

### **Mapping Future Archaeologies**

### S PACE REDDID



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THE WORKSHOP CONCEPT:

## MAPPING FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGIES

Aksaray exemplifies the future of cities, where histories of construction and migration overlap and combine in unexpected ways and new communities form without dissolving older forms of solidarity and identification. Aksaray is not a melting pot, but a stew, a *putanesca*.

Spacedigger's workshop at MSGSÜ trained students to investigate this moment in Aksaray from the perspective of future archaeologists, learning about the present day through the investigation of material culture, and using these sources to map social realities of the present (imagined past).

The workshop comprised training in conceptual mapping and infographics, as well as intensive ethnographic field research in Aksaray. Students were encouraged to follow their own interests while staying within the framework of mapping future archaeologies.

# AKSARAY/ YENIKAPI

mfa-workshop

### UNDERSTANDING URBAN INTERSECTIONS

QUESTIONS RELATED TO AKSARAY

Aksaray derives its name from the eponymous city in Central Anatolia, from whence the neighborhood's first residents arrived as a result of forced migration in the mid-15th century. In ancient times, Yenikapı comprised the Port of Theodosius, the largest harbour in the early Byzantine period, and Aksaray was the approximate location of the Forum of the Ox.

Over the last twenty years, Aksaray/Yenikapı has been host to immigrants from Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Nigeria, Turkmenistan, Armenia, and many other countries. Recently, the area has also been absorbing people fleeing the Syrian civil war. As of October 2014, it housed roughly 50,000 Syrians, making it an attractive location for scammers who give false hopes to Syrian refugees. All in all, Aksaray has became a meeting point in Istanbul for Arab populations and for populations from the formerly Soviet republics.

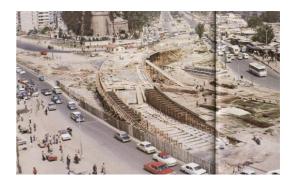
The district has been associated with human trafficking, smuggling, drug addiction, homeless

### ←LEFT:

This map shows the municipality (belediye) and district of Fatih that encompasses the peninsula coinciding with historic Constantinople.

children, prostitution, and the organ trade. However, Aksaray is also a vibrant business and trading district and a transit hub connecting Istanbul's northern suburbs to the center (via the tram, metro, commuter rail, and Marmaray) and the historic peninsula with the Asian side of the city and other more distant locales via the ferry service. There is a thriving tourism sector in Aksaray as well, attracting visitors on lower budgets than those who stay in more central parts of the city, and catering to medical tourists who come to be in proximity to nearby hospitals.

Overall, Aksaray/Yenikapı embodies the essence of cosmopolitanism in as scale of *longue durée*, functioning as a synecdoche for Istanbul as a whole.



### TOP: T Transportation planning from the 1950s onwards, massively changed Aksaray's urban fabric making Atatürk Boulevard one of the main north-south axis.

41°00'34.6"N 28°57'07.7"E

### FIELDTRIP to AKSARAY



During the fieldtrip to Aksaray we had the chance to meet the local Muhtar, Aksaray's Neighborhood Leader to discuss his engagement in the district...



...and the representative of the Istanbul Handicapped Association, Ekrem Yay.

### ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

Field research will consist of four main categories of data collection. Students will divide into small groups, each of which will engage in the full range of research methods outlined below.

### **SURVEYS**

- i. Where did you or your family come from before arriving in Aksaray?
- ii. When did you migrate here?
- iii. Do you regularly visit social or business contacts somewhere else? Where? How often?
- iv. Are you planning on staying here for the rest of your life or moving somewhere else? If so, where?
- v. What is your age/gender/religion/ethnic background/physical state/occupation?
- vi. Put the following items in order of most important to least important: family, wealth, religion, knowledge, safety.

### INTERACTIVE MAPPING

- i. Where on the map is Aksaray for you? Where are the sub-areas of Aksaray, if any?
- ii. Where do you spend most of your time?
- ii. Are there any areas you avoid? Always or only at certain times?

### **NETWORK ROUTES**

i. Meeting with groups of specialized informants (teenagers/elderly/minorities/etc.), accompanying them on their local circuits, and documenting

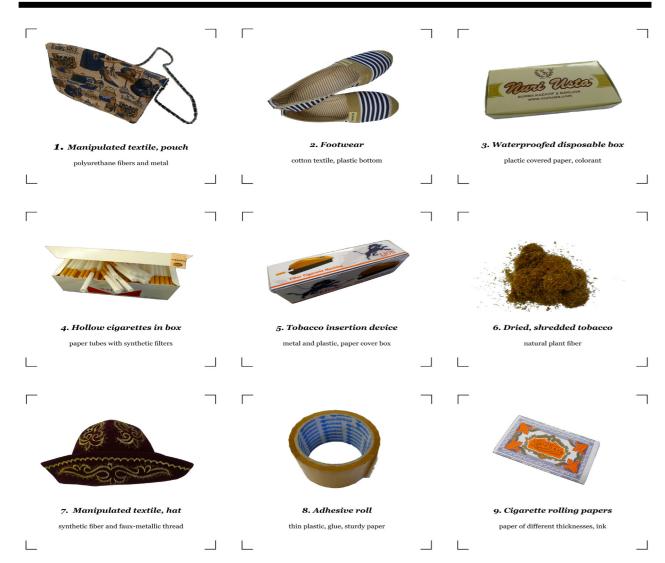
- their routes and stories with photo/video/sound recordings.
- SEMI-STRUCTURED QUESTIONS (ON VIDEO IF INFORMANT AGREES)
- i. How do you imagine the future of the neighborhood?
- ii. If you could change anything about Aksaray what would it be?
- iii. Where do most of the people that you care about live?
- iv. What the most shocking thing you have seen or experienced here?
- v. When you think about Aksaray, what are five words that come to mind?

### ARTIFACT AND AUDIO/VISUAL RECORDING COLLECTION:

- i. Ask shop owners where products they stock come from. Has this changed over time? Collect samples of quotidian and exotic commodities available for sale in Aksaray.
- ii. Make ambient sound recordings that document various routes through, and areas, in Aksaray.
- iii. Document through photo/video the places where older and newer elements of the built environment co-join/buttress/clash with one another.

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### ARTIFACT COLLECTION



The concept of a "future archaeology" allows us to use material culture and data to create alternative narrations for the present. The MFA workshop included an on-sitiu collection of physical objects from Aksaray that were later contextualized from a future archaeologist's perspective.





Use of tape at Aksaray's cargo terminal (left). Street vending

### **AKSARAY FUTURE EXCAVATION:** ALTERNATIVE NARRATIONS OF THE PRESENT

The artifacts above were recovered in the future/past excavation of Aksaray 2015. By looking at the material culture from a historically removed perspective, imbuing artifacts with iconic significance and drawing new, playful conclusions about the Aksaray of today, we take a first step towards denaturalizing our preconceived notions about the neighborhood.

- 1. This piece is made of textiles clip that were used to secure items carried inside from theft. The people of Aksaray probably kept valuable or dangerous items inside such as jewelry or weapons. Designs embellish the outside of the pouch, and there is chrome lettering spelling out "Salvatore Ferragamo", perhaps the name of a god of wealth or protection.
- 2. These were shoes for a woman or small man. The thin, spare use of materials show that Aksaray had a hot, dry climate. The construction is delicate and easily breakable, implying that they were used by someone who did not walk much, or were only

- for ceremonial purposes, as these to Central Asia, but it is unknown shoes would have worn out easily with extended use.
- 3. This box and others like it were colony, while others believe the used for mass produced and sweet foods, and were common in Aksaray. From this, we can deduce that the area's inhabitants 8. This is one of the most likely sufferred from diabetes and other diseases of obesity.
- 4. 5. 6. These are samples from a rolls is around the large, paved sewn into a pouch or bag. There is large volume of such items found a zipping fastener and a magnetic in a horde in one area of Aksaray. It seems that unlike in other cultures, the people of Aksaray made deconstructed cigarettes, and preferred to insert the prepared tobacco into machine rolled papers. The reason for this still eludes researchers, but it is probably due to adherence to complex social rituals, as they had the technology available to avoid working by hand on such an ordinary task.
  - 7. This seems to be a hat for a child or small adult. It was found next to fragments from a jacket and pants of similar design. The symmetrical motifs a reminiscent of the 19th and 20th century Uzbek culture. Aksaray seems to have had trade connections

- to what extent they were related. Some scholars claim that Aksaray became an Uzbek or Uyghur that they both were ruled by a larger Russian or Seljuk empire.
- common items found in the Aksaray excavation area. The highest concentration of these plazas believed to be used as motor transit hubs. Maybe these rolls were used to repair the vehicles of Aksaray, or played some other part in long-distant transit and trade. They could have also been used to set broken Bones or as a technology for cleaning fine particles off of sur-
- 9. Inscriptions of the cover for these papers indicates that their origin is Beirut. In contrast to the local tobaco accessories from Aksaray, these papers were used for hand-rolling cigarettes. Their existence in the excavated area indicates the existance of an Arab diaspora in Aksaray.

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### EXPERT KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATIONAL TALKS

During the first and sec- interest in the topics explored ond workshop days we in the workshop. Efforts will be had the opportunity to made to have a balance/diversity of gender and international meet experts from diverse backgrounds, as people with backgrounds.

18 students in total will be selected in total. Applicants will be assessed based on their educational background and

different subjectivities will have different levels of access to informants in field research.

The specific selection criteria will include English proficiency, motivation, and basic knowledge of following computer programs: ArcGIS, Adobe, Final Cut (or similar softwares). The set of required documents to be sent are: a one page motivation letter and a CV. We encourage students to bring their laptops and cameras, as well as other pertinent technology that may enable better data collection.

### Pascal Lebouteiller (Cartographer, L'Institute Français d'Etudes Anatoliennes)

Pascal Lebouteiller gave to an excess of historical maps to the project team and made a presentation about mapping and how/for what reason maps could be a tool to show a specific data of Aksaray. The rich mapping archive was possible to use for students on their own mapping projects.

### Burak Pekoglu (architect, BINAA I Building Nnovation Arts Architecture; Kadir Has <u>Universitesi</u>)

Burak Pekoglu invited us to his project class to give us another perspective about Aksaray showing student projects on Balat, where is a very close neighbourhood to Aksaray. As well as with Defne Bozkurt, he made a presentation about international Yenikapı competition projects as examples of what has been thought in project area.

### Özden Akbal (Journalist and art historian)

Özden Akbal, a former resident of Aksaray, joined a group of students on a walk through the streets of his childhood and adolescence. His membries were a fundamental feature of Sebhem and Emine's project Old Times Aksaray.

> EXPERTS (in alphabitical order):

∖Özden AKBAL Merve BEDIR Prof. Orhan DEMIR Prof. Murat GÜNVENÇ/ Emrah KAVLAK Pascal LEBOUTEILLER Burak PEKOGLU Francesca VALSECCHI

### Merve Bedir (architect, curator - Delft University of Technology / StudioX Istanbul)

As curator of the on-going Studio X-exhibition Vocabulary of 'Hospitality', Merve Bedir could point to a number of phenomena characterizing the state of migration in contemporary Turkey. In her presentation she gave a critical point of 4 different examples. one of the example was in Aksaray neighbourhood.

### Prof. Dr. Murat Güvenç (Kadir Has Üniversitesi) As a director of Istanbul Studies Center and a fully knowledgeable person on mapping of

Istanbul, Murat Güvenç gave a small lecture to MFA and Kadir Has University students about how to be creative on researching historic data to map in Istanbul.

### Orhan Demir (Urban & Transportation Planner; Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanat Üniversitesi)

Orhan Demir, also as a former Aksaray resident, gave a small lecture about Istanbul's transportation situation related with Aksaray. He also worked as consultant on municipal transportation projects on Aksaray. On his lecture, he also talked about what is the municipal idea to transform Aksay.

### Emrah Kavlak (Information Design Minister)

Emrah Kavlak helped to MFA for preorganisation process. He attended to the workshop on last 2 days. He gave consultancy to each group of students to develop, visualise and finalise their projects. Students were also familiar with Emrah Kavlak as lecturer from the previous semester.

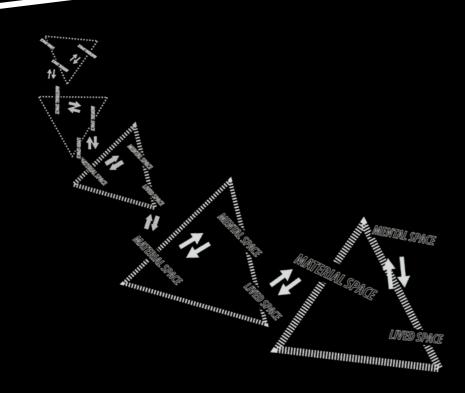
### Francesca Valsecchi (Tongji University College of Design and Innovation)

Francesca Valsecchi attended the field trip to Aksaray. Her nomadic consultancy helped the participating students to develop their projects



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### "Where cartographers on the one hand try to achieve a maximum of objectivity, architects and artists consider maps as a great tool to communicate critical, speculative or imaginative ideas." Steets, S.; Vöckler, K.; Wenzel, J. (2006): Karten und Modelle. In: Experimentale e.V. (ed.), Heimat Moderne. Berlin: Jovis, G 17.



<u>VIZUALIZATION OF HENRI</u> LEFEBVRE'S TRIADIC CON-CEPTION OF THE PRODUC-TION OF SPACE.

### REPRESENTING URBAN **COMPLEXITIES**

challenges and opportunities of mapping

Representing urban complexity is challenging modes of knowledge, subjectivity and perception.

The city / space is a complex construction of lived experience mediated through representation. While the form and format of those representations change, the city as lived experience is

representations made of it.

While mental space and material space are seeking the objectivity to map, MFA workshop questioned how to map the lived space dealing with the complexity of the urban sphere and the lived experience. To be able to stand on more artistic level is helping to understand more stories and bringing unconceivable, absent the various different dimensions to the table.

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### KARGO KÜLT.ÜR



### INTERNATIONAL CARGO TRADE NETWORKS FROM AKSARAY

This visualization shows the trade network of the 178 shipping companies based in Aksaray cargo terminal..



### AKSARAY CARGO TERMINAL

With its bus station and shipping terminal Aksaray is located on an important international trade route. The 178 cargo companies were photographically explored and assembled in panormas.



### ÖZLEM PAYLAN

### KARGO KÜLT.ÜR

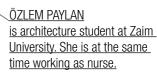
infographics / photographic essay

### TRADE NETWORKS AND TRANSNATIONALISM

Özlem has focused on the global connection to Aksaray. Aksaray Carco Terminal, where is located right next to international bus terminal, is hosting 178 cargo companies and giving the delivery service to 33 countries. She took pictures of each cargo company and counted the percentage of

countries in the trade market of Aksaray.

KARGO KÜLT.ÜR is a research visualisation project of the highway connection between Aksaray and the other countries. For example, 19.1% of the cargo companies deliver goods to Russia.







community in and around Aksaray.



**AHMAD KHALILIA** 

### ANAS CHICKEN

infographics / qualitative research

### **SOCIAL TRAJECTORIES** OF THE SYRIAN DIAS-PORA IN AKSARAY

Since 2010, the civil war in Syria has forced over 1.6 million Syrians to relocate to Turkey. Many have settled in Istanbul, with Aksaray at the heart of the city's Syrian community.

Anas Chicken is a popular eatery in Damascus. Since the war

began, two of its four locations there have been destroyed. The fast food chain had expanded to owners recently opened a branch 10 branches in 6 countries with a in Aksaray where Anas serves as total of 10 stores. a meeting point for the displaced diaspora.

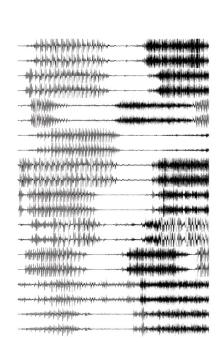
Anas Chicken was founded in Damascus in 1991. Despite the outbreak of war, and the loss of two of its first stores, Anas continues to grow and serve the Syrian community as they spread to other countries. By 2015, the

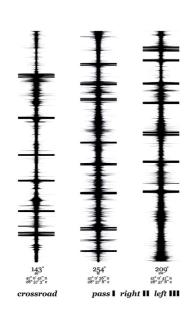


AHMAD KHALILIA is a PhD candidate for architectural history at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. As native Arabic speaker from Palestine, Ahmad was able to conduct interviews with young Syrean refugees in their mother tongue,

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# NPPINGS





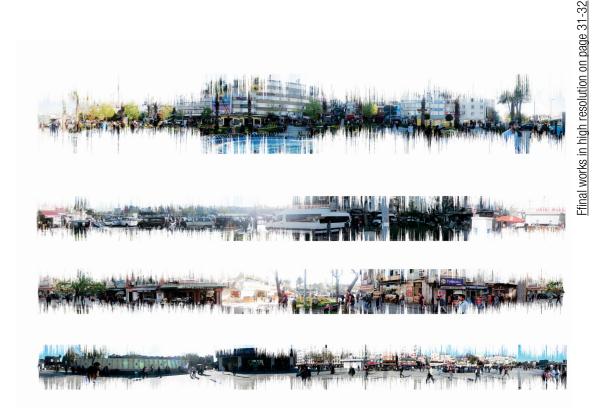
### AK SA RA (left)

"Aksaray" pronounced by ten Akasaray:

Adil, 19, Urumqi Ahmet, 25, Urfa Ali, 13, Damascus Old woman, 63, Konya Ibrahim, 21, Damascus Sara, 23, Washington DC Sasha, 48, Moscow Sehran, 20, Teheran Seka, 22, Ulaanbaatar Umran, 23, Bengazi

### HA HA HAA (right)

Sound recording as a visual randomly chosen people in mapping and navigational tool within the urban fabric.



### **SEMIR POTURAK**

### SOUND MAPPINGS

representations of sounds / experimental navigation tool based on environmental sounds

### SOUND AND SPACE

Semir Poturak approached Aksaray with the sound recording tool of his smart phone. The soundwave as visual representation of sonic environments thereby appeared to entail more information than expected. The word "Aksaray" pronounced by different individuals and translated into a visual form reveals a far more

diverse picture than the written signifier (project: AK SA RA). With HA HA HAA, Semir developed a tool to navigate through space with the help of a coded soundwaves that entail basic instructions for navigation, such as geo location to define starting points and guidance to help proceed at intersections. In his panorama projects he was experimenting with the relationship between the physical and sonic environment resulting in photographic panoramas that simultaneously represent sonicl informations of the area depicted (project: PANORA MIC).

SEMIR POTURAK is holding a scholarship to retrieve his PhD in architecture at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. Semir has already worked with architecture and urbanist collectives in Warsaw.



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### DTIMES KSARAY







**ŞEBNEM KAYHAN / EMINE ATALAY** 

### ESKI BIR ISTANBULLU GÖZÜNDEN AKSARAY

infographic / visual storytelling

cleaning business.

### A VISUAL TOUR THROUGH MR. AKBAL'S AKSARAY

This is a memory research of an former Aksaray resident. It is at the window." same time a archeological work of "... and there must be Sinekli the transformation of Aksaray from Bakkal\* over there." past to today.

"Miss Raciye with her cats used to live in this madrasa and track a basket from the window to the

"Our window used to face to the vegetable garden and the see. We used to pick figs from the

\*Favous Turkish novel from Halide Edip Adivar. First published with the name of The Clown and His Daughter, in London in 1935.



**EMINE ATALAY** is an urban planning student at MSFAU and loves maps and data

at MSFAU and loves maps and

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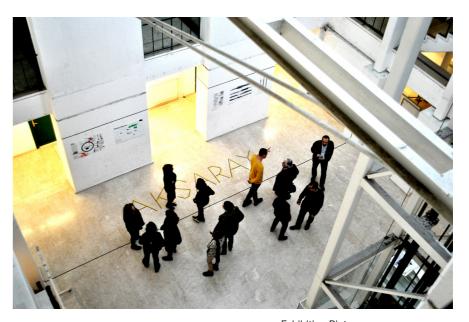
### **EXHIBITION** @MSGSÜ

A final culmination of the results of the workshop was presented at MSGSÜ's secondary ground floor hall. The Exhibition remained open for public until May 2nd 2015.

### POST-WORKSHOP: **EXHIBITION AND** MFA BERLIN-NEUKÖLLN

For the exhibition opening, the head of MSGSÜ's urban planning the MFA workshop is planned department, Prof. Dr. Gülsen Özaydin handed the students a certificate of participation. We are glad to count Prof. Dr. Murat FH Saarbrücken), Selda Asal Cemal Yalçıntan (MSGSÜ) and Tayfun Kahraman (TMMOB Istanbul Planning Chamber)

to the visitors. A continuation of for late 2015 in Berlin-Neukölln in a larger project together with Mert Akbal (from xm-lab, (Apartment Project, Berlin) and Berk Asal (ONOFF, Berlin).



**Exhibition Picture** 

page\_23 page\_24 exhibition spacedigger istanbul 2015

# PARTICION PINE (spacedigger) Tristan BIERE (spacedigger)

Tristan BIERE (spacedigger)
Özlem PAYLAN (participant)
Semir POTURAK (participant)
Özlem ÜNVER (coordinator/msgsü)
Prof. Dr. Gülsen ÖZAYDIN (head of urban planning department)
Prof. Dr. Güzin KONUK (head of the faculty)

Prof. Dr. Murat Cemal YALÇINTAN

Tayfun Kahraman (Head of TMMOB Istanbul

Planning Chamber)
Emine ATALAY (participant)

Sebnem KAYHAN (participant) Duygu KABAN (spacedigger)

Ahmad KHALILIA (participant/not on picture)





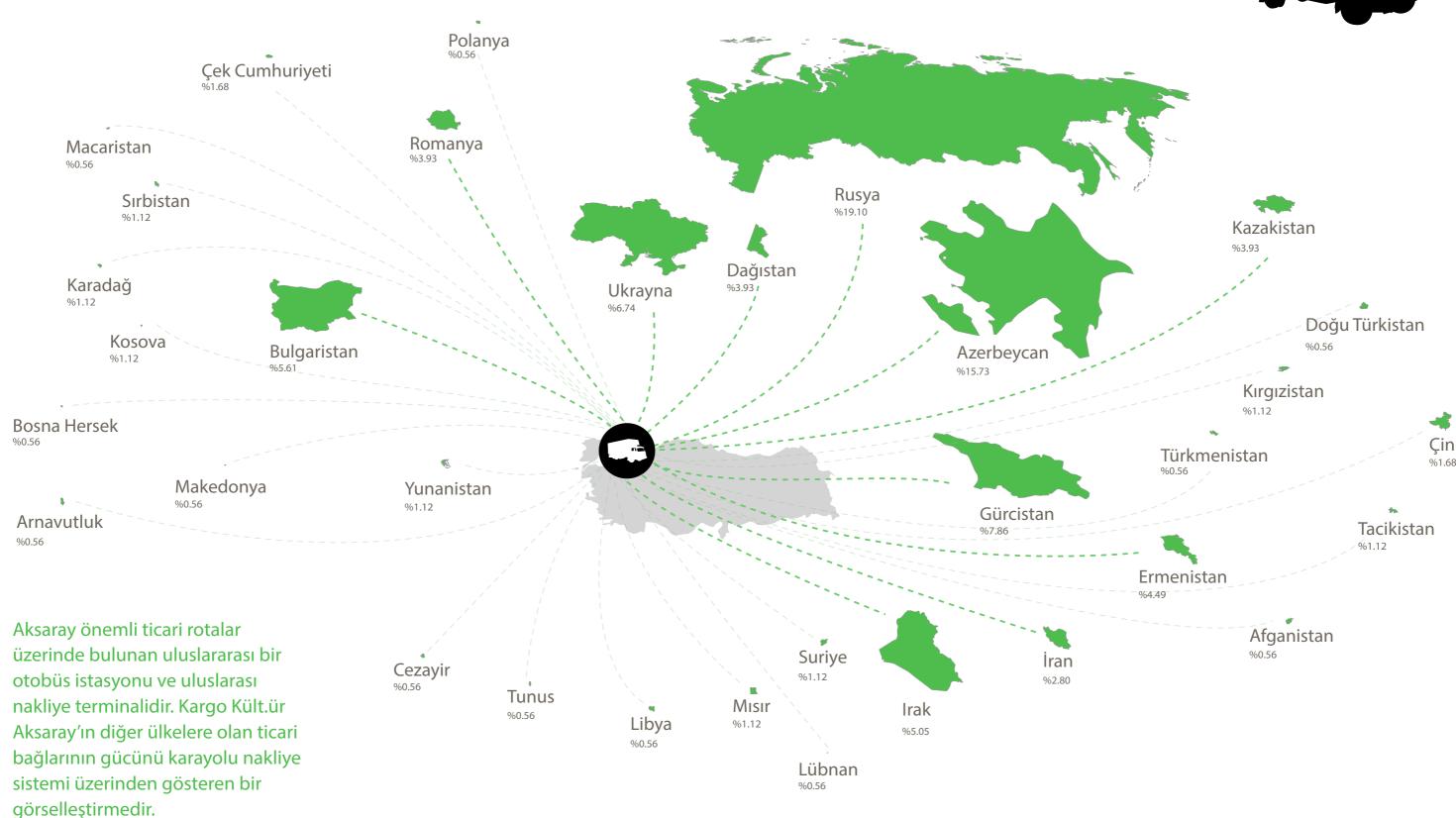
**Exhibition Picture** 



### Kargo Kült.ür

Aksaray Uluslararası Nakliye Bağlantılarının Yüzdeleri





178 nakliye şirketinin hangi ülkere gönderim yaptığının yüzdeleridir. Örneğin: Kargo şirketlerinin %19.1'i Rusya'ya gönderim yapmaktadır.

Özlem Paylan / Mapping Future Archeologies Workshop / Spacedigger



Social Trajectories of the Syrian Diaspora in Aksaray

Since 2010, the civil war in Syria has forced over 1.6 million Syrians to relocate to Turkey. Many have settled in Istanbul, with Aksaray at the heart of the city's Syrian community.

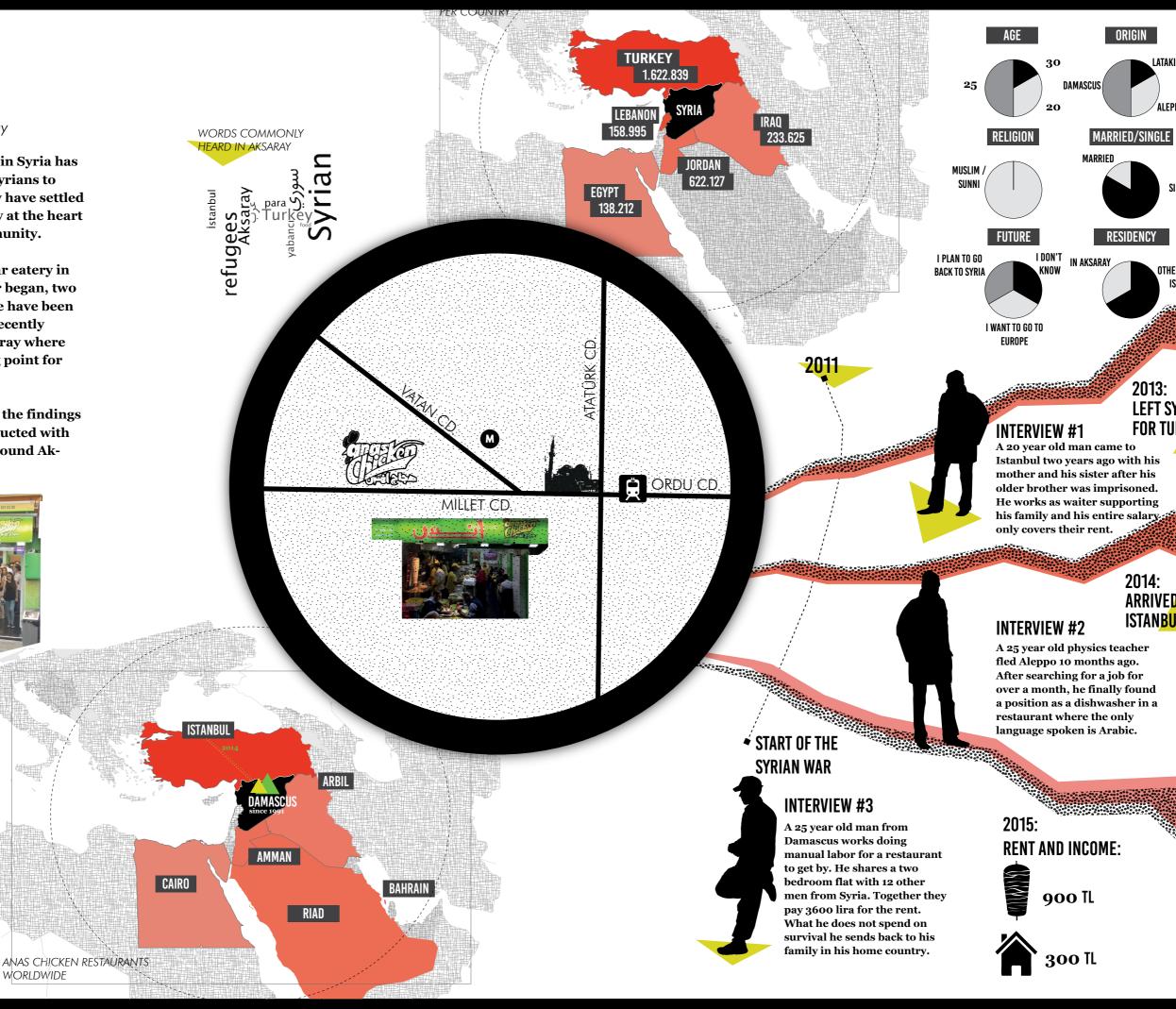
Anas Chicken is a popular eatery in Damascus. Since the war began, two of its four locations there have been destroyed. The owners recently opened a branch in Aksaray where Anas serves as a meeting point for the displaced diaspora.

This infographic reflects the findings from field research conducted with the community in and around Ak-

The history of ANAS Chicken

**Anas Chicken was** founded in Damascus in 1991. Despite the outbreak of war, and the loss of two of its first stores, Anas continutes to grow and serve the Syrian community as they spread to other countries. By 2015, the fast food chain had expanded to 10 branches in 6 countries with a total of 10 stores.

WORLDWIDE



THER PARTS OF

ISTANBUL

2013:

2014: ARRIVED IN **ISTANBUL** 

**LEFT SYRIA** 

FOR TURKEY

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## COK TESEKKÜR JEDERIM

SPECIAL THANKS
GOES TO:

Özden AKBAL

Merve BEDIR

Prof. Murat GÜVENÇ

Emrah KAVLAK

Pascal LEBOUTEILLER

**Burak PEKOGLU** 

Francesca VALSECCHI

**Ahmad KHALILIA** 

**Emine ATALAY** 

Özlem PAYLAN

Sebnem KAYHAN

Semir POTURAK

Gözde SARLAK

Özlem ÜNVER

Prof. Güzin KONUK

Prof. Gülsen ÖZAYDIN

Prof. Murat Cemal YALÇINTAN

Jean-François PÉROUSE

**Defne BOZKURT** 

**Ekrem YAY** 

Leona LYNEN

Matthias HEUMEIER

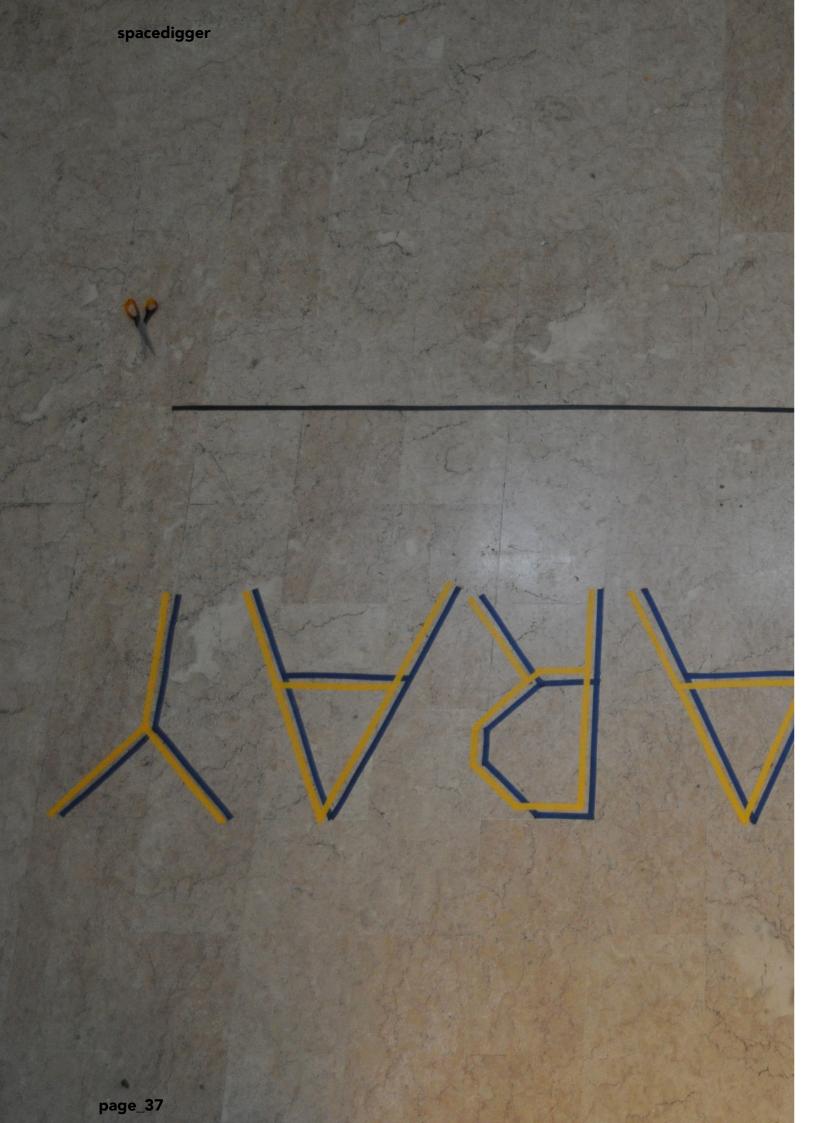
**Ludwig ENGEL** 

Stefan CARSTEN

<u>and</u>

Mert AKBAL





MFA workshop/ spacedigger team:



Tristan BIERE
Duygu KABAN
Jeremy PINE

///about spacedigger

Spacedigger is a transdisciplinary group of young researchers, designers and artists dedicated to questions regarding urban space and its possible future inscriptions. As architects, urban planners, artists and social scientists we work on developing concepts and conduct research on socio-spatial/cultural configurations. We believe that visualisation and storytelling techniques are powerful tools for localities in their need to negotiate and appropriate urban space.

Spacedigger is aiming to set up a platform to communicate between localities and educational as well as professional institutions.

Spacedigger was founded by 3 young urbanists (Gaia Agostini, Duygu Kaban and Tristan Biere) in late 2013. We are currently based in Shanghai and Berlin. For our ongoing project in Istanbul we are working with anthropologist Jeremy Pine. For the MFAworkshop in Neukölln we will cooperate with researcher and PhD cand. Chaghaf Howayek who is conducting research on refugee camps and the global Syrian diaspora.

