Istanbul University

Faculty of Letters

Department of American Culture and Literature

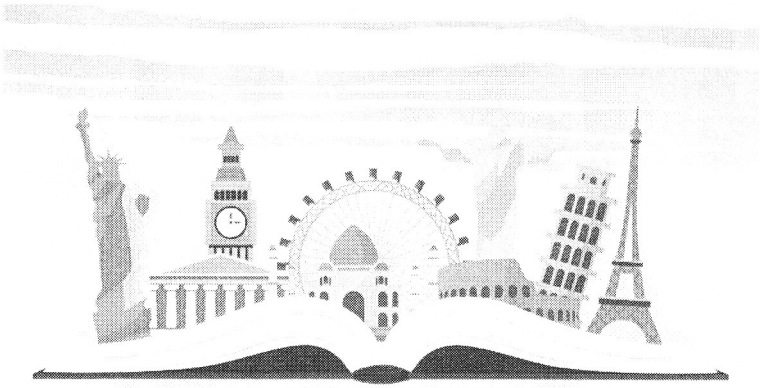
Istanbul University

5th International

"Literature and..." Graduate Student Conference

LITERATURE AND THE CITY

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL
LITERATURE AND... CONFERENCE



Book of Abstracts

October 31 – November 1, 2019



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PANEL 6: MAPPING

13:30 – 14:30

1. Swetha Khilnani (Maitreyi College, University of Delhi) - "Man gotta live what he know": Mapping Baltimore's Spatial Imaginary in *The Wire*

2. Aslınur Bayal (Yeni Yüzyıl University) - Perception of The City in The City in *Crimson Cloak* and *Miraculous Mandarin* by Asli Erdogan

3. Deniz Balık Lökçe (Dokuz Eylül University) - Urban Palimpsestes: On The Possibility of Drawing a Map on a Scale of One to One

VENUE:

Istanbul University Faculty of Letters

Istanbul Üniversitesi Edebiyat Fakültesi Kurul Odası

Ordu Cad, Laleli Cd. No:6, 34134 Fatih

Deniz Balık Lökçe

Urban Palimpsests: On the Possibility of Drawing a Map on a Scale of One to One

This paper dwells on the shifting territory of fiction and urban space, using two literary works, *Sylvie and Bruno Concluded* (1893) –a novel by Lewis Carroll– and *On Exactitude in Science* (1946) –a short story by Jorge Luis Borges. Carroll's novel elaborates a country that operates as its own map instead of a successfully created full-scale version, whereas in Borges's story, cartographers achieve the perfection and exactness of a full- scale map of the whole territory. From a reading of these works, the paper rethinks the map as both a literary and an architectural tool to decipher urban palimpsests –the visible and invisible layers of contemporary cities. By doing so, it probes the shifting territories of epistemological and ontological dimensions of maps. It further tackles the issues of scale and fragmentation through Italo Calvino's novel, *Invisible Cities* (1972),and points to the gap between representation and reality by means of Umberto Eco's essay, On the Impossibility of Drawing a Map of the Empire on a Scale of 1 to 1 (1982). Expanding narrative possibilities, and altering graphical language and informational structure, maps in urban spaces are produced as artistic claims and architectural statements. As a spatial construct, they emerge as an instrument of rethinking representation, reinterpreting urban palimpsests, and reproducing collective memory.