

# BETUL GAYE DINC

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## ABOUT

I am an early career researcher specialising in children's and young adult books, with experience as a museum educator, illustrator, and advisory board member in children's book publishing. My focus lies in exploring themes of gender, cultural and neurodiversity, ecology, materiality, and art history within the realms of ABC books, picture books, non-fiction, and comics.

## EDUCATION

### PhD Fellow, Health and Life Sciences Department Northumbria University

#### AHRC Northern Bridge Collaborative Doctoral Award 2023-2027

Conducting a collaborative doctoral project for Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books (Full-time)

### Erasmus Mundus International Master in Children's Literature, Media, and Culture (CLMC) 2020-2022

The joint degree in the University of Glasgow, the University of Aarhus, and the University of Tilburg  
Transcultural Trajectories Pathway

Thesis: *Naturalcultural Compositions through the Thickness of Stones in Children's Books*

Supervised at the University of Wroclaw  
Erasmus Mundus Scholarship  
Graduation rank: Distinction

### Master of Arts in Design, Technology, and Society 2018-2020

Koç University, Graduate School of Social Sciences & Humanities  
Thesis: *Interdisciplinary Research of Picturebooks and Comics for Museums and Cultural Heritage Sites*  
2020 Academic Excellence Award

### Bachelor of Arts (summa cum laude) 2012-2018

Koç University, College of Social Sciences & Humanities  
Major in Archaeology and History of Art  
Double Major in English Language and Comparative Literature  
Track in Gender Studies  
Full Merit Scholarship  
Graduation rank: 1st in both majors

### Erasmus+ Student Exchange Studies 2016

Vrije Amsterdam University, Erasmus+ Grantee

## MEMBERSHIPS

- Society of Young Publishers (Mentee)
- Istanbul Gender Museum (Founding member)
- Artistic Research Studio
- KURE: Picturebook Studies
- FutureWell: Co-creation and Wellbeing Design Research Group (Guest researcher)

## KEY SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES

academic and creative writing • editing and proof-reading • time management • project management • multicultural team collaboration • content creation • illustration • creativity • communication & liaison • English (advanced) • Turkish (native) • Italian (A2) • Microsoft Office (Excell, Word, etc.) • Google (Drive, Sheets, Meets etc.) • Adobe Software (Photoshop, Illustrator, Indesign, PremierePro) • Procreate • Wix • Canva • ArcGIS-QGIS

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Editor & Project Manager, Istanbul Gender Museum, Istanbul 2021 Jan.- present

Volunteering to design and lead workshops, exhibitions, and education materials, create and coordinate projects, raise funds, and manage budgets.

### Editor, Insights into Ukrainian Children's Literature Project, Erasmus Mundus International Master in Children's Literature, Media & Culture, Glasgow

2022 Aug. - 2022 Dec.

Preparing editorial guidelines, proofreading, and editing blog submissions (The website will be announced soon).

### Intern, Constructing Age for Young Readers Project, University of Antwerp, Antwerp

2021 Sep. - 2021 Dec.

Annotated children's texts through Sublime Text and Oxygen XLM, and images with Roboflow.

### Advisory Board Member, Koç University Press, Children's Books Section, Istanbul

2020 Jan. - 2022 Jun.

Introduced new books to the board, reviewed, selected, and proofread local and translated children's books, and assisted emerging local authors/illustrators in crafting their stories.

### Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Specialist & Research Fellow, Urban Occupations OETR, Koç University, Istanbul

2019 - 2020

Annotated and digitized Ottoman road networks on historical maps through ArcGIS and QGIS. Assisted the Urban Occupations OETR, HAT and Princes Islands Museum's outreach project: "Walking through Historical Maps on Princes Islands".

### Assistant Museum Educator, Pera Museum, Part-Time, Istanbul 2018 - 2019

Guided exhibition tours, gave workshops to participants ranging from 4 years old to 60+ seniors, created the contents of the workshops, managed schedules, and assisted with the website content.

### Teaching and Research Assistant, Koç University, Istanbul 2017 - 2020

Worked as a TA, RA, and tutor for courses in Media and Visual Arts Department such as Children's Books, Illustration, and Visual Narrative & Storytelling.

## PUBLICATIONS

Dinç, B.G., Subaşı O., & Veryeri Alaca, I. (2023). Reading, play and critical engagement with cultural heritage: Associating children with Orientalist paintings through an interactive picturebook. In D. Giglito, E. Lockley, E. Kaldeli, & L. Cioffi (Eds.), *Digital approaches to inclusion and participation in cultural heritage*.

Dinç, B.G., Onmuş, I., & Veryeri Alaca, I. (2022). Text and image relationship in children's books. In B. Ş. Ateş (Ed.), *Children's academy: Research on emergent literacy activities*, Istanbul: Koç University Press (in Turkish) (in publishing).

Dinç, B.G., & Veryeri Alaca, I. (2021). Göbeklitepe and ecological thinking: Human/Nature entanglement in Firat Yaşa's graphic novel 'Tepe'. *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/21504857.2021.1905236>

Dinç, B.G., Ozkan, B. & Veryeri Alaca, I. (2021). Interactive storytelling through LEDs and paper circuits: Tapping into materials and technology in children's literature education. *Journal of Literary Education*, (4), 85-107.

Dinç, B.G., & Veryeri Alaca, I. (2021). Interacting with non-fiction picturebooks in art museums. In N. Goga, S. H. Iversen, & A. Teigland (Eds.), *Verbal and visual strategies in nonfiction picturebooks: Theoretical and analytical approaches*. <https://doi.org/10.18261/9788215042459-2021-17>

Dinç, B.G., & Oropeza Palafox, S. L. (2021). Slowing down to find magic in viewing: The poetics of Kestutis Kasparavicius' illustrations. *Hans C. Andersen Awards 2022 Shadowing Project in Partnership with Evelyn Arizpe and Erasmus Mundus International Master in Children's Literature, Media, & Culture, International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Blog*.

Dinç, B.G., & Veryeri Alaca, I. (2020). Art museums and children's books: Experiencing art through text, pictures and creative activities. In Ç. Maner & Ö. Dengiz Uğur (Eds.), *Cultural heritage studies for children (0-18) workshop 14-15 November 2019 proceeding*, Ankara: Koç University Vehbi Koç Ankara Research Center (in Turkish).

Dinç, B.G. (2019). "The Dinner Exhibition": An experiment in feminist pedagogy for museums. In M. Akkent & S. N. Kovar (Eds.), *Feminist pedagogy: Museums, memory sites and practices of remembrance* (pp. 146-157), Istanbul: Istos Publication.

Veryeri Alaca, I., & Dinç, B. G., (2019). Tracing the genealogical self: Entanglements of drawing with Tim Ingolds' "Lines", *Drawing: Drawing, Research, Theory and Practice*, 271-284.

Dinç, B. G., & Veryeri Alaca, I. (2018). Illustrating Tipitip bubblegum comics in Turkey: Transformation, outreach, humour, and literacy engagement. *Studies in Comics (STIC)*, 9(1), 7-32.

Dinç, B. G. (2018). "The Ambassador's Map": An interactive Museum book project co-developed with children for the Orientalist Paintings Collection of Pera Museum (unpublished).

Dinç, B. G. (2018). "The Dinner Exhibition": A picturebook project for Women's Museum Istanbul (unpublished).

## PRESENTATIONS

"Dinç, B. G. (2023, 29 November), *Slowness and More-than-Human History in Aaron Becker's 'A Stone for Sascha'*, Forms and Expressions of Slow Time in Contemporary English Picturebooks Conference, Université de Caen Normandie.

Dinç, B. G., (2023, 14 September), *Visual Storytelling in Picturebooks*. Invited by Sabancı University Gender Excellence Center - Purple Certificate Trainings for teachers. Online.

Dinç, B.G., (2021, 19-29 Oct.). *Children's picturebook and museum experiences on Fridays for Future*. 25th Biennial Congress of the International Research Society for Children's Literature (IRSL): Aesthetic and Pedagogic Entanglements. Online.

Dinç, B.G., (2021, 10-17 Oct.). *Weaving stories with nature and cultural heritage: Ecological concerns in comics from Turkey*. Materiality, Space and Embodiment Symposium, University of Bergen & Koç University, Online.

Dinç, B.G., Subaşı, O., & Veryeri Alaca I. (2021, 24 Feb). *Interacting with museum content through picturebooks: A study of children's engagement with Orientalist paintings in Pera Museum, Istanbul*. Cultural Heritage and Social Impact: Digital Technologies For Social Inclusion and Participation, Culture Labs, Sheffield Hallam University.

Dinç, B.G., Ozkan, B., & Veryeri Alaca I. (2020, Nov. 19-21). Narrating through LEDs, Circuits and Light: Inquiry on the Role of Materiality and Technology in Children's Literature", *Fostering dialogue: Teaching Children's Literature at University*, University of Padua.

Veryeri Alaca, I., & Dinç, B. G. (2020, Nov. 4). *Image and text relationship in children's books* [Invited speaker], Yeni Nesil Nitelikli Çocuk Edebiyatı Zirvesi (Contemporary Qualitative Children's Literature Summit), Masal Seramik Evi Publications (in Turkish).

Dinç, B.G., & Veryeri Alaca I. (2019, Nov. 14-15). *Museums in children's books, children's books in museums*, Cultural Heritage Studies Workshop for Children, 14-15 Nov, Vehbi Koç Ankara Studies Research Center, Turkey.

Dinç, B.G., & Veryeri Alaca I. (2019, Sep. 26-28). *Interacting with Non-Fiction Picturebooks in Art Museums*, European Network of Picturebook Research – the 7th International Conference, Bergen.

Dinç, B.G. (2019, Sep. 5). *Discovering Learning with Pera Museum: Experiences of a Learning Programs' Assistant*. Explorers: Applied Learning Practices with Art, Seminar in Pera Museum, Istanbul.

Dinç, B. G., Veryeri Alaca, I. (2018, Aug. 31). *Fostering Reading Engagement through Tipitip Bubble-gum Comics: A Cross-Cultural Mediator in Children's Literature*, 36th IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) Congress, Greece.

Veryeri Alaca, I., Yannicopolou, A., Konyali, Ş., Dinç, B. G., Tsakiri, M., & Liberaki, A. (2018, Aug. 31). *Side by Side: Contemporary Books for Children in Greece and Turkey*, 36th IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) Congress, Greece (Poster).

Dinç, B.G. (2018, Oct. 18-20). *The Dinner Exhibition: An Experiment for Feminist Pedagogy Materials for Museums*, Museums, Memory Sites, Practices of Remembrance Conference, SALT, Istanbul.