

Berfin Örs

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EDUCATION

BOĞAZİÇİ UNIVERSITY

Creative Writing Seminar & Workshop

Istanbul, Turkey

Dec 2023 - Feb 2024

- Completed an intensive fiction workshop focused on craft, requiring the submission and critique of original weekly assignments in a peer-review seminar format led by novelist Dr. Murat Gülsoy.

MEF UNIVERSITY

Psychology, Bachelor of Arts

Istanbul, Turkey | Graduated 2022

3.7/4.0 GPA, Honorary Degree

50% Merit-Based Scholarship

SELECTED ACADEMIC WORK & RESEARCH

Psychoanalysis and Literature I-II — Do I Dare to Disturb This Poem? A Reading of T.S. Eliot's The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock; No Happy Endings: Adultism, Moral Ambiguity, and the Unseen Misery of Childhood in Lemony Snicket's World

Child Images in Movies – Mother Would Appreciate That! The Yellow Wallpaper in the Barbie's Dream House

English Literature – A Psychoanalytic Reading of Parental Rejection in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

Visual Arts – Creativity and Expressionism in Literature; A Fragile Cinema: Finding Deeper Meaning in 'Boats Out of Watermelon Rinds'

Psychological Trauma – Identity, Delusion, and a Narrative of Trauma on Shutter Island

Readings & Research in Social Psychology – Creative Personality Traits and Their Links to System Justification, Emotion Regulation and Collective Action (Research)

Readings & Research in Cognitive Psychology – Music Type, Emotion Regulation and Mood (Research)

Readings & Research in Clinical Psychology I-II – Examining the Role of Perceived Parental Rejection on Self-Disgust and Depression in Adults (Research); An Overview of Object Relations Theory: Kleinian Approach (Research)

ENGLISH TUTOR (VOLUNTEER)

March - May 2021

- Provided 15+ hours of online one-on-one English tutoring to a middle school student through a university-led mentorship program.
- Designed and delivered a creative, engaging curriculum that included weekly custom exercises, and film analysis to improve language comprehension and cultural fluency.

MEF UNIVERSITY VEGAN CLUB

Co-Founder

MEF SCHOOLS

Valedictorian & Honors Graduate

Istanbul, Turkey | Graduated 2018

- Editor-in-Chief, School Newspaper:** Under the guidance of the English and Turkish Literature departments, led the editorial direction and press team for four years, managing and mentoring a diverse team of student writers from primary to high school. Served as Editor-in-Chief for the Model UN conference newspaper.

- **International Project Lead & Presenter:** Represented Turkey at two international conferences, presenting on the human impact of migration (Japan) and environmental sustainability (Denmark). Continues to be an active member of the Japan-based international network, contributing to its work on the future of global education.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

COSMOPOLITAN TÜRKİYE

Editor

Istanbul, Turkey
June 2024 - Sep 2025

- Authored a personal portfolio of over 30 bylined articles for both print and digital publication, covering topics ranging from critical social commentary and in-depth artist profiles to cultural analysis and close relationships.
- Shaped the platform's editorial narrative and content strategy as a founding editor, launching 10+ new verticals, building a network of over 30 writers, and editing more than 1,500 articles to create a vibrant digital publication dedicated to female voices.
- Managed the editorial direction for a slate of innovative, community-driven digital narrative series, such as the 'Cosmo Book Club' (an editorial series fostering a literary community through author interviews and curated discussions) and 'Places to Cry,' a viral series that mapped a city's emotional geography, which was featured in Hearst's global highlights as a best-practice for community engagement.
- Authored the weekly sex & relationships newsletter, "Öptüm," and oversaw the editorial direction for all brand newsletters, growing the total subscriber base to over 10,000.
- Shaped the editorial narrative for our best-selling 'Manifest' issue. As the project's editorial lead, identified the cultural potential of the emerging Turkish girl band later described by *Rolling Stone* as a group that signals girls can "take up space" and drove the project from ideation to execution, which ended up being the band's first ever cover shoot, earning a feature in Hearst's global highlights for its cover success.
- Led and managed the 'Cosmo Quiz' vertical, developing it into the platform's best-performing content within five months. The 360-degree role involved directing the editorial vision for all quiz content from ideation and assigning writers to final edits while expanding the format into a multi-platform experience with event series, social media content and a companion app. Its rapid growth was showcased on Hearst's global highlights as a key success story.

GATE EXPERIENCE

Freelance Editorial Assistant & Interviewer

Istanbul, Turkey
Dec 2024 - June 2025

- Conducted, edited, and translated 40 in-depth personalized interviews with a diverse range of international artists, performers, attendees, and the festival team for the Echoes from Agarthia 5th-anniversary coffee-table book.

ESQUIRE TÜRKİYE

Digital Editor

Istanbul, Turkey
April - June 2023

- Collaborated with the senior team to develop the editorial strategy for the relaunch, themed "Persona." Responsibilities included authoring a feature on the documentary *Turn Every Page*, handling copy editing, and translating key English-language features on topics including gastronomy, sports, and the arts.

CHEER MEDIA

Editorial Assistant

Istanbul, Turkey
July 2022 - Aug 2023

- Contributed to the ideation and development of multi-platform content strategies for a diverse portfolio of freelance creatives, managing the complete editorial production for their newsletters, podcasts, and social media channels.

ASLI KARARAÇ, CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
Intern & Assistant

Istanbul, Turkey
Dec 2018 - Dec 2020

- Gained insight into human narrative by observing clinical therapy, focusing on the symbolic stories in children's Game Therapy; concurrently, provided key research and editorial assistance, helping to structure the sensitive narrative of a book on preventing child sexual abuse.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- “‘Art is Not Escape, It is Remembrance.’ Carolina Amaya on Roots, Transformation, and Liberation” *Cosmopolitan Türkiye*, 2025
- “Women Have to Think Constantly. Here’s What It’s Like” (Digital, 2025)
- “She Makes Flowers Bloom in Her Own Path” (Print, Issue 6: Girl Gang, 2025)
- “A Never-Ending Sleepover” (Print, Issue 3: Modern Love, 2025)
- “The Parenting Influencers Who Won’t Stop Posting Their Children.” *Cosmopolitan Türkiye*, 2024 (Translation to Turkish)
- “On the Closing of Noma, and the Unbearable Costs of an Extraordinary Meal.” *Esquire Türkiye*, Print, no. 196, 2023 (Translation to Turkish)
- “Padel vs Pickleball: Can the World's Fastest-Growing Sports Overtake Tennis?” *Esquire Türkiye*, Print, no. 196, 2023 (Translation to Turkish)

LANGUAGES

Turkish (Native)

English (Proficient)