

NICHOLAS DEMETRIUS KONTOVAS

Hanımefendi Sokak 34/36 D 5, Merkez Mahallesi, Şişli/İstanbul TURKEY
phone: (+90) 551.394.05.35 • kontovas@gmail.com • <http://niko.qalaymiqan.com/>

Specializations & Areas of Interest

Turkish, Uyghur, Turkic Languages, Iranic Languages, Language Contact, Languages of Turkey, Language in the Ottoman Empire, Languages of Eastern Turkestan, Language in the Early Middle Ages, Historical Linguistics, Morphology, Sociolinguistics, Minority Language, Slang, Lexicography, Digital Humanities

Education

Ph.D.	INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON – <i>Central Eurasian Studies & Linguistics</i> (ongoing) Specialization: Turkic and Iranic Languages & Language Contact	
M.A.	INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON – <i>Central Eurasian Studies</i> Specialization: Turkic and Iranic Languages	2012
B.A.	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO – <i>Linguistics</i> Bachelors of Arts with Honors	2008

Employment History

BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY – DEPARTMENT OF TURKISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE Lecturer	2015 – present
Instruction of Introductory and Intermediate Turkish to international graduate, undergraduate, and non-degree-seeking students during the academic year. Collaborative course design & curriculum planning with a small team of dedicated Turkish instructors. Implementation of experimental online grammar and vocabulary practice modules to facilitate student learning and lighten instructor workload. Instruction of Introductory Ottoman Turkish & topical electives in other Turkic languages.	
INDIANA UNIVERSITY SUMMER LANGUAGE WORKSHOP (formerly SWSEEL) Introductory Turkish Teacher	2012 – present
Intensive instruction of Introductory Turkish to 10-16 adult learners. Course design, lesson planning, the choosing of materials, the creation of new materials, the assignment of course- and homework, testing, and language assessment. Collaboration with intermediate level instructor on the development of a cohesive two-year curriculum and program of extra-curricular activities.	
CENTER FOR LANGUAGES OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN REGION Editor & Linguist	2012 – present
Developing of grammatical explanations and exercises for Dari/Afghan Persian, Uyghur, and Uzbek language pedagogical materials. Collaboration with native speaker instructors in the composition, review, and editing of elementary, intermediate, and advanced level textbooks.	
SPEAK & MORE Language Moderator	2013 – 2015
Organization, planning, conducting, follow-up, and evaluation of specially tailored English language courses to mid- and upper-level management at large corporations based in Istanbul. Includes explaining grammar in English and Turkish, and the design of custom language materials.	
SELF EMPLOYED – CONTRACTOR Open-Source Foreign Media Analyst	2008 – 2009
Reading of Chinese, Uyghur, Turkish, and French media on the Internet. Culturally-sensitive analysis of that media and their implication for United States intelligence and foreign policy, and the writing of essays – as a single author, or as part of a team – based on the information gathered therefrom. Initial design, programming, and data mining for a multi-user database.	

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PHONOLOGY LABORATORY Research Assistant & Lab Assistant	2005 – 2008
As Lab Assistant, the conducting of experiments to investigate the relationship between tonal contour and the perception of syllable length. As Researcher, contribution to a project aimed at the preservation and revitalization of Washo, a Native American language.	
SUSAN GOLDIN-MEADOW LABORATORY Research Assistant	2005 – 2006
Observation, data organization and analysis for a project investigating the acquisition of number concepts in Nicaraguan Deaf home-signers.	
CHICAGO LINGUISTIC SOCIETY Assistant	2004 – 2005
General clerical work, including the negotiation of purchases of published materials. Helping to organize the annual Chicago Linguistics Society conference.	

Courses Taught

INTRODUCTION TO OLD UYGHUR (Boğaziçi University)	2016
An introduction to Old Turkic as it appears in the Uyghur script (often called “Old Uyghur” in Turkey), the primary literary Turkic language of the Turfan basin during the 9 th -14 th centuries. An in-depth discussion of the grammar and structure of the language accompanied exercises intended to familiarize the student with the Old Uyghur script. Students were then slowly be introduced to short passages from exemplary (and comparatively clear) manuscripts. Attention was also given to the cultural and historical context in which these texts were written.	
INTRODUCTORY TURKISH I (Boğaziçi University)	2015 – 2016
Offered during the regular academic year to international students. The course began with basic phrases and knowledge about the Turkish language, then moved onto the instruction of non-compound verb tenses, case endings, and possessive markers. The course was aimed at providing examples from everyday language which students could then relate to their daily lives in Istanbul.	
OTTOMAN TURKISH I (Boğaziçi University)	2015 – 2016
An introduction to the official language of the Ottoman Empire and the literary predecessor to Modern Turkish. This course covered writing system, structure, extra-linguistic development, transcription, and some basic research tools necessary to begin reading and writing in Ottoman. Students gained proficiency in the writing of Turkic elements and became familiar with the structure, use, orthography, and pronunciation of Persian and Arabic elements in preparation for Ottoman Turkish II. This course was taught in Turkish.	
SUMMER INTRODUCTORY TURKISH I & II (Indiana University Bloomington)	2012 – 2016
An intensive, daily, four-hour summer course at the Indiana University Summer Language Workshop designed to teach and reinforce the fundamental elements of Turkish grammar, vocabulary, and idiom. Students completing this course had a firm grasp of all basic verb tenses, all noun and pronoun cases, and a number of methods of simple clausal subordination. The course also endeavored to impart a broad knowledge of the culture, history, and politics of the Turkish-speaking world.	
WORKSHOP ON OTTOMAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE (Indiana University Bloomington)	2012 – 2016
A weekly three-hour, non-credit workshop for interested students in the Summer Language Workshop. Sessions were designed to teach students with some background in Turkic languages basic Ottoman reading skills commensurate with the ability to read authentic printed (<i>matbu</i>) materials, and some manuscripts depending on students' abilities. At least one hour of every session was devoted to guided round-table discussion on various aspects of Ottoman history, and society.	
INTERMEDIATE TURKISH II (Boğaziçi University)	2015
A continuation of Intermediate Turkish I. The course covered a number of common methods of clausal subordination, reviewed structures related to evidentiality and compound tenses, and introduced real and unreal conditionals. Lessons were geared towards increasing students' communicative capacity as they became more integrated in academic life in Turkey.	

Awards & Honors

COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST University of Chicago	2003-2008
FIRST PLACE American College Students in China Chinese Language Speech Competition	2006
FIRST PLACE Chinese Bridge: Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students Midwest Division	2006

Grants, Fellowships & Scholarships

FOREIGN LANGUAGE & AREA STUDIES GRANT Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center	2012
FOREIGN LANGUAGE & AREA STUDIES GRANT (Declined) Islamic Studies Program, Indiana University	2012
FULBRIGHT STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP Institute of International Education	2011
FOREIGN LANGUAGE & AREA STUDIES GRANT Middle Eastern Studies Center, Ohio State University	2011
FOREIGN LANGUAGE & AREA STUDIES GRANT Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University	2010
CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP US State Department, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs	2009
FOREIGN LANGUAGE & AREA STUDIES GRANT Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center	2009
CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP US State Department, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs	2008
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL FELLOWSHIP Social Science Research Council	2007
CIEE SCHOLARSHIP FOR ADVANCED CHINESE LANGUAGE Fulbright Groups Project Abroad	2006
DAVID L. BOREN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP National Security Education Program	2006
FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION GRANT University of Chicago	2006

Language Proficiencies

NATIVE	English
NEAR-NATIVE	French, Turkish
ADVANCED	Uyghur, Dari (Afghan Persian), Mandarin*
INTERMEDIATE	Greek (Modern), Occitan, Spanish, Uzbek
ELEMENTARY	Georgian, Kurmanji Kurdish, Laz, Romani, Russian, Yiddish

* - ACTFL OPI Certified = 8/10 as of 2006

READING PROFICIENCY	Chaghatay, Ottoman Turkish, Old Uyghur, Latin, Middle Persian, Classical Chinese
SOME KNOWLEDGE	Arabic (Levantine), Balochi, Evenki, Zulu, Middle Egyptian

Computer Skills

PROFICIENT	PHP, JavaScript, HTML5, CSS, LaTeX, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel
FAMILIAR	Python, Perl, Java, Scheme, GIMP, Inkscape

Publications

- Kontovas, Nicholas. 2014. *Singing around Turkey: An exemplary collection of folk songs*. Bilingual Turkish/English informational booklet accompanying original audio recordings. Inner Asian & Uralic National Research Center, Bloomington, Indiana.
- Coppola, Marie, E. Spaepen & N. Kontovas. 2006. Number signs in adult home sign gesture systems. *Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR)* 9: 9 *Congreso Internacional de Aspectos Teóricos das Pesquisas nas Linguas de Sinais. December 6 - 9, 2006, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina Florianópolis, SC Brasil*: 55-56.

Projects

EASTERN TURKI GLOSSARY (http://niko.qalaymiqan.com/eastern_turki_glossary/) – beta
with Eric Schluessel

The first ever searchable electronic dictionary for the literary language of southern Xinjiang from the 18th century until 1930. The data were transcribed into electronic format by historian Eric Schluessel at Harvard University, which I then transformed into a relational database with dynamic but user-friendly online interface. Full UTF8 compliance and a careful consideration of potential user needs ensures that reliable searches can be performed with input from multiple Arabic script language keyboards and in Latin transcription. In the future, we hope to expand this database to include more entries from a wider variety of primary and secondary source materials.

LAZ-TURKISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY (<http://niko.qalaymiqan.com/nenapuna/>) – alpha
with İsmail Avcı Bucak'lışi & Eylem Bostancı

An online searchable dictionary of the Laz language, with Turkish definitions provided by İsmail Avcı Bucak'lışi and English by Eylem Bostancı. For the moment this dictionary includes over three thousand entries, modified – with permission of the authors – from the Lazika Yayın Kolektifi's *Temel Lazca Sözlük* (Istanbul 2014). Once completed, the goal of the dictionary will be to provide a resource for scholars, learners, and speakers of Laz endeavoring to preserve, revitalize, and develop their language.

Lectures and Presentations

- | | |
|--|------|
| <i>Tools not Rules: Basic grammar concepts to boost your language learning ability</i>
Lecture for students at the Indiana University Summer Language Workshop
Indiana University Bloomington | 2015 |
| <i>Contact Linguistics and Turkish Slang</i>
Lecture via Skype for students in the course <i>Sociolinguistics</i> at request of instructor, Dr. Deniz Ortaçtepe
Bilkent University | 2015 |
| <i>Lubunca: Türk LGBTİ'lilerin argosu</i> (in Turkish)
Lecture at the invitation of Lambdaİstanbul LGBTİ Rights and Cultural Center
Lambdaİstanbul Office | 2014 |
| <i>Osmanlı'dan Gelen Queer Argo: Lubunca</i> (in Turkish)
Lecture at the invitation of Lion Queer student group
Galatasaray University | 2014 |
| <i>Rethinking Language Evolution</i>
Part of the <i>Scientific Şehir</i> Lecture Series
İstanbul Şehir University | 2014 |
| <i>Language and Heritage in Central Eurasia from the Middle Ages to the Present</i>
Guest lecture in <i>Politics, Religion & Social Change</i> at request of instructor, Dr. Eva-Marie DuBuisson
Boğaziçi University | 2014 |
| <i>Queer slang and the trafficking of non-Muslim women in Late Ottoman and Early Republican Istanbul</i>
Human Trafficking Graduate Research Symposium
Indiana University Bloomington | 2013 |
| <i>Queer slang and demographic change in Early Republican Istanbul</i>
Association of Central Eurasian Students' 20 th Annual Central Eurasian Studies Conference
Indiana University Bloomington | 2013 |

- How much contact can change a language? The case of Kyrgyz, Khalkha, and Uyghur* 2013
(with Jonathan North Washington & Andrew Shimunek)
Central Eurasian Studies Society 2012 Annual Conference, Indiana University Bloomington
- Lubunca: The historical development of Queer slang in Istanbul* 2012
Guest lecture in Sociolinguistics at request of instructor, Dr. Julie Mathews-Aydinli
Bilkent University
- The Effect of Language Contact on the Phoneme Inventory of Central Eurasian Languages* 2012
(with Jonathan North Washington & Andrew Shimunek)
Association of Central Eurasian Students' 19th Annual Conference, Indiana University Bloomington
- Romani Language & Linguistics: An Overview and Learning from the Romani Language* 2011
Guest lectures in *Roma History and Culture* at request of instructor, Dr. Lynn Hooker
Indiana University Bloomington
- Romani lexemes in Istanbul gay slang: Register and social space in contact-induced language change* 2010
17th Annual Lavender Languages Conference
American University, Washington DC
- Standards of evidence in historical linguistics* 2009
Guest lecture in *Rus, Bulgars, & Khazars* at request of instructor, Dr. Edward Lazzerini
Indiana University Bloomington
- Contact Linguistics: An Overview* 2008
Guest lecture in the course *Introduction to Linguistics – 3* at the request of instructor, Dr. Erik Levin
University of Chicago
- Lexical Renegotiation: Loanword adaptation, language attitudes, and the Standard Uyghur lexicon* 2008
Association of Central Eurasian Students' 15th Annual Central Eurasian Studies Conference
Indiana University Bloomington