

## PORT CITY CULTURE OF IZMIR AS A CROSS-CULTURAL CONSTRUCT – Narratives of Izmir’s Border Crossing Practices since 16th Century

**Keywords:** #Izmir, #port city, #narratives, #east Mediterranean, #Asia Minor, #border crossing  
#transculturalism #transnationalism #transregionalism

Architecture Department / Chair of History of Architecture and Urban Planning

Area of Research: Design & History



**Fig. View of Smyrna (Izmir) and the Reception Given to Consul de Hochepped (1657-1723)  
in the Council Chamber, anonymous, c. 1687 – 1723**

(source: Rijksmuseum <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/collection/SK-A-4085>)

**Research Summary:** The research aims to highlight the importance of port city culture through narrative analysis of social-spatial developments in Turkish port city of Izmir. The research aims to investigate how city was constructed by short and long term immigrants and how narratives took position during this construction. Izmir is a particularly appropriate case for this analysis. Travelers have left narratives of the city since the 16th century describing daily life, events, Izmir’s built environment on waterfront and also hinterland. The PhD project has an intention and motivation to achieve to the present and points out how contemporary city and port city culture relation could be re-established through its trans-cultural history. Port cities with their long-standing and diverse histories, their global networks and changing fates have attracted numerous commentaries and decision-makers have used them carefully to help build a local port city culture. This local culture thrives through continuously evolving of international relationships, goods, people, and ideas, etc. Its locus is the contact zone, a range of diverse spatial figures—industrial, residential, leisure, religious, education, offices- that are centered around the waterfront but also dispersed through the city. Port city culture is related to numerous different cultures that clash in port cities, under impacts of internal and external political, economic and social forces for beneficial of port and trade activities. Plenty of actors, users, protagonists from different countries, from different backgrounds contributed to Izmir’s port city culture. Collaboration of local and European knowledge created unique form.



### Name Surname

PhD started in: 2016

Latest graduate degree 2015

undergraduate degree 2013

Promoter(s): Prof. Dr. –Ing. Carola Hein

Daily Supervisor(s): Dr. Ir. Klaske Havik

Email: F.Tanis-1@tudelft.nl

Phone: -

**Main Question:** How does port city culture manifest itself as a cross cultural construct in spatial figures in port cities?

**Research Methodology:** The historical research will be driven from the archives and personal collections of merchants' descendants: British, French, Dutch and Italian companies and traders playing key role in Izmir's port urbanization since 16th century till republican era. It is important to learn more about these actors, who were directly or indirectly involved with Izmir's port culture and to learn about their contributions to urban and architectural developments in the city. Archives in London, Amsterdam, Paris, and Marseille will provide wide sources in order to reach data of Izmir port network. The research methodology is based on narrative analysis. It will make use of literature review, archive research, semi-structured interviews with a focus group of descendants of the merchants' families and site observations. Literature review and archive materials are crucial for the historical research to collect the data about the important historic events, agreements signed and enabled the trade between countries, maps, diaries, consular reports, engravings, newspapers, photographs.

**Key Publications:**

Lefebvre, Henri. Rhythmanalysis: Space, time and everyday life. A&C Black, 2004.

Latour, Bruno. Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory. Oxford university press, 2005.

Havik, Klaske. Urban Literacy: Reading and Writing Architecture. 2014.

**Link(s)**

[www.globalheritage.nl/people/fatma-tanis](http://www.globalheritage.nl/people/fatma-tanis)

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