots and values.

While many festivals celebrate tradition and unity, some events around the world are known for their eccentricity and uniqueness. For example, the Cheese Rolling Festival in Gloucestershire, England, involves participants chasing a wheel of cheese down a steep hill, risking tumbles and injuries for the sake of tradition and fun. This tradition dates back over 200 years, and occurs on the last Monday in May.

In Spain, the La Tomatina Festival sees participants engaging in a massive tomato fight in the streets of Buñol, near Valencia. La Tomatina is a fun and messy festival where people throw 150,000 tomatoes at each other. It started as a protest in the 1940s and now attracts thousands of participants from all over the world.

The Monkey Buffet Festival dates back 2,000 years and is held on the last Sunday of November, at the Phra Prang Sam Yot temple in Lopburi, Thailand. A banquet full of gifts awaits the guests of honour, none of whom are human. This feast is held in celebration of Lopburi's thousands of macaques (a primate), thought to bring good luck to the area and its people.

These bizarre festivals not only entertain but also challenge social norms and provide insights into diverse cultural practices and values worldwide.

Türkiye has many festivals that highlight its multicultural heritage and regional identities. One prominent example is the Istanbul Tulip Festival, held annually in April, where millions of tulips bloom across the city's parks and gardens, symbolizing the arrival of spring and attracting visitors from around the world.

Another notable event is the Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival in Edirne, an ancient sport dating back to Ottoman times, where wrestlers compete in an arena, covered in olive oil, demonstrating strength, tradition, and culture.

In Cappadocia, the International Cappadocia Ultra Trail brings together athletes and nature enthusiasts to explore the region's unique landscapes through trail running, promoting outdoor recreation and environmental awareness.

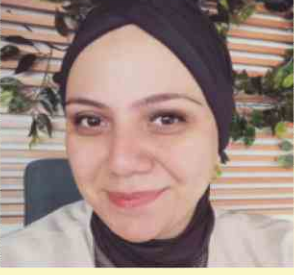
These festivals not only celebrate Türkiye's cultural diversity but also contribute to local economies through tourism and show the country's artistic and culinary traditions. Festivals in Türkiye and across the globe play significant roles in celebrating cultural heritage, promoting community unity, and enriching societal well-being. Whether through traditional rituals or modern interpretations, these events continue to evolve, reflecting the dynamic nature of human expression and the enduring importance of communal celebration.

By embracing festivals, communities affirm their identities, celebrate diversity, and inspire future generations to cherish and preserve their culture.

Tuğba TÜYSÜZ

Lecturer





## बायोडाटा

**जानन योगर्ट** तुर्की के आदाना में चुकुरोवा विश्वविद्यालय, विदेशी भाषाओं के स्कूल में एक व्याख्याता है। उसने अंकारा विश्वविद्यालय से भारतीय विद्या विभाग में डॉक्टरेट उपाधि प्राप्त की है। वह लगभग दस साल तक एर्जीयेस विश्वविद्यालय में एक शोधकर्ता के रूप में काम किया है। उसका शोध क्षेत्र सामान्य रूप से भारतीय संस्कृति, हिंदी भाषा और साहित्य है।

## होली: रंगों का त्योहार

इस निबंध में, हम होली के एक हिंदू त्योहार के रूप में सांस्कृतिक और सामाजिक महत्व, होली की पौराणिक पृष्ठभूमि और इसके सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक प्रभाव पर बात करेंगे। शुरू करने से पहले, मैं CU SOFL के निदेशक प्रो. डॉ. योंजा ओज़कन और पत्रिका की आयोजन टीम का धन्यवाद करना चाहूंगी जिन्होंने हमें इस सुंदर आयोजन में पहली बार हिंदी में निबंध लिखने की अनुमति दी। मुझे विश्वास है कि इससे हम भारत और भारतीय संस्कृति में रुचि रखने वालों के लिए एक नई खिड़की खोल सकेंगे। मैं अलग अलग समय में भारत में विभिन्न स्थानों पर गयी हूँ। इसने मुझे भारतीय संस्कृति को करीब से जानने का मौका मिला। वहाँ मैंने कई त्योहारों का अनुभव किया है, लेकिन होली सबसे मजेदार थी। यद्यपि कुछ पैराग्राफों में भारत और इसके त्योहारों की सुंदरता को समझाना संभव नहीं है, फिर भी हमें कहीं न कहीं से शुरुआत करनी होगी। इस बिंदु पर, मैं भारत के बारे में अपने प्रभाव साझा करना चाहूंगी।

भारत अपने इतिहास, सामाजिक मूल्यों और क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं के साथ पूर्व का चमकता सूरज है। यह एक ऐसा देश है जो अलौकिक शक्तियों, पवित्र प्राणियों, देवताओं और देवियों की उपासना को प्रणालीबद्ध करता है। यह देश सभी विश्वासों और नियमों को प्रतीकों के रूप में प्रस्तुत करता है। यह कई मिथकों का पालना है जो पारंपरिक रूप से फैलते हैं या समाज की कल्पना के प्रभाव में बदलते हैं। यह एक आकर्षक शक्ति है जो अनातोलियन और यूरोपीय कहानी कहने को गहराई से प्रभावित करती है। यह विभिन्न जातीय समूहों की एकता से बना एक मोज़ेक है और ब्रिटिश शासन के खिलाफ निष्क्रिय प्रतिरोध के माध्यम से प्राप्त स्वतंत्रता की कहानी का सबसे अच्छा उदाहरण है। भारत को समझने का सबसे अच्छी तरीका है अकेले सड़कों पर घूमना, हर भोजन का स्वाद लेना और हर विवरण पर ध्यान देना जो आप देखते हैं। रेलवे स्टेशन सबसे अच्छी जगह हैं जहाँ आप जागरूकता का अनुभव कर सकते हैं। लोगों की भीड़ के साथ लंबी ट्रेन यात्राएं, मसालेदार दूध के साथ गर्म चाय और राशन... भारत वह जगह है जहाँ हर त्योहार अभूतपूर्व उत्साह के साथ मनाया जाता है।

जैसा कि ज्ञात है, भारत ने युगों-युगों से विभिन्न सभ्यताओं और संस्कृतियों की मेजबानी की है और हमेशा अपनी रंगीनता के कारण दुनिया का पसंदीदा रहा है। इस कारण से, देश की सांस्कृतिक विविधता के बारे में बात करना आवश्यक है। यह विभिन्न संस्कृतियों, भाषाओं और परंपराओं की भूमि है, जो वर्ष भर मनाए जाने वाले अपने असंख्य त्योहारों में स्पष्ट रूप से परिलक्षित होती हैं। ये त्योहार भारतीय जीवन का एक अभिन्न हिस्सा हैं, जो धार्मिक, सांस्कृतिक और मौसमी उत्सवों को समेटे हुए हैं। यहाँ भारत के कुछ प्रमुख त्योहारों के नाम हैं: होली, दिवाली (दीपावली), नवरात्रि और दुर्गा पूजा, ईद-उल-फ़ितर और ईद-उल-अधा, क्रिसमस, रक्षा बंधन, ओणम, गणेश चतुर्थी, बैसाखी, आदि। इनमें से होली एक ऐसा भारतीय त्योहार है जो पूरी दुनिया में जाना जाता है। यह पूरी दुनिया में सबसे लोकप्रिय त्योहार है और धीरे-धीरे भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय के माध्यम से दुनिया के विभिन्न हिस्सों में एक कार्निवाल में बदल रहा है और पार-सांस्कृतिक समझ और सामंजस्य को बढ़ावा दे रहा है। आइए इस त्योहार पर करीब से नज़र डालें।

होली मार्च में मनाई जाती है। इसे रंगों का त्योहार कहा जाता है और यह वसंत के आगमन का जश्न मनाता है और बुराई पर अच्छाई की विजय का प्रतीक है, जो प्रह्लाद और होलिका की कहानी को स्मरण करता है। लोग एक-दूसरे पर रंगीन पाउडर और पानी फेंकते हैं, पारंपरिक संगीत के साथ नाचते हैं और भोजन का आनंद लेते हैं। यह त्योहार न केवल लोगों को रंगों में एक साथ लाता है बल्कि सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक बाधाओं को भी

पार करता है और एकता की भावना को बढ़ावा देता है। इसे दो दिनों तक मनाया जाता है। पहले दिन, जिसे होलिका दहन या छोटी होली के नाम से जाना जाता है, बुराई के जलने का प्रतीक बनाने के लिए अलाव जलाना शामिल होता है। लोग आग के चारों ओर इकट्ठा होते हैं, गाते हैं और नाचते हैं, प्रहलाद की होलिका पर विजय का नाटकीय रूप से पुनः प्रदर्शन करते हैं। होली का मुख्य दिन, जिसे अक्सर धुलंडी कहा जाता है, रंगों का एक जीवंत विस्फोट होता है। लोग सड़कों पर निकलते हैं, एक-दूसरे को रंगीन पाउडर से रंगते और पानी से भिगोते हैं। हवा हँसी और खुशी से भर जाती है, उम्र, जाति या पंथ की परवाह किए बिना लोग एक साथ जश्न मनाते हैं। पारंपरिक गीत, ढोल और नृत्य उत्सव के माहौल को और बढ़ाते हैं। यह दावत का समय भी है, जिसमें विशेष मिठाइयाँ और पेय शामिल हैं। सभी उम्र के लोग मस्ती और रंग फेंकने के लिए सड़कों पर निकलते हैं। हर कोई शामिल होता है!

यह त्योहार हिंदू पौराणिक कथाओं में गहराई से निहित है। होली से जुड़ी सबसे लोकप्रिय कथा प्रहलाद की कथा है। प्रहलाद, भगवान विष्णु का एक भक्त अनुयायी था, जो राक्षस राजा हिरण्यकशिपु का पुत्र था। हिरण्यकशिपु, जो खुद को अजेय मानता था, अपने पुत्र की भगवान विष्णु के प्रति भक्ति से क्रोधित था और उसे मारने की साजिश रची। उसने अपनी बहन होलिका की मदद ली, जो प्रहलाद की बुआ थी, और आग से अजेय थी। होलिका प्रहलाद के साथ एक अलाव में बैठ गई, लेकिन दिव्य हस्तक्षेप के कारण, प्रहलाद बिना किसी चोट के बाहर निकल आया, लेकिन होलिका जलकर राख हो गई। हिरण्यकशिपु की सभी क्रूरता के बावजूद, उसके पुत्र प्रहलाद ने भगवान विष्णु की भक्ति नहीं छोड़ी। यह मिथक बुराई पर अच्छाई की विजय का प्रतीक है और इसे होलिका दहन के रूप में मनाया जाता है, जो होली की पूर्व संध्या पर किया जाने वाला एक अलाव अनुष्ठान है।

आखिरकार, होली, रंगों का त्योहार, वसंत के महज उत्सव से कहीं अधिक है। यह खुशी, एकता और बुराई पर अच्छाई की कालातीत विजय का एक जीवंत प्रदर्शन है। त्योहार का पौराणिक महत्व, इसके रंगीन और समावेशी परंपराओं के साथ मिलकर, इसे भारत और उससे परे सबसे प्रिय और व्यापक रूप से मनाए जाने वाले त्योहारों में से एक बनाता है। होली एक विविध दुनिया में प्रेम, करुणा और एकता के महत्व की याद दिलाती है, लोगों को एक साथ आने और जीवन के सभी रंगों का जश्न मनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती है। होली सामाजिक बाधाओं को पार करती है और एकता और भाईचारे की भावना को बढ़ावा देती है। यह एक ऐसा त्योहार है जिसमें लोग अपने मतभेदों को भूलकर एक-दूसरे को प्रेम और करुणा के साथ गले लगाते हैं। यह त्योहार क्षमा के महत्व और संबंधों के नवीनीकरण की एक शक्तिशाली याद दिलाता है। यह लोगों को पिछले शिकायतों को छोड़ने और सद्भाव और सामंजस्य की भावना के साथ एक नई शुरुआत करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता है। इसके अलावा, होली का एक महत्वपूर्ण सांस्कृतिक प्रभाव भी है, जो पारंपरिक कला, संगीत और नृत्य को बढ़ावा देता है। लोक गीत और नृत्य उत्सव का एक अभिन्न हिस्सा हैं, जो विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विरासत को प्रदर्शित करते हैं। यह त्योहार स्थानीय शिल्पकारों और कलाकारों को अपनी प्रतिभा दिखाने के लिए एक मंच भी प्रदान करता है, जिससे पारंपरिक कला रूपों का संरक्षण और प्रचार होता है।

जानन योगर्ट

## Biodata

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### **HOLI: FESTIVAL OF COLORS**

In this essay, we will talk about the cultural and social significance of Holi as a Hindu festival, mythological background of Holi, and its social and cultural impact. Before I start, I would like to express my gratitude to the director of CU SoFL, Prof. Dr. Yonca ÖZKAN, and the organizing team of the magazine for allowing me to write an essay in the Hindi language in such a beautiful organization for the first time. In this way, I believe that we will open a new window into India and Indian culture for those who are interested. I have been to India at different times and places. This allowed me to get to know Indian culture more closely. I have experienced many festivals during my time there, but Holi was the most fun. Although it is not possible to explain the beauty of India and its festivals in a few paragraphs, we have to start somewhere now. At this point, I would like to share my impressions of India.

India is the shining sun of the East with its history, social values, and regional languages. It is the home of a set of social rules that systematize belief and worship in supernatural powers, various sacred beings, gods, goddesses, and their relatives. It is the country that presents all the beliefs and rules as symbols. It is the cradle of many myths that spread traditionally or changed under the influence of society's imagination. It is a fascinating power that deeply influences Anatolian and European storytelling with its tales. It is a mosaic formed by the unity of different ethnic groups and is the best example of the story of independence gained through passive resistance against British rule. The best way to understand India is to walk the streets alone, taste every food you find, and pay attention to every detail you see. Train stations are the best place where you can experience awareness. Long train journeys accompanied by crowds of people, hot tea with spiced milk and rations... India is the place where every festival is celebrated with unprecedented enthusiasm.

As it is known, India has hosted different civilizations and cultures throughout the ages and has always been the world's favorite because of its colorfulness. For this reason, it is necessary to talk about the cultural diversity of the country. It is a land of diverse cultures, languages, and traditions, reflected vividly in its numerous festivals celebrated throughout the year. These festivals are an integral part of the Indian way of life, encompassing religious, cultural, and seasonal celebrations. Here are some of the most prominent festivals in India: Holi, Diwali (Deepavali), Navratri and Durga Puja, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha, Christmas, Raksha Bandhan, Onam, Ganesh Chaturthi, Baisakhi, and so on. Among these, Holi stands out as a well-known Indian festival all over the world. It is the most popular one all around the world and slowly turning into a carnival in different parts of the world via the Indian diaspora and promoting cross-cultural understanding and harmony. Let's take a closer look at this festival.

Holi is celebrated in March. It is known as the Festival of Colours and celebrates the arrival of spring and symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, commemorating the story of Prahlada and Holika. People throw colored powders and water at each other, dance with the traditional music, and enjoy the food. This festival not only brings people together in a riot of colors but also fosters a sense of unity, transcending social and cultural barriers. It is celebrated over two days. The first day, known as Holika Dahan or Chhoti Holi, involves lighting bonfires to symbolize the burning of evil. People gather around the fire, sing, and dance, reenacting the triumph of Prahlada over Holika. The main day of Holi, often called Dhulandi, is a vibrant explosion of colors. People go out to the streets, smearing each other with colored powders and drenching each other with water. The air is filled with laughter and joy, regardless of age, caste, or creed, people come together to celebrate. Traditional songs,

drums, and dances add to the festive atmosphere. It is also a time for feasting, with special sweets and drinks. People of all ages go into the streets for fun and paint-throwing. Everyone gets involved!

This festival has its roots deeply embedded in Hindu mythology. The most popular legend related to Holi is the Prahlada myth. Prahlada, a devout follower of God Vishnu, was the son of the demon king Hiranyakashipu. Hiranyakashipu, who considered himself invincible, was enraged by his son's devotion to God Vishnu and plotted to kill him. He enlisted the help of his sister Holika, who is Prahlada's paternal aunt, and was immune to fire. Holika sat with Prahlada in a bonfire, but due to divine intervention, Prahlada emerged unscathed but Holika was burned to ashes. Despite all his cruelty to Hiranyakashipu, his son, Prahlada did not abandon his devotion to the God Vishnu. This myth signifies the victory of good over evil and is celebrated as Holika Dahan, a bonfire ritual performed on the eve of Holi.

After all, Holi, the Festival of Colours, is much more than a mere celebration of spring. It is a vibrant expression of joy, unity, and the timeless victory of good over evil. The festival's mythological significance, coupled with its colorful and inclusive traditions, makes it one of the most cherished and widely celebrated festivals in India and beyond. Holi serves as a reminder of the importance of love, compassion, and unity in a diverse world, encouraging people to come together and celebrate life in all its colors. Holi transcends social barriers and fosters a sense of unity and brotherhood. It is a festival in which people forget their differences and embrace each other with love and compassion. This festival is a powerful reminder of the importance of forgiveness and the renewal of relationships. It encourages people to let go of past grievances and start anew, with a spirit of goodwill and harmony. Moreover, Holi has a significant cultural impact, promoting traditional arts, music, and dance. Folk songs and dances are an integral part of the celebrations, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of different regions. The festival also provides a platform for local artisans and performers to display their talents, thereby preserving and promoting traditional art forms.

Canan YOĞURT

Lecturer





## Biodata

*Hasan AHKEMOĞLU knows that curious students grow into successful adults. In 2000, he received a bachelor's degree in American Culture and Literature from Bilkent University. He went to UC Berkeley to complete the International Diploma Program in Marketing in 2002. In 2011, he obtained a master's degree in ELT from the University of Cukurova. He currently leads SoFL's Speech and Drama Club, helping students maintain fluency and intercultural communication skills in their academic, social, and personal lives.*

### **HAWAII 'UKULELE FESTIVAL**

An instrument similar to a guitar called Ukulele is popular among traditional and modern music enthusiasts. These strings are made of gut or nylon that can be harmonized making it an ideal starting point for beginner musicians and students of music. For one, there are four types of this item which have different sounds, gongs, sizes etc., each with its peculiar melodies, timbers, frets, and keys. The ukulele has a long background going back to Portugal, but the exact date of its invention is unknown. According to scholars, the Portuguese braguinha or machete de braga was the source of inspiration for the creation of the ukulele since the first four strings on it work exactly as they do on a guitar. The term ukulele is derived from the Hawaiian words 'uku, meaning "flea," and lele, meaning "jumping".

For lovers of music and all those crazy about ukuleles, this is a fantastic way to come together and celebrate the various sounds and charms that make up this loveable musical instrument. Among the most popular ukuleles worldwide is the Hawaii Ukulele Festival.

The birthplace of the ukulele is where Hawaii holds annually its famous Hawaii Ukulele Festival. The festival attracts international ukulele players and fans who want to honour the rich history and culture of the ukulele. The festival presents live performances by talented ukulele artists, workshops for learners of all levels as well as chances for fellow uke enthusiasts to meet up and play together.

Not only can visitors at the Hawaii Ukulele Festival lose themselves in stunning views, warm hospitality, or delicious local dishes, but they can also soak up in Hawaiian beauty and aloha attitude. A must-attend event for uke lovers: that's what the festival is all about – celebrating music, culture and community.

The Hawaii Ukulele Festival showcases a diverse array of accomplished musicians and performers from Hawaii and beyond. Jake Shimabukuro, Taimane Gardner, Brittni Paiva, and Herb Ohta Jr. are among the musicians who have previously participated in the festival.

As technology advanced and social media (particularly YouTube) gained popularity, an increasing number of individuals were showcasing their ukulele playing abilities. The conflagration that Israel Kamakawiwo'ole initiated was further fueled by these artists and videos. Ukulele covers by players such as Jake Shimabukuro gained widespread popularity.

These artists are renowned for their mastery of the ukulele and their capacity to captivate audiences with their performances. In addition, the festival frequently features performances by local Hawaiian musicians who present traditional Hawaiian music and cultural demonstrations.

Apart from this particular festival there are many others going on around different parts of world with each having its own mix of music, entertainment and camaraderie like no other. For instance, you can get to experience ukulele madness in countries such as Japan through events like the International Ukulele Contest & Festival or even attend the annual Ukulele Festival of Great Britain.

Consequently, the festival is an outstanding depiction of Hawaiian music and customs; this happens due to the tunes played by skilled artists from within and outside the country that make it seem like people are transported back in time to experience the real beauty and enchantment of ukulele.

The effect of this festival on individuals is seen through belongingness, knowledge of diverse cultures, and happiness. In essence, if someone wants to check out traditional ways as well as welcoming mood of Hawaii then they should attend the Hawaii Ukulele Festival.

Hasan AHKEMOĞLU

Lecturer



## **Biodata**

*Aykut DEMİRYÜREK graduated from the Department of English Language Teaching at Cukurova University. He worked in various state schools for approximately ten years. He is currently a lecturer at the School of Foreign Languages and holds his PhD at Cukurova University, Department of English Language Teaching.*

## **FESTIVALS**

Festivals are the mirrors and most colorful expressions of cultures all around the world,  
Each festival reflects its own soul and plays its unique role,  
And bewitches us,  
With the colors of the rainbow,  
Creating indelible moments with art, dance, and music, and a sense of unity,

Time stops  
When stepping into it,  
A bridge between the past and now,  
Where different souls meet with love,  
A fascinating art,  
Getting rid of the bustle and hustle of life,  
That keeps traditions and customs alive

Aykut DEMİRYÜREK

Lecturer





### **Biodata**

*Elif Beyza TÜRKMEÑOĞLU graduated from Foreign Language Education Department at Cukurova University and completed her MA degree in ELT department at Hakkari University. She has been working as an EFL instructor at School of Foreign Languages, Hakkari University since March, 2024. "I wish and work to do my job in the best way possible. I love helping students learn how to lead successful and productive lives."*

### ***CARNIVAL CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD: VIBRANT FESTIVALS YOU SHOULDN'T MISS***

Festivals and carnivals are windows into a culture's heart and spirit, more than just occasions for celebration. These colourful gatherings, which are frequently rich with customs, history, and community spirit, unite people in joyful celebration. Let's explore some of the most fascinating festivals and carnivals from around the world:

One of the most well-known and amazing celebrations in the world is the Rio Carnival, or "Carnaval" as it is known in Portuguese. Every year, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil hosts the Rio Carnival. In the Christian calendar, it often begins on the Friday before Ash Wednesday and concludes on Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. Depending on when Easter falls each year, the funfair dates change. The extravagant samba parades, which take place on the Sambadrome, an avenue dedicated to parades, are the main attraction of the Rio Carnival. These parades feature competitions between samba schools, which are neighbourhood groups dedicated to learning and performing samba music and dance. Every school puts a great deal of effort into preparations all year long, designing elaborate costumes, floats and dance routines that are rehearsed. At the Rio Carnival, participants wear extravagant costumes that frequently showcase the themes selected by their samba school. The elaborate and eye-catching designs of the outfits include vivid hues, detailed patterns, and a range of textures. Beyond its status as a popular tourist destination, Brazilians attach great cultural value to the Rio Carnival. It's a time for communities to unite, showcase their artistic abilities, and celebrate their rich cultural history via dance, music, and visual arts. People from all walks of life are welcome to participate in the celebrations at the funfair, which reflects the spirit of joy, unity, and inclusivity.

Every year, the city of Adana in southern Türkiye hosts the vibrant and energetic Adana Orange Blossom Festival, or "Adana Portakal Çiçeđi Karnavalı" in Turkish. The following are some significant details regarding the festival.

The Adana Orange Blossom Festival usually takes place in the first week of April, during the peak of the orange tree blooming season in the area. Due to its abundance of citrus trees and reputation for having lush agricultural land, Adana's orange blossoms symbolize the city's abundant output from agriculture. The festival's origins may be traced back to Adana's rich heritage of culture and customs. It symbolizes the entrance of spring and the orange tree's flowering, which not only

enhances the beauty of the surroundings but also signals a crucial time for farmers as they get ready for the upcoming harvest season. The Adana Orange Blossom Festival reflects the city's unique culture and strong sense of community, serving as more than just a celebration of the splendour of nature and the bounty of agriculture. It fosters a sense of pride in Adana's agricultural history and offers a platform for cultural appreciation and exchange by bringing together locals and visitors to enjoy the festivities. The festival also plays a significant role in promoting tourism in Adana and the surrounding region. Visitors have the chance to experience authentic Turkish hospitality, explore local traditions, and indulge in the flavors of Adana cuisine, which often incorporates citrus fruits in various dishes and desserts.

To conclude up, festivals and carnivals provide an insight into the diverse cultures that exist around the globe. These festivities highlight the variety and depth of human customs. They serve as a reminder that despite our differences, we all yearn for happiness, celebration, and camaraderie. In order to fully immerse yourself in the atmosphere of international celebration, the next time you arrange your vacations, think about scheduling them around one of these amazing events.



Elif Beyza TÜRKMENOĞLU

Lecturer

## **Biodata**

*Anastasiia BLYZNIUK is an English teacher from Ukraine. She has been working with ESL students both online and privately at schools for more than six years. Her hobbies are cooking, dancing and psychology. She is currently working remotely as a teacher and customer support representative for an application promoting healthy lifestyle.*

### ***FESTIVALS AS ACTS OF RESISTANCE AND HOPE DURING WAR***

War can turn festivals into symbols of defiance, struggle, and a signal of faith in the future. In times of ongoing warfare, people rely on the strength of their own cultural and traditional ways of life. Earlier festivals were just the simple showpieces, today they have again risen as a challenge against the violence of invaders.

People who face the danger of war gather in shelters and safe places to honour independence and to hold different festivals that are full of music, dance, and traditional dishes. Importantly, these activities create a sense of normalcy and remind the individuals of their common attitude to life as the aspect which has the power to unite them.

Festivals are not only important events in the communities but they also bring together people of different nations. In all parts of the world, diaspora communities set up fundraisers and demonstrations in order to raise both awareness and money for more war-affected people. Not only do these events serve to help people but they also ensure that the entire world participates in the resistance against political aggression and the loss of shared traditional elements.

Participants use their talents to express collective grief, anger, and hope, turning performances into calls for peace and testimonies to resilience. Through these festivals, the spirit of resistance remains alive. Despite the war, these celebrations affirm that the true spirit is unbroken.

Anastasiia BLYZNIUK

## **Biodata**

*Gizem KARAMAN graduated from the Department of English Language Teaching at Cukurova University. She is working as an English Language Teacher at a state school. She is currently an MA student at Cukurova University, Department of English Language Teaching.*

### ***IMPORTANCE OF FESTIVALS AND CARNIVALS***

People organize festivals and carnivals all around the world in different seasons and times periodically. These celebrations play an essential role for the nations. They show cultural identity in various ways, such as dance, music, art, and cuisine, passed down through generations. Generally, they have a concept or a theme. If you see many people dancing, singing, wearing costumes and colorful clothes, you may find yourself full of fun. These differences and variations bring people together to share their experiences.

Moreover, some of these celebrations also have historical or religious significance in connecting people with their beliefs and past. However, this doesn't mean that these kinds of celebrations bring only the people who belong to these cultures; they are also a kind of invitation for the people who come to visit. You can see many tourists with different energies. Also, celebrations contribute to economic growth; people coming from another city or country buy some clothes, traditional meals, etc.

Some festivals and carnivals are well-known and arouse curiosity all around the world. One of them is the Rio de Janeiro Carnival, which is held in Brazil. Extravagant parades, samba dancers, and colorful costumes are indispensable for the celebration.

Another one is the Venice Carnival, located in Italy. It creates a tremendous atmosphere for people who love masked balls and elaborate costumes. Everybody wears cloaks and fantastic masks to make the city look like a place from a fairytale.

#### ***Festivals and Carnivals in Adana***

Adana is a city known for its rich cultural heritage. It has been home to various civilizations, from ancient empires to modern republics, each contributing to the city's culture and history. The International Orange Blossom Festival is one of the most well-known festivals, and it has been celebrated every April or May for years. You can come across diverse food stands, people in costumes, concerts in many city spots, dance performances and competitions. The scent of orange blossom surrounds you in the streets of the city. You enjoy your food or beverage walking on the street while hearing different melodies from every corner. The other one is the International Adana Taste Festival, which is held in May or June. It is an excellent opportunity to see various local dishes and gastronomic competitions.

Gizem KARAMAN





### **Biodata**

**Salih DEMİR** was born on July 29, 2000, in Kütahya. He is now working as an EFL instructor in Kozan, Adana. As being a scientist is his absolute dream and destiny, he is now studying for a master's degree in English Language Teaching program at Cukurova University. He is currently interested in Applied Linguistics and contemporary sociolinguistic studies and will always be a metalhead.

### **SABANTUY FESTIVAL AND ITS JOURNEY TO TÜRKİYE**

Since the beginning, the human species has inferred the world and its biological, geographical and physical events and phenomena as miracles of superior and unreachable beings or figures. In this regard, humankind invented rituals and special occasions to please gods, goddesses and distinct entities (Özdoğan, 2020, pp. 17-21). This article will discuss the birth, significance, rituals and migration of the *Sabantuy* Festival.

First, festivals and carnivals cannot solely be regarded as means of celebrating creation and praying to holy figures. They also represent how a culture is exhibited, preserved, and even reanimated. In this regard, we might need to know what culture is. According to Byram (1988, p.82), culture is a negotiation between people, expressed in artefacts and behaviours and formulated as rules, expectations, and codes.

Çetin (2007) defines national culture as a cultural system which comprises communal characteristics distinct from other communities. *Sabantuy* Festival is a festival celebrated by Kazan Tatars. As the Volga region has a harsh climate and barren flora, festivals related to fertility and harvest matter greatly. The festival is celebrated between the end of the winter season and the beginning of the summer season. Therefore, we can claim that it does not have a specific date. As Tatars living in Russia ask for blessing and abundance from nature, they chant *Irims* (conjurations), feed orphan kids, share their portions with one another, and give sacrifices to Mother Nature. In *Sabantuy* Festivals, every household is visited by the elderly of the town and given the time of the festival. Women clean their houses, while men clean and tidy up barns and yards of their homes. They prepare traditional meals for festivals as *botqa* (lâpas), *Qarğa Botqa* (Crow Lâpas), and alcoholic beverages such as *Sıra*. According to Tatars, crows are symbols of fertility and blessing. For this reason, children feed crows with *botqa* in their towns and walk, dance and eat like crows. *Sıra* is given to Tatar wrestlers, and they brawl for blessing and entertainment for days. Tatar songs are sung, and Tatar folk dances are practised. Another holy motive for Tatars is the horse. In *Sabantuy* Festivals, horse riding and racehorses are organized and performed at *mâydans* (racing fields).





Figure 1. Sabantuy Festival. (Source: İçöz, 2019)

Even if some Kazan Tatars migrated from Russia to Türkiye, this tradition remained revered and active. In Istanbul, Kütahya, Eskisehir, and Osmaniye, *Sabantuy* Festivals are still celebrated. Although the *Sabantuy* Festival underwent practical changes because of Türkiye's geographical and social characteristics, it preserved its meaning and significance for the Turkish Tatar people. However, as Türkiye has milder and more prolific flora, the festival's motives for celebration changed from praying for harvest to cultural continuity and memoirs from Homeland. In the Kütahya region,

the last *Sabantuy* Festival was celebrated in 2013 summer in *Efendiköprüsü* village in *Çavdarhisar*. We visited the elderly and watched horse riding, wrestling, and folk dances. Even if some cultural motives lost their meaning because of Islam, I still could observe children fluttering like crows and feeding them. Apart from rituals, the elderly cooked *Zur Belish*, *Pirmenke* and *Çak Çak* meals. However, another cultural element was also missing, and it was *Sıra*. Rather than alcohol, we used to drink tea with milk.

Since culture has shaped humankind's lifestyle and behaviours, festivals and carnivals have allowed us to see culture being alive and unifying. Even under the threat of cultural extinction and compelling migration, culture still survives and finds a way to express itself in festivals and carnivals. We should protect our values, customs, and culture even if some seem futile and mundane. In the end, they are what make us who we are.



Figure 2. Zur Belish. (Source: Miranova, 2015)

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Salih DEMİR



### **Biodata**

*Hello everyone. My name is **Ali ÖZGENEL**. I am 19. I am from Gölbaşı, Adıyaman. I graduated from Gölbaşı Science High School. I am studying at Cukurova University. My department is computer engineering. This year, I am trying to learn a lot of English, and I enjoy it so much. I like maths, and I also like playing football and reading books.*

## ***THE DIFFERENT SENSES OF FESTIVALS AND CARNIVALS***

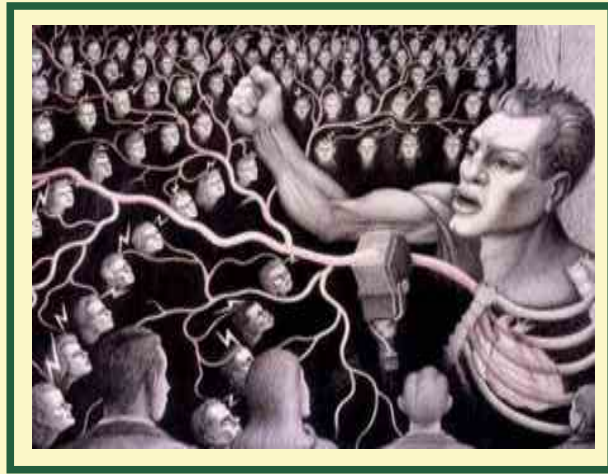
A wide range of things can be done in the name of entertainment. Some people can entertain themselves by doing their hobbies like doing a sport or exercise, seeing a film, playing football or basketball, and so forth. These events can include only one person or a few persons. That is, these entertainments can be arranged to be applied on your own or in a group. However, some events can be organized by the government or some special organizations, and millions of people can go to these public events, especially festivals and carnivals, and people can be together in these places. Therefore, they can enjoy themselves by joining these events, but although some people strongly support these festivals, others can object to these entertaining things. So, this is obviously a controversial issue.

A lot of people, most of whom are younger ones, think that festivals and carnivals may be very beneficial for people. According to them, the first benefit is that festivals and carnivals can offer a great number of joys, especially for young people. Recently, the increasing number of young people urges more and more events like concerts and festivals to be prepared for them. So, many people can be happy as long as these demands are met. Secondly, some people can claim that if these festivals and events were not arranged, people would not have a chance to discover new and talented stars. And that is why these organizations can be prominent in terms of new stars being promoted. So, many people support the idea that these events must be supported more by the governments. Thirdly, some people suggest that if these carnivals are presented in a supervised and controlled way by the organizers, they can give some crucial messages to raise awareness in people's minds. Thus, these events can even be educational and can make people more conscious. Lastly, many people know that individuals can be more social by going to these events which can make people more congenial and friendly. Thus, they can join the festivals and carnivals so that they could become more extroverted.

In spite of these positive sides mentioned above, other people can disclaim these events by offering some explanations. Even, they can think that these events may be harmful and threatening in terms of some viewpoint. According to them, the first and the most significant drawback is that some malicious festival organizers can affect people's psychology adversely by managing their minds. So, they can create a negative sense against a thing which malicious organizers hate on people's minds. And, they can constitute a negative public awareness by managing people's sense in their own organizations. What is more, they say that especially new festivals do not depend on their old and heroic customs and traditions, and if this situation continues in this way, as time goes on, this can get worse. Even after a couple of years, traditions and customs can be forgotten completely, and people

can lose touch with their past, and eventually they can lose their national identity. So, these people can be individuals who do not have national feelings. Finally, some people claim that arranging a lot of festivals and carnivals means a great amount of waste of money and time. That is, some more necessary things like educational programs can be prepared instead of a lot of festivals, or some courses can be arranged for people. So, more useful jobs for citizens can be done by spending less money and time.

To sum up, the organization of festivals and carnivals can be a debatable issue from many perspectives. While some people are in favour of these events, others can oppose these public events due to one reason or another. My opinion is that festivals and carnivals can be more beneficial and enjoyable as long as these events can be arranged in a supervised and controlled way.



Ali ÖZGENEL

## Biodata

*I'm Fatma Nur GÜNER. I'm twenty years old. I am a student at Cukurova University. My department is Electrical and Electronic Engineering. My favorite hobby is swimming. I also love reading books. Mathematics and physics are two of subjects I am most interested in. I am constantly improving myself in these areas.*

## FESTIVALS AND CARNIVALS

Festivals and carnivals are the living examples of our cultural heritage. They bring people together and preserve their traditions. Various celebrations are still held in different cultures and countries of the world. In addition to keeping traditions alive, festivals and carnivals keep the community together and increase social solidarity.

The Day of the Dead festival in Mexico combines blues and mirth. Its purpose is to honour and remember loved ones who have passed away. Graves are decorated, and various rituals are performed. The celebration points to the association between the living and the perished, recognizing passing as a normal part of life and keeping recollections lively.

In Türkiye, the Orange Blossom Festival in Adana livens up the city's social and cultural life every year. The festival aims to introduce Adana's cultural richness, natural beauty, and local flavours to both locals and tourists. The celebration incorporates concerts, theatre and movie exhibitions, presentations, and competitions. The Orange Bloom Celebration not only serves as a celebration and excitement but also fortifies social solidarity.

Diwali Festival in India is one of the most significant and colourful festivals. Known as the Festival of Lights, it celebrates light overcoming darkness and good triumphing over evil. During the festival, families come together, offer special prayers, and visit temples. Another important aspect of Diwali is its promotion of solidarity and sharing among communities. Diwali Festival is a meaningful Hindu celebration of lights, love, prosperity, and victory.

In outline, celebrations and carnivals bring individuals together, celebrate social legacy, and fortify social bonds. Each event provides unique experiences and helps preserve cultural values.

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Fatma Nur GÜNER

## **Biodata**

*My name is Ümmü Ceren GÖNEN. I am twenty years old, and I am a second-year computer engineering student at Cukurova University. My hometown is Denizli and I stay in a dormitory in Adana. I will give you brief information about festivals and carnivals.*

### **SYMBOLS OF CULTURAL EXCITEMENT: FESTIVALS AND CARNIVALS**

Festivals and carnivals are events where people all over the world come together and celebrate, where cultural riches are exhibited, and unforgettable moments are experienced. Each festival and carnival has its own unique set of traditions and rituals. Festivals and carnivals are divided into various types, some of which are: music, movies, sports, art and literature, food and drink, and culture. Now I will briefly tell you about some of the popular festivals and carnivals in the world and our country.

Known as the largest carnival in the world, Rio Carnival is flocked by millions of tourists every year. This carnival, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is famous for its colourful parades of samba schools, enthusiastic music and flamboyant costumes. During the five-day event, the streets are filled with dance, music and entertainment. Rio Carnival is not just entertainment, but also a festival celebrating Brazilian culture and samba.

Holi is one of the most colourful and joyful festivals of India. Celebrating the arrival of spring, this festival is full of fun activities where participants throw coloured powder at each other and have water fights. Holi is a time when evil spirits are expelled, friendships are strengthened, and past resentments are forgotten. At the same time, this festival, celebrated in different ways in different parts of India, is also a reflection of cultural diversity.

The Venice Carnival is another famous carnival that reflects the historical texture and artistic heritage of the city. During this period, the narrow streets and canals of Venice come alive with masked balls, costume parades and various shows. Masks, the most important symbol of the Venice Carnival, have been used as an element of mystery and intrigue throughout history. Participants become a part of this magical atmosphere by wearing elegant and detailed masks.

La Tomatina festival, held every year in Buñol, a small town in Spain, is the scene of the world's largest tomato fight. Thousands of people throw tomatoes at each other in this fun battle where tons of tomatoes are thrown. This event, which lasts only one hour, paints the streets of the town red and offers participants an unforgettable experience. La Tomatina is a unique festival where fun and chaos intertwine.

Türkiye also hosts many colourful festivals. Events such as the Istanbul Film Festival, Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, Bozcaada Grape Harvest Festival, Adana Orange Blossom Carnival and Navroz, have become centres of attraction for both local and foreign tourists. These festivals provide great opportunities to celebrate Türkiye's rich cultural and artistic heritage.

In conclusion, festivals and carnivals are the meeting point of cultures, special times when people have joyful moments and accumulate unforgettable memories. These activities, each with their own story, make the world more colourful and liveable. Festivals, which are a celebration of cultural richness and diversity, are the best examples of humanity's common heritage.

Ümmü Ceren GÖNEN



## Biodata

*Hello dear reader, I am **Beyzanur ASLANCI**. I am 19 years old. I am a student at Cukurova University. My department is Electrical and Electronics Engineering. I am studying English now.*

## **LA FESTA DELLA SENSA**

A Festival is a series of events held at a specific time and place. Festivals are celebrated for several purposes. Commemorating and celebrating a past event, religious, entertainment, national unity and solidarity are some of these. Nowadays, several festivals are celebrated in various parts of the world. I am going to explain one of them. It is called La Festa Della Sensa.

This festival is celebrated in Venice, Italy, every year in May. The purpose of the celebration is to commemorate two important events and symbolizes the sovereignty of the Venetian people over the sea. One of these events is Doge Pietro II. Orseolo's conquest of Dalmatia, which was endangered by the Slavs. This happened on 9 May 1000. Another event is the adoption in 1177 of the Treaty of Venice by Doge Sebastiano Ziani, Pope Alexander III, and Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, which ended long-standing differences between the Papacy and the Holy Roman Empire.



Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

The Festival begins with the participation of the Pope and the Duke. Firstly, they perform religious ceremonies with prayers (Picture 1). Afterwards, The Duke is expected to marry the sea. The Pope gives a ring to the Duke. Then the Duke marries the sea by throwing the ring into the sea (Picture 2). They call this event “marrying the sea”. The reason for this event is to symbolize the domination and power of Venetian people over the sea. It is important for them to dominate the Dalmatian coast. Conquering the Dalmatian coast has many political and economic advantages. So, they commemorate their victory and domination this way. During the continuation of the festival, Venetian sailors celebrate their victory at sea and gondola races are organized (Picture 3).

In conclusion, La Festa Della Sensa is a traditional event in Venice that takes place every year with the participation of many tourists and Venetians. It is organized to celebrate the historical achievements of the Venetian people. In my opinion, such events strengthen national feelings. I would like to participate in festivals like this in the future.

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Beyzanur ASLANCI

## **Biodata**

*My name is **Burcu KURT**. I was born in Osmaniye. I am 18 years old. I am in the preparatory class of the English Language Teaching Department of Cukurova University. I am interested in foreign languages. I love listening to music.*

### ***GREAT IMPACT OF FESTIVALS AND CARNIVALS ON BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY***

Festivals and carnivals are cultural events that strengthen the identity of a city and have a lot of positive impact on both individuals and society. Despite these benefits, some people think that festivals and carnivals are nothing but entertainment. In my opinion, as long as these events exist in a society, that society will always remain alive, which reflects the vibrancy of a city.

Festivals and carnivals have many benefits for both individuals and society. First of all, festivals and carnivals help increase tourism, leading to a boom in the economy. Thanks to increased revenue, such events may be good fundraising events to provide money for various goals such as education, art, and entertainment. Moreover, many people are looking for different ways to improve their mental health. These events can be effective for their mental relaxation. Additionally, festivals and carnivals increase the relations between people. These events provide an opportunity for socialization as they bring together many people from far and wide. Also, festivals and carnivals provide people with the opportunity to learn new things. People who participate in these events can improve themselves with the various information they learn.

On the other hand, many people argue that festivals and carnivals cause a lot of garbage in the area where they are held. In some cases, it is true; however, if the area is cleaned by authorities after the festival or carnival is over and the public takes the necessary care and attention, it will not pose a problem for the environment. Otherwise, it will bring about some environmental problems such as water pollution, air pollution, and soil pollution. Also, it would be more effective if the government set some rules and laws to prevent the garbage generated during these events.

To sum up, participating in festivals and carnivals appears to be an important thing for both the development of the individual and the well-being of society. Our responsibility is to be more sensitive to the environment for the continuation of these events.

Burcu KURT

## **Biodata**

*I am **Buse ÖNDÜL** and I am 19 years old. I am studying at SoFL and I am from class 302.*

### ***CONTRIBUTIONS OF FESTIVALS TO TOURISM AND LOCAL PEOPLE***

Festivals are significant factors for areas which haven't reached the desired level of development to introduce their natural and cultural values. They have been traditionalized by people who celebrate them on special days and dates. Festivals play many important roles for the region where they are held, like promoting the area, increasing the number of tourists, developing social, cultural and economic level, providing social peace etc.

Festivals have many positive impacts on society. They improve the development, lifestyle, education and infrastructure of local people in different ways. Participating in festivals offers social, cultural and economic opportunities to local people, such as gaining new skills and volunteering. Also, they are related to tourism. As a tourist attraction, festivals are increasingly gaining prestige in our country, especially in developing regions.

Thanks to tourism, people go to places they would never go and interact with people they would never meet. The regions where festivals are held receive an intense tourist flow during the festival period, thus increasing the number of tourists. As a result of the festivals, many tourists from different cultures and backgrounds visit that region and communicate and interact with the local people. In response to tourist-public communication, local people's perceptions of tourists and tourism develop positively and some social developments occur for the local people.

Overall, festivals are considered tourist attraction elements whose importance in terms of tourism increases every year and which have a significant impact on the social and physical environment of the region where the activities are carried out.

Buse ÖNDÜL





## Biodata

*My name is Ezginur Sude GÖRGÜLÜ. I was born on 25 March 2004 in Hamburg/ Germany. I'm 20 years old. I am studying at Cukurova University. I am studying English language Teaching.*

### **ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF FESTIVALS**

These days many people go to the festivals and they love these events. Maybe some people do not know the meaning of it so "What is a festival and why do people want to go there so much?" A festival is a cultural and traditional celebration that often involves a series of events, performances, and activities such as Portakal Çiçeği Festival, Coachella, Rio Carnival Festival etc. Festivals can celebrate various aspects of culture, such as music, art, food, religion or seasonal changes. They often include live music, dance performances, art exhibitions, culinary demonstrations, and other forms of entertainment. Festivals provide an opportunity for people to come together, socialize, and celebrate a shared heritage or interest. That's why a lot of people want to go there because they know that they will spend their spare time being very playful and social. If you are keen on these events, you probably know that they have plenty of advantages and disadvantages.

If we talk about the advantages of festivals, we can say that festivals provide a social area for people because many people, who live in different countries or cities, come to the festivals. They meet at one place and some people, who have never met each other before, start to talk among themselves. This can have very good results because even the shyest person can socialize at the festival and he/she can make new friends there. Secondly, festivals may contribute to the economy. I can hear some of you ask "How is it possible?" This can contribute to the economy because a lot of people come to the country or city where the festival is held. Then people start to travel the city. They spend their money on the local foods, accommodations, gifts etc. That's why these activities improve the country. Moreover, if the person likes the city, maybe he/she can find a job there and start to stay in the city. Also, if the person, who lives in a different place, loves the festival or country and turns back again to their own town, he/she may tell the events to their friends, family, class etc. Then some people start to be curious about the city and they want to go there too.

On the other hand, some people say that there are several disadvantages of festivals. To begin with, there are too many people at the festival. For this reason, these places are really crowded and noisy. Maybe some people, who may have anxiety, don't like noisy places and don't want to enter festivals. Also, there can be some trash talks at the festival. Some men may say bad or ugly words to women. Furthermore, if one of the women has a boyfriend, this can cause debate among men. As a result, at the festival, there will be chaos. Another disadvantage is that there can be environmental pollution at the festival area such as leftover foods, cigarettes, beers/drinks, plastic bottles etc. The pollution, unattractive sights, and disrespectful behaviour can influence tourists badly. For instance, if they see these things, they never come to the country again. Moreover, they can introduce cultural and traditional development to their relatives badly.

To sum up, festivals have both advantages and disadvantages. Festivals are really important for our culture and tradition. That's why people should continue to hold festivals. If people take care of the festivals carefully, there won't be any harmful or bad aspects of it. For this reason, people should protect it for our future kids and life.

Ezginur Sude GÖRGÜLÜ

## **Biodata**

*Hi, I am **Hasan SEVİM** from Cukurova University studying in ELT department. In this essay, I'm trying to focus on the pros and cons of Coachella. The reason why I chose it, instead of a local festival, is not only because it is one of my favourite festivals but also because there are a lot of singers and musicians performing in it. I hope you will enjoy my essay.*

### **PROS AND CONS OF COACHELLA**

Around the world, there are lots of festivals being held. Therefore, from one country to another, they could change. Some of them can be related to a countries' unique culture, while others can host vastly different people from different cultural backgrounds. In other words, there are two types of festivals: one involves people with the same cultural backgrounds, the other unites dissimilar individuals.

The biggest example of festivals involving different people is Coachella. It is an annual music and arts festival held in California and founded by Paul Tollett and Rick Van Santen in 1999. Since then, it has been happening three days repeatedly for two weeks in April. However, some think that it could be disastrous especially for the environment while others think that it has a lot of advantages. From my point of view, Coachella can have lots of benefits rather than drawbacks.

To begin with, one of the significant roles of the festival is that it has a cultural impact. In other words, Coachella can influence and shape music and fashion trends, the style and sound of popular music, all around the world. For instance, during the Coachella event, people always wear different kinds of clothes, especially colourful ones, every year due to the season of the year. Also, the variety of music is large. Thus, it can have a major impact globally. To give an example, some musicians can be affected by the music of Coachella which helps them to create new music. Another important aim of Coachella is that the genre of the music is wide from Pop music to Rock and Roll like Ariana Grande or Gun N' Roses.

Apart from other advantages of Coachella's social impact, there are economic improvements. Coachella brings millions of people to watch global superstars. Thanks to this, it also brings in billions of dollars to the local economy through ticket, food and beverages sales, merchandise, and accommodation. Moreover, it takes six days total which helps local society to make more money throughout Coachella. Besides, it creates job opportunities for locals who can work at the festival. For example, whether being unemployed or having a store, a person can find a job easily.

While Coachella has lots of advantages there are also a few negative effects of it. One of the disadvantages of the festival is environmental pollution. After the event there could be garbage all around the field which always takes so much time to clean. In other words, after Coachella, the area could not only be filled with waste but also consume more energy. Furthermore, Coachella may cause a stampede. To clarify, due to the fact that plenty of people come together to watch the concerts there can be horrible events which might bring about the stampede.

To conclude, there are different kinds of festivals all around the world. They can be divided into two different groups which can be either gathering only for culture or gathering all people with different cultural backgrounds. Coachella is the one of the undivided ones. Coachella is the one which is the most impactful globally. It can affect lots of things both in a positive way and negative way. People should take considerable steps to make it more sustainable and eco-friendly. Coachella also should have much more security for people's safety.

Hasan SEVİM

## **Biodata**

*I am **Kader ÖZKER**. I study at SoFL and I am from class 302. My department is ELT. I am very keen on writing.*

### ***FESTIVALS AND CARNIVALS WITH TECHNOLOGY***

Festivals and carnivals have always been a big part of every culture. They give clues about the culture of the countries. So, if you want to know about the culture of a country, festivals and carnivals can give you a lot of clues. Thanks to technology, sharing festival cultures with others is easier than it used to be. We all know that technology has affected everything and it also has affected festivals and carnivals both negatively and positively.

In the past, our forefathers used to share their way of celebrating festivals and events in newspapers, on the radio, etc., and it was taking too much time or money to inform others about upcoming events. But now, social media has made it quite easy to inform others about events. This is an unignorable positive effect of technology for festivals' advancement. Another advantage that technology has brought to our life about festivals is the more entertaining ways of celebrating. For example, our forefathers used less advanced instruments than we use today. If you attended a festival, you would be amazed by the advanced music shows because every passing day, concert organizers are creating more different shows thanks to technology.

On the other hand, if we consider how technology has affected people's connection during festivals and carnivals, we will see that it has affected this matter negatively. Due to people's social media addiction, they want to share every moment of festivals on their page, but they keep themselves back from the real fun while doing this. An example of this is when they record every moment on video, taking photos of every moment etc. These behaviours make them miss the real enjoyment. This is the most important disadvantage because the aim of festivals and carnivals is to give people fun; however, because of technology addiction, today most people can't experience festivals and carnivals properly.

To sum up everything, festivals and carnivals have been enjoyable and fun for years and with technology it is more enjoyable than ever. As we mentioned before, there are not many disadvantages of technology for festivals and carnivals but there are some and these are quite important. As happens to everything, if people use technology consciously there will be no disadvantages for festivals and carnivals.

Kader ÖZKER





### **Biodata**

*Hello! My name is **Mariam MOHSIN**. I am a first-year psychology student at Abdullah Gul University and I am from Karachi, aka the best city in Pakistan . I love to listen to music and take long walks at night, usually alone but I don't mind company .*

## **CHAAND RAAT**

In Pakistan, the night before Eid-ul-Fitr, or Chaand Raat, is a colourful and exuberant festival that signifies the conclusion of Ramadan. The excitement leading up to Eid culminates in this joyous evening in towns around the nation, marked by the lively energy of streets, marketplaces, and residences. The Saddar district, which is the commercial and historical centre of many Pakistani cities, including Karachi, is one of the most famous locations to enjoy Chaand Raat.

On Chaand Raat, Saddar turns into a kaleidoscope of colours and noises. Normally bustling with regular traffic and business, the streets take on the appearance of a carnival. Shops and street vendors are decked out in vivid, brilliant lights, producing a captivating display that draws visitors from all around the city. The scents of henna, perfumes, and street cuisine penetrate the air, creating a unique sensory experience. The rush of sights and sounds captures the happiness and enthusiasm that Chaand Raat offers the people.

Saddar becomes a mingling pot of cultures and backgrounds joined in joy as people of all ages go there. Individuals, families, and groups of friends stroll the streets, making last-minute purchases for Eid at a variety of kiosks and businesses. The most sought-after products are clothing, accessories, bangles, and shoes—all necessary for the joyous ensembles worn on Eid. On Chaand Raat, women and girls swarm around henna artists, who expertly adorn their hands with elaborate patterns. This is a customary and beloved event.

The loud chatter of people bargaining with shopkeepers is a defining sound of the night. Bargaining is not just a transactional activity but a social one, where buyers and sellers engage in animated exchanges. Shopkeepers, aware of the competitive spirit of the night, are often willing to negotiate prices, leading to lively and sometimes humorous interactions. This ritual of haggling adds to the communal and interactive nature of the celebration, reinforcing social bonds and the collective joy of the occasion.

The Chaand Raat experience in Saddar is dramatically improved by street sellers. They sell a wide range of products, including celebratory meals like chaat, jalebis, and samosas, as well as sparkling jewellery and bangles. People pamper themselves and their loved ones with exquisite products and delicacies in an opulent setting. Purchasing bracelets and getting henna applied on Chaand Raat is a deeply culturally significant custom that represents joy, beauty, and the joyous spirit of Eid.

During this festive time Saddar exudes an electric vitality that is a microcosm of the greater national festival. Shops and kiosks blare music, adding to the joyous clamour. The streets resound with the sound of children playing with sparklers. Even those who don't actively engage in the buying spree come to see the show and take in the festive mood and the tangible excitement for Eid.

Saddar's Chaand Raat presents proof of Pakistani culture's tenacity and vitality. This night is a communal breath, a time of joy and unity that crosses social and economic boundaries, despite the difficulties and sorrows that many have experienced. It is a celebration of community, life, and the ideals that unite the populace. A joyful precursor to Eid-ul-Fitr, the lights, noises, colours, and talk combine to create a unique experience.

Mariam MOHSIN





### **Biodata**

*My name is **Muhammad Qasim KHAWAJA**. I am from Lahore Pakistan and I am currently enrolled in AGU as a Bioengineering Student. I am a photography enthusiast and I love to listen to music.*

### ***EID-UL-ADHA***

Eid-ul-Adha, also known as the "Festival of Sacrifice," is one of the most significant Islamic holidays celebrated by Muslims worldwide. It commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son Ismail (Ishmael) as an act of obedience to Allah, before Allah provided a ram to sacrifice instead. The festivities surrounding Eid-ul-Adha are rich with tradition and community spirit, especially in Pakistan, where preparations begin well before the actual day of celebration.

The journey to the mandi, or cattle market, when men go to choose and buy animals for sacrifice, is one of the most unique pre-Eid customs. This is a lively, busy event that frequently has the feel of a holiday market. Set built weeks in advance, the mandis serve as a makeshift haven for a variety of animals, including camels, sheep, cows, and goats. Men, occasionally joined by their kids, haggle ferociously with vendors in an effort to get the best animals for fair rates. This bargaining is a ritual in and of itself, including passionate conversations and exchanges of views that mirror the deeply embedded traditional market culture in the community.

After being bought, the animals travel home and immediately become the focus of attention, especially for the kids. The noises and images of youngsters showcasing their animals fill the streets of residential areas. Kids frequently parade their goats and cows with pride, ready to compare them to those of their friends. Children create a transient link with their animals during this time, frequently giving them names and treating them like pets, and it is a joyful and exciting time.

The adornment of the sacrificial animals is one of the most charming customs. Kids and adults alike like decorating their animals with brightly coloured accessories. A common option are bells, whose jingling contributes to the joyous ambiance created by the animals being herded through the streets. Furthermore, a lot of kids take pleasure in spoiling their pets with extra goodies to make them fat, which strengthens their feeling of duty and ties them to the Eid festivities.

In many places, the pre-Eid celebrations include cow races, which are another exciting feature. These races are held in semi-urban and rural locations, attracting large audiences to see the spectacle. The races offer a chance for group celebration and entertainment, and owners frequently take considerable satisfaction in the achievements of their animals. Even if only briefly, these activities elevate the animals to the status of local superstars by showcasing their power and agility.

Everyone participates in the highly interactive and communal Eid-ul-Adha preparations, from young toddlers to elderly people. As neighbours get together to talk about their animals and exchange tales of their travels to the mandi, a spirit of friendship permeates the neighbourhood. On the day of Eid, everyone becomes excited about the impending act of sacrifice. This is followed by the sharing of meat with loved ones and the underprivileged, which further emphasizes the importance of compassion and sharing.

In conclusion, the period leading up to Eid-ul-Adha is marked by a series of vibrant and meaningful activities that bring communities together. From the bustling mandis and the spirited bargaining to the joyous parading and decoration of animals, these traditions create an atmosphere of anticipation and festivity. The pre-Eid celebrations are a testament to the rich cultural heritage and communal harmony that characterize Eid-ul-Adha, making it a cherished time for Muslims around the world.

Muhammad Qasim KHAWAJA



## **Biodata**

*Hi, this is **Oya KILIÇ**, I studied at CU YADYO in 2007. Now that it feels like a lifetime ago, I can assure you we had a great time back then in there. My life and also my career have taken many turns during these years and I had the chance to spend about 10 years abroad. Nowadays I'm a yoga instructor, EN speaking partner alongside a few other things.*

### ***WHAT A GREAT LIFE EXPERIENCE I HAD – BESTIVAL 2014, ENGLAND***

In 2014, while I was still living in London, I got invited to a music festival by my musician friends. Attending a 4-day music festival was already an exciting idea for me but wait, there was more to it. I was invited to stay with them so that meant for me to be around all the artists and singers of the festival, was this a joke? No!

This was also going to be my first ever festival experience in England. Surely most of you have already heard about the Glastonbury Festival, some call it the best of the best. My dreams were towards attending that one but hey, life can surprise us in numerous ways. Have I also told you that I didn't need to pay for anything? Yes, yes, I know, you think I'm lucky. Well, I am.

It was such a great time, seeing thousands of people together having fun, singing, dancing... Lots of famous singers were on the stage each night, so it was a hard choice to pick one. So, I would go and try to listen to a few songs of each. There were also smaller stages for the less known music bands, such as my friends. I felt like I was in a constant dream during these 4 days as you've gathered.

The feast we had was not only that, but there were also so many food & beverage trucks too. You could find Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Greek, many others and of course also Turkish food at the festival. It was affordable and tasty, yummy!

Luckily if the weather is also nice and you have your loved ones with you to enjoy, not sure what one could want more to have fun?

One other thing that made me realize otherwise was seeing quite many families at the festival, probably that was what I thought at the time as something incredible. Young kids were together with their parents, and it all looked normal. There was this cliché in my mind which, once you have a child, and if they're a young one, life must have been so hard and tiring and boring... but here it was in front of me, I was wrong!

Overall, what I can tell after all these years now when I remember those days; I smile, miss and still feel the joy. So here is a tiny advice from me, if you can do it, never miss the chance to go to a festival with your friends, even better with your family

\*Here is some info from Wikipedia related to the festival:

**Bestival** was a four-day music festival held in the south of England. The name Bestival is a portmanteau of the words best and festival. The festival had been held annually in the late summer since 2004, in a small country park called 'Robin Hill' on The Isle of Wight. Bestival was well known for its fancy dress themed days (usually the Saturday of the festival). In 2005, an attempt was made



to set the Guinness World Record for most people in fancy dress at any one event. By 2010 this was achieved, when 55,000 festival goers set a new Guinness World Record. Bestival was often described as a "boutique festival" due to its non-corporate feel. It was also known for piloting odd and innovative ideas, including an inflatable church where people can get married.

Thanks for reading,

Oya KILIÇ





### **Biodata**

*Hello, I am **Perihan MUŞ** from Abdullah Gül University. I'm 22 years old. I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student in the department of molecular biology and genetics. I have a special interest in Festivals and Carnivals.*

## ***HIDIRELLEZ: EMBRACING HERITAGE AND THE JOY OF SPRING RENEWAL***

Hıdırellez, one of the oldest cultural cornerstones of Turkish heritage, is passionately celebrated every year on May 5-6 as a harbinger of spring. Also known as the Day of Hızır, Hıdırellez is believed to mark the meeting of the prophets Hızır and İlyas on Earth, ushering in the arrival of spring. Among the populace, it is widely believed that both prophets are immortal. According to these beliefs, Prophet Hızır aids those in distress on land, while Prophet İlyas is considered the protector of waters. In 2017, following a joint effort by Türkiye and North Macedonia, Hıdırellez was inscribed in UNESCO's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage, as reported by Anadolu Agency (İrem YAŞAR, 2020).

Although there are various interpretations regarding the origins of Hıdırellez, it is generally asserted that it belongs to the cultures of Mesopotamia and Anatolia. The annual meeting of Hızır and İlyas is celebrated with great enthusiasm in Anatolia, Crimea, Azerbaijan, the Middle East, and the Balkans. Hıdırellez is known by different names in various cultures, such as Spring Festival, Eğrice, Early Summer, Kakava, and Saint George's Day. According to Prof. Alimcan İNAYET from Ege University's Institute of Turkish World Studies, it is believed that on the day Hızır and İlyas meet on Earth, everything they touch is blessed with prosperity, luck, and health. Due to this belief, people tie cloth strips to rose branches and trees, and the sick roll and bathe in the grass at night to cleanse and heal themselves. Additionally, as noted by İNAYET, on Hıdırellez, people clean their homes, surroundings, and themselves, purchase new clothes, go to the countryside, organize lively festivals, light fires, and leap over them (İrem YAŞAR, 2020). As stated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye, another tradition involves people drawing their wishes on paper and hanging them on tree branches overnight. In Hıdırellez, people celebrate the arrival of spring and make an effort to observe Hıdırellez in verdant and fertile places with water. On this sacred day, people typically eat lamb and lamb liver, believing that consuming the first lamb of spring brings health. It is also believed that collecting flowers or plants from the fields, boiling them, and drinking the water cures all ailments, and that washing with this water for forty days rejuvenates and beautifies the person.

Hıdırellez, deeply rooted in Turkish heritage and celebrated across various cultures, exemplifies the enduring human spirit and its intrinsic connection to nature's cycles. This lively festival heralds the joyous arrival of spring and encapsulates timeless traditions of hope, renewal, and communal unity. Through rituals that venerate the earth's fertility and the mythical meeting of Hızır and İlyas, participants experience a profound sense of rejuvenation and optimism. Customs such as tying cloth to rose branches, leaping over fires, and making wishes reflect a universal yearning for health, prosperity, and happiness. Hıdırellez, by bringing communities together in celebration, beautifully illustrates the uplifting and inspiring power of cultural heritage. By embracing these ancient practices, we not only safeguard our rich history but also reaffirm our shared human connection to nature's rhythms and the perpetual quest for well-being and joy.



**Figure 1** (Taken from [www.dailysabah.com](http://www.dailysabah.com)): During Hıdırellez, people tie cloth strips to rose branches and trees, expressing their wishes. In the Aegean province of İzmir, Roma communities gather for the festivities. A lively performance during Hıdırellez celebrations in Edirne province. A woman dressed in traditional attire dances joyfully during the Kakava (Hıdırellez) celebrations in Edirne, a border province.

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Perihan MUŞ

## Biodata

Hi! I am **Rezen ELBEKİR** and I am 19 years old. I am a student at SoFL, Cukurova University and I will be studying in the department of ELT in the following years.

### CELEBRATION OF DEATH



We all as humans love to celebrate and celebration has been with us since the beginning of history. It can be for different reasons like celebrating a victory, remembering an important event, or simply having fun and breaking the monotony of life. Additionally, festivals and carnivals are important to maintain our culture and religious beliefs. They are also a big chance for family and friends to gather together and share love and joy.

One of the best examples that we can talk about is “*Day of the Dead*” or “*Dia De Los Muertos*” which is celebrated in Mexico. Celebrated once a year on November 1 and 2, “*Day of the Dead*” is a two-day holiday that reunites the living and dead. Many of us view death as a sad event, but not those who celebrate that day. Conversely, they see death as an important and welcomed part of life that will happen to every one of us. That is why you will see smiley and brightly coloured skeletons and skulls everywhere during the holiday. Moreover, it encourages families and friends to gather to pay respect and to commemorate those who have died. The main traditions they follow during the celebration are cooking meals for the deceased ones, making paths by using candles to make it easier for the spirits to follow, and also bringing out the deceased’s photos and their items that used to be important for them.



In the end, there are a lot of other festivals that are just as beautiful as “*Day of the Dead*”. Each culture has its own reasons and various ways to celebrate festivals and carnivals. And that is what makes these special occasions exciting and interesting to learn about.

#### Photo credits

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Rezen ELBEKİR

## **Biodata**

*Sena CEVİZCİ is an MA student in the Department of English Language Teaching at Cukurova University.*

### ***FESTIVALS AND PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMAN BEINGS***

Belongingness is a vital psychological state in human beings; it is an emotional need to be seen and accepted in a community. Festivals play a crucial role in nourishing this need for people as they create opportunities for people to connect, share, and celebrate so that people build a sense of unifiedness. Whether it is the exciting samba during Rio's Carnival, the community feasts at Thanksgiving, or the shared joy at the Orange Blossom Carnival, festivals foster a sense of belonging, connect people with their community, elevate people's mood, and reinforce people's sense of identity. In addition to fostering a sense of belonging, festivals frequently promote cooperative behaviour and prosocial activities, such as food sharing and collective dancing. These activities increase group solidarity and enforce social norms. Participating in festivals might help the production of endorphins -the brain's natural feel-good chemicals- which can reduce stress and increase enjoyment. The thought of a celebration itself typically provides excitement and delight, which may lead to a psychological boost.

Beyond mere entertainment, festivals are essential to the emotional well-being of human beings, both individually and collectively. Participating in festivals nurtures people's psychological need for belonging and connection.

Sena CEVİZCİ



## **Biodata**

*Hello, my name is **Yusufcan YILMAZ**. My major is Computer Engineering. I'm in my preparatory year at Cukurova University. My hobbies are watching movies or series, swimming and playing basketball.*

### ***ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF FESTIVALS AND CARNIVALS***

Festivals and carnivals are celebrated around the world. They show the richness of different cultures and help build a sense of community. These events are fun and enjoyable. However, festivals and carnivals are both advantageous and disadvantageous for some reasons.

On the one hand, there are some positive sides of festivals and carnivals. The main benefit is preserving and promoting cultural heritage. These events showcase traditional dances, music, food, and crafts. This helps to keep cultural traditions alive and pass them on to future generations. In addition, festivals and carnivals bring many benefits economically. They attract tourists, which increases business for hotels, restaurants, and shops. This boosts the local economy and provides a significant economic stimulus. Besides, they encourage social interaction, enabling people to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships. Collective celebrations foster a sense of unity and belonging.

On the other hand, there can be a number of drawbacks to festivals and carnivals. The main bad aspect is environmental impact. Large crowds can lead to increased waste and pollution and damage to natural habitats. Managing the environmental footprint of these events is crucial. Another drawback is the increased risk of crime and security problems. Crowded environments can lead to theft and other crimes. The likelihood of accidents and injuries also increases with the number of participants. Finally, for local people, festivals and carnivals can disrupt daily life. Noise, traffic jams and overcrowding can cause discomfort and inconvenience. These disturbances can affect quality of life, especially if events are not well managed.

To sum up, festivals and carnivals are great events because of attracting tourists, transmission of culture and social interaction. However, they have some drawbacks in terms of environmental impact, increased risk of crime and some disturbances.

Yusufcan YILMAZ



## Biodata

My name is *Esma GÜVERCİN* and I am an ELT student at Hatay Mustafa Kemal University (3/5). I am also interested in music, sports or physical activities, books, and traveling. I love spending time in the kitchen and trying new recipes and different food combos. I want to try local dishes in different countries.

## HARBIN ICE FESTIVAL

Harbin Ice Festival is an international event that is organized every year in the city of Harbin in China. The festival generally starts at the end of January and lasts until the beginning of February. Harbin is famous for being the capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang state. The festival's most important feature is the gigantic ice statues. Local artists and international groups, taking advantage of Harbin's cold climate, make stunning ice and snow works. Among these, there are various artifacts such as castles, statues, bridges, and even buildings. Moreover, during the festival, other activities such as skating, ice statue exhibitions, and light show with fire are held for visitors.

Harbin Ice Festival attracts thousands of tourists to the country every year; for this reason, the organization that arranges the festival offers various tour alternatives that can increase participants' length of stay. Tours include participation for 2-6 days and are held not just for the festival but also for the city. The festival is held simultaneously in four main special parks of Harbin. These are Sun Island International Snow Sculpture Art Expo, Harbin Ice and Snow World, Songhua River Ice, Snow Harbin Valley, and Zhaolin Park Ice Lantern Fair. The ice sculptures and event programs displayed in each venue are different. Therefore, buying separate tickets for each event and exhibition area is important.

The name of the festival where magnificent ice sculptures were made was "Harbin Ice Festival" until 2001. In 2001, it was merged with the International Ski Festival held in Heilongjiang province, and its name was updated to "Harbin Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival." In 2007, the Harbin Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival entered the Guinness Book of Records thanks to the "Romantic Feelings" sculpture, which was made in collaboration with 600 sculptors from 40 different countries. The sculpture (Romantic Feelings), which is 35 meters tall and 200 meters wide, has become the largest snow sculpture in the world.

Esma GÜVERCİN

# INTERCULTURAL CLUB PROJECT

## Activity on Festivals



### **INTERCULTURAL VIRTUAL EXCHANGE**

**MODERATORS :**  
**NATALIA NISANOGLU (UKRAINE)**  
**DIANA CAROLINA ORTIZ (COLOMBIA)**  
**AYKUT DEMIRYÜREK (TURKEY)**

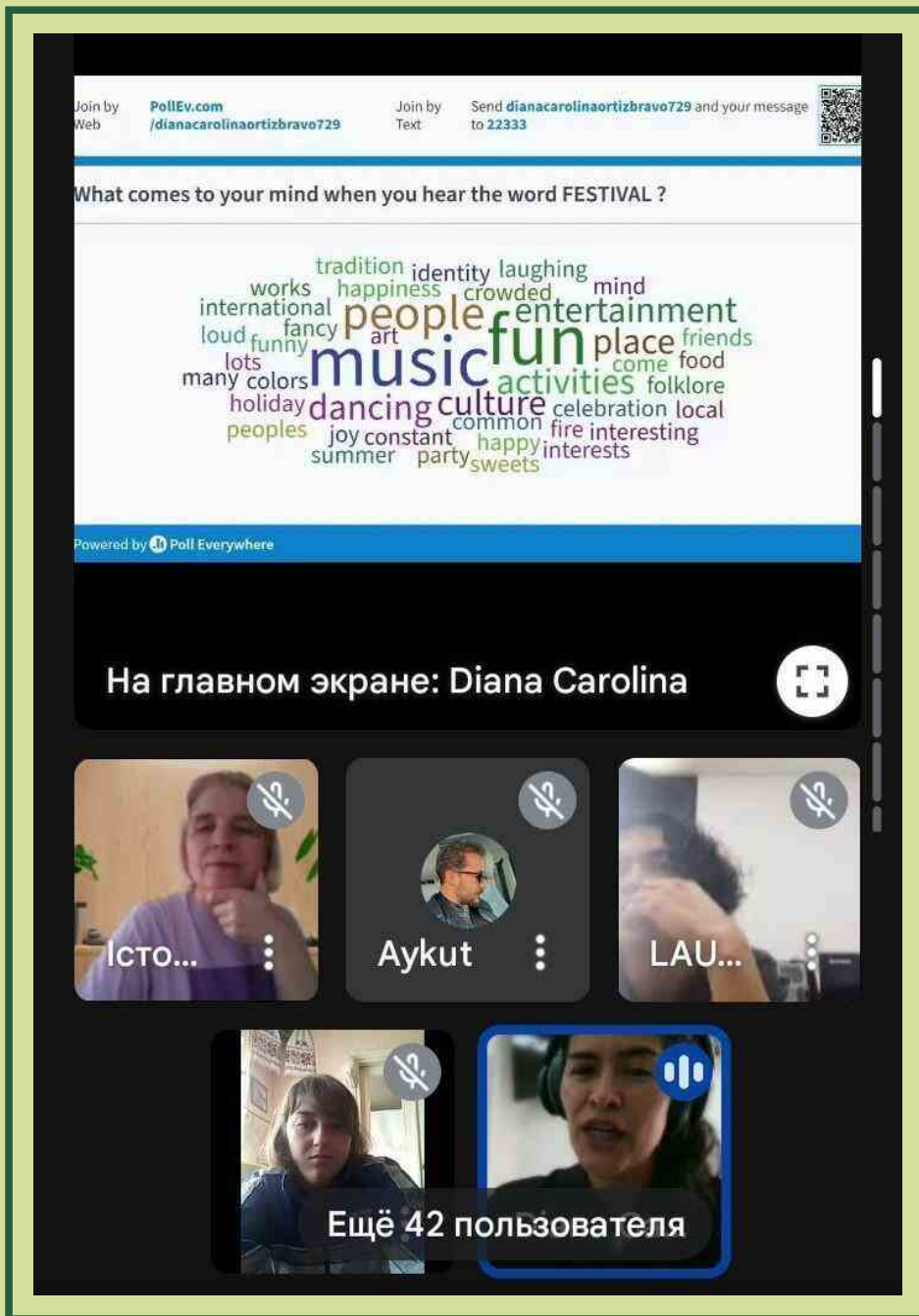
**UKRAINE (6 PM) | COLOMBIA (10 AM) | TURKEY (6PM)**  
**MAY 16TH - VIA GOOGLE MEET**  
**TOPIC: FESTIVALS**





The final intercultural club event took place recently. The topic of the last intercultural virtual exchange event was “Festivals” and it was held on May 16, 2024. The participants were from Ukraine, Colombia and Türkiye and they presented a local festival that they had attended or were interested in sharing. The students had the opportunity to learn about festivals from different countries and also created their own in groups as an activity.

The students prepared a one-minute PowerPoint presentation on the topic of festivals. They were supposed to choose a festival either they have already been to or would like to visit in their country. The students described the festival (city, date, activities, etc.) and the reason for choosing it. They were also expected to talk about their personal experiences about the festival.



After the event, students wrote short reflections about their experiences. In their paragraphs, the students described the festivals they talked about and learned from their group members in the virtual exchange event briefly. Moreover, they reflected on what they learnt and how the event contributed to their development. Students’ reflections can be seen in the following pages.

## Biodata

Hello everyone. My name is **Cuma Ali ALTAN**. I am studying at the School of Foreign Languages, Cukurova University. I like playing badminton, hiking, climbing mountains and reading books.

The Intercultural Club organized a virtual exchange event and it was about festivals. I attended the event to practice my speaking skills. A few days before the actual meeting, we met with our Colombian and Ukrainian friends and teachers online to learn about screen sharing and other things. I had prepared my presentation long before, but I was very excited. The meeting started, we exchanged greetings, and the moderator put us into groups. There were fewer groups than expected, with students from Colombia, Ukraine and Türkiye in each group. I talked about the Alaçatı Herb Festival in Izmir. This festival is organized in April or May and lasts four days. There are many different activities such as herb harvest tours, dance and music performances, and art exhibitions. After my presentation, we listened to the other students' presentations. Then the moderator wanted us to create a festival in our groups. I heard different accents and it was a good opportunity for me to communicate with foreigners.

Cuma Ali ALTAN



## Biodata

I'm **Nida Selen TIMUR** and I'm 18 years old. I'm studying at Cukurova University and my department is computer engineering, but this year I'm a student at the School of Foreign Languages.

## INTERCULTURAL FESTIVALS

I participated in the Intercultural Virtual Exchange Event on May 16, 2024 and I am really happy because this activity is so important to me in terms of learning and teaching new cultural events, gaining new presentation skills and of course improving speaking ability. In addition, this year's purpose of gathering was a crucial topic for learning about different cultures. To begin with, all of us presented a festival in our country; we mentioned our experiences and told them why they should attend this festival. In the same way, they introduced their festivals from their countries to us. Additionally, we were one Turkish student, one Ukrainian student and two Colombian students in our group and our teachers visited our virtual rooms for a few seconds. In the first part of the meeting, we presented our slides and in the second part we had to create a festival together with our group members. We decided on its place, date, entertainment tools and services in our new festival. I really enjoyed the event and besides I experienced an opportunity to talk to someone who speaks a different language for the first time. In summary, I feel more confident and this has contributed to my cultural knowledge and my academic life.

Nida Selen TIMUR

## Biodata

*My name is **Fehmi Enes ALTINTOP**, I am 19 years old. My hometown is Ankara. I'm a prep-year student at Cukurova University and my department is Computer Engineering.*

Recently I have taken part in an Intercultural Club event. The topic of the virtual exchange event was "Festivals". As participants, we chose one local festival and prepared a presentation about it. We met foreign students from Colombia and Ukraine. I learned about two different festivals that are celebrated in Colombia. They are the Medellin Flower Festival and the Barranquilla Festival. Medellin Flower Festival was created mainly to honour the growing floral industry in Colombia. It is a local and historical icon in the country. Flower producers give patterns and shapes to their flowers and present them to festival visitors. The other one is the Barranquilla Festival. During the festival, local people stop their normal activities and the streets are filled with people. Music is played. Many people start to dance. The festival that I presented was the Tekirdağ Cherry Festival. Tekirdağ is in the northwest of Türkiye. The festival is celebrated every June and lasts four days. Local people wear traditional clothes at the festival. There are a lot of events. For example, cherry eating competitions, art exhibitions, night concerts, shows, festival processions, beauty contests, and sailing competitions.

I enjoyed participating in this intercultural event and it helped me improve my speaking, listening, communication and presentation skills.

Fehmi Enes ALTINTOP

## Biodata

*Hi, I'm **Hasan SEVİM** from Cukurova University studying English Language Teaching. I like listening to music, especially pop singers like Ariana Grande or Taylor Swift and I'm fond of different country's traditions, languages and cuisines. Anyway, that's all I can say. I hope you will enjoy reading my paragraph.*

Each country has its unique aspect of tradition, living life and festivals. If someone wants to learn anything about a country that person should check those country's festivals because festivals always happen with a country's traditions. Being a curious person about different countries, I attended a meeting which involved students from three different countries, Ukraine, Colombia, and Türkiye. Having a meeting with my Ukrainian and Colombian friends was the most exciting thing that I have ever experienced. After being separated into different groups, each person started by introducing themselves and then their festivals. To illustrate, one of my groupmates who is from Ukraine talked about a festival which is called Magic Festival which hasn't been held for two years. Thanks to her, I learnt a magnificent festival. Moreover, if I have a chance next year and if it is held again, I will probably be there to see and experience that moment. However, after being in that event now I know that I have more information. For me, every student should be in those kinds of events not only to improve their knowledge about other countries but also to experience something like this.

Hasan SEVİM

## **Biodata**

*I'm **Nehir Naz ÖZDEMİR**. I'm 18 years old. My department is Mechanical Engineering but this year I am studying English at the School of Foreign Languages in order to improve my English skills. I'm from class EC-108.*

### ***NEW CULTURES BRING NEW KNOWLEDGE***

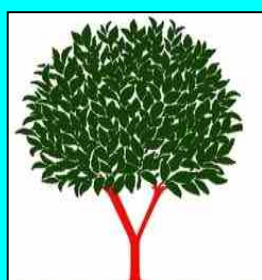
I felt so lucky and happy to be a part of the Intercultural Club Project on 16 May 2024. It was such a wonderful experience and I want to share how the project enriched my knowledge.

As groups, we introduced a festival that we have already been to or would like to attend in our own countries. I chose the Taste of Adana festival since I'm from Adana and always want to demonstrate Adana's unique tastes. Taste of Adana festival is a food festival that takes place in Adana. The first of the International Taste of Adana Festival was held on the banks of the Seyhan River in 2017. This festival is important to show the diversity of Adana and that is why I have chosen it. In this festival, various dishes from Adana home cooking to street food are tasted, historical places are being promoted, concerts are given and even various competitions are held.

After my presentation, I listened to other cultural festivals and they caught my attention quickly because they were so much fun. The first festival that I listened to was the Bogotá International Film Festival. The Bogotá International Film Festival, or BIFF, is an annual international film festival held in Bogotá, Colombia. This festival is a Colombian platform for the creation, exhibition, and circulation of audiovisual works of art that focus on narrative, technical and conceptual experimentation. The second festival was Festival Estéreo Picnic. Estéreo Picnic is Colombia's biggest alternative music festival and one of the most important music festivals in South America. The last festival was the Watermelon Festival. Many tourists take part in the Watermelon Festival. I was particularly interested in the organization about just one particular fruit but it looks fun.

The event gave me a new perspective and information about festivals. I had a lot of fun both preparing the presentation and listening to other ones.

Nehir Naz ÖZDEMİR



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