

2011 – 2012

“In my doctoral research, I am examining the lives of enslaved and emancipated Africans in Izmir from the late nineteenth century to the present. By most accounts, Izmir, an important port in the late Ottoman Empire and republic of Turkey, has been home to a significant population of Africans since that time. Understanding the history of Africans in the late Ottoman Empire has two different but equally important benefits: to gain a deeper appreciation of the diversity of experiences of peoples in the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey, and to recover the obscured past of a group of people -- a seemingly lost wing of the African Diaspora. As I am a Canadian studying in a Canadian university, the costs of conducting both archival research in Istanbul and Izmir, and fieldwork in Izmir province can be quite burdensome. Furthermore given that I am neither a Turkish nor American citizen, funding opportunities for this project are rather limited. Thanks to the Turkish Cultural Foundation Fellowship in Turkish Cultural and Art, I have received a major funding boost which will enable me to complete my project in a timely and effective manner. I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity and hope that my research will enable a better understanding of Ottoman and Turkish history for Turkish citizens and foreigners alike.”

Michael John Ferguson, Ph.D. Candidate, History, McGill University, Canada

“I would like to thank TCF for providing such a generous funding , which will make an invaluable support to achieve the objectives of my study. This funding will facilitate a productive analysis of Ottoman Bulgaria with rich archival sources.”

Nuray Ocakli, Phd Candidate, Social and Economic Study, Bilkent University, Turkey

“I would like to extend my gratitude to the Turkish Cultural Foundation for supporting a community of scholars every year and for its dedicated and generous support of cultural projects in Turkey. “

Merih Danali, Ph.D. Candidate, History of Art, Harvard University, USA

“I am honoured to have been awarded the TCF Fellowship. The grant has greatly enhanced my doctoral research, since it enabled me to acquire more sources, and thus, has vitally contributed to the completion of my thesis. “

Ourania Besi, Ph.D. Candidate, History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham, UK

“The importance of TCF fellowships lies in that they provide assistance to young scholars at a crucial point in their careers, allowing them to really concentrate on seeing their first major research project to completion. The TCF’s support of internationally competitive work related to Ottoman and modern Turkish cultural history specifically will undoubtedly help increase the visibility of such research in the global context.”

Maximilian Hartmuth, Ph.D. in History and Art History, Sabanci University, Turkey (2011)

Current Position: Teaching Assistant in History and Art History at Sabanci University