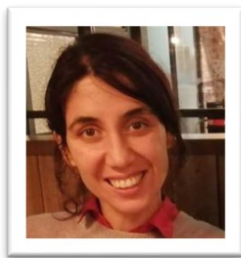


Trans-Regional Railway Cultures and the Imagination in the Twentieth Century

- *Zeynep Ceren Correia* 'Moral Economy behind the Hejaz railway project, seeking insights on collective action from memoirs'
- *Jason Finch* 'Langston Hughes and the Nickel Plate Road: African American Railway Imaginations, 1900–54'
- *Nirali Joshi* 'Imagining techno-nature-human ensembles of care: The self-figuration of station masters through memoirs'



Zeynep Ceren Correia analyses how the "ş door" in Turkish verbs introduces the notions of mutuality and collectivity, as defined by scholar Kivılcımlı. Through Kivılcımlı's "Thesis of History," the author explores the role of collective action in shaping historical development, using the Hejaz Railway project as a source alongside with first-hand accounts, including diaries, to uncover the moral economy behind the railway's construction and its connection to the early 20th-century Ottoman Empire.



Jason Finch focuses on the time during the First Great Migration (1910-40) when train travel shaped Black Americans' understanding of the nation, connecting to a tradition of African American travel narratives. Focusing on Langston Hughes's works from the 1920s-50s, the paper examines his journeys between Missouri and New York City, highlighting the human imagination and diverse worldviews. The paper aims to humanize transport studies by highlighting these perspectives.



Nirali Joshi explores how memoirs of British Railway station masters can enrich ethnographic understandings of the everyday state. By analysing these personal accounts, the study explores their role as sources of societal and organizational memory that reveal bureaucratic practices in place. The presentation also broadens the perspective on documentary practices by including objects that contribute to bureaucratic symbolism, function, and purpose.

The PREMIS-seminars are open to all – welcome!