

CURRICULUM VITAE

BURCU YASEMİN ŞEYBEN

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Houston, TX 77002
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EDUCATION

PhD, Theatre Criticism and Dramaturgy, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey, 2009
Dissertation: “Ancient Greek Plays Staged in Turkey and Their Place in Cultural Policies”
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dikmen Gürün
MA, Visual Communication Design, Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey, 2003
Thesis: “At the Intersection between Space and Non-Space: Internet Cafes in Istanbul”
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Serhan Ada
BA, Playwriting, Bennington College, Vermont, United States, 1999
Thesis: “The Double Life of Grandma”
Supervisor: Prof. Gladden Schrock

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

College of Southern Idaho, Theatre Program

Associate Professor, 2019–2026

Courses Taught, 2019–2026

- THEA 202 C01: Theatre History II
- THEA 151 C02: Play Production
- GNED 101 C60D: Introduction to General Education: Young Migrants
- THEA 211 C01: Voice for Theatre
- THEA 201 C01: Theatre History I
- THEA 101 B30V: Theatre Appreciation
- GNED 101 T61D: Introduction to General Education: Water
- THEA 111 C01: Fundamentals of Acting

Directing

2025–2026

- *Anna Karenina*, adapted by Helen Edmundson from the novel by Leo Tolstoy

2024–2025

- *Machinal*, by Sophie Treadwell

- *American Hero*, by Bess Wohl

2023–2024

- *Fefu and Her Friends*, by María Irene Fornés
- *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, music and lyrics by Roger Miller and book by William Hauptman. Co-directed with Shane Brown; musical direction and choreography by Serena Jenkins Clark

2022–2023

- *No Exit*, by Jean-Paul Sartre
- *An Enemy of the People*, by Henrik Ibsen

2021–2022

- *A Bright New Boise*, by Samuel D. Hunter

2020–2021

- *You on the Moors Now*, by Jaclyn Backhaus
- *Oedipus*, adapted by Ellen McLaughlin from Sophocles. Co-directed with Shane Brown

2019–2020

- *Rhinoceros*, adapted by Zinnie Harris from Eugène Ionesco's modern classic

Technical Support

2023–2024

- *School of Rock*, music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Glenn Slater, and book by Julian Fellowes

2022–2023

- *Titanic*, music and lyrics by Maury Yeston and book by Peter Stone

2021–2022

- *The Addams Family*, music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice

2019–2020

- *Legally Blonde*, music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin and book by Heather Hach

- *August: Osage County*, by Tracy Letts

Workshops

2022–2023

- Theatre Camp for Elementary, Middle, and High School Students

Bennington College

Visiting Scholar and Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund Fellow,
Drama and Center for the Advancement of Public Action, 2017–2019

Courses Taught

2018–2019

- APA 2148: Water: First Home of Life
- DRA 2149: Kurdish Cinema: Images from a Longtime Stateless Nation
- DRA 2166: Child and Youth Migration: In Between Cultures
- APA 2155: Middle Eastern Diasporic Experience in Theatre and Cinema

2017–2018

- DRA 2158: Artistic Interventions as a Form of Protest: Performance and Social Movements
- DRA 2157: Auteurs of Contemporary European Theatre: An Aesthetic and Thematic Exploration of European Theatre and Their Productions
- DRA 2175: Migration and Migrants in Theatre, Film, and Documentaries
- APA 2201: The Veil and the Arts: Discourses and Experiences around the Veil in Contemporary Works

Organized Talks

- Ghaderi, Samira. “The Kurdish Youth Immigration to the U.S.” April 11, 2019.
- Tonak, E. Ahmet, and Burcu Yasemin Seyben. “The Peace Petition and the Academic Purge in Turkey.” November 16, 2017.
- Maggor, Rebekah. “Theatre and Protest: Tahrir Tales.” October 9, 2017.

Istanbul Bilgi University

Head, Arts and Cultural Management Department, Faculty of Communication, 2015–2016

Assistant Professor, Management of Performing Arts, Performing Arts, and Cultural Management BA and MA Programs, Faculty of Communication, 2009–2017

Lecturer, Management of Performing Arts, Faculty of Communication, 2005–2009

Research Assistant, Management of Performing Arts, Faculty of Communication, 2001–2009

Courses Taught

- MAP 122: Theatre Production and Literacy, BA
- MAP 180: History of Performing Arts, BA
- MAP 271: Reading Texts, BA

- MAP 461: Turkish Theatre
- MAP 412: Contemporary Theatre, BA
- MAP 407–408: Senior Project, BA
- CAM 179–180: History of Cultural Institutions
- CAM 321: Fundraising and Sponsorship for the Arts
- CAM 512: Performing Arts Management, MA

Istanbul University

Visiting Lecturer, Theatre Criticism and Dramaturgy Department, 2011–2017

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Actor and Dramaturg, MekanArtı, an independent theatre company, 2013–2017

Copywriter, ATV National TV Channel, Istanbul, 1999–2000

Assistant to Playwright Susan Yankowitz, New York, 1997–1998

Production Assistant, *Virtual Souls*, directed by Virlana Tkacz, La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, New York, 1996–1997

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. *Struggle and Survival under Authoritarianism in Turkey: Theatre under Threat*. Lexington Books, 2020. ISBN 978-1-7936-0859-8.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. *Tiyatro ve Multimedya [Theatre and Multimedia]*. Istanbul: Habitus Kitap, 2016. ISBN 978-605-4630-39-4.

Plays

- *Donation*. Short play, 2026. Staged reading at the 2026 Midwest Dramatists Conference.
- *Intro to Greek Theatre*. Short play, 2025. Winner of the Spokane Civic Theatre's 35th Bryan Harnetiaux Forum Festival Adjudicator's Award.
- *A Beauty Mark*. Full-length play, work in progress, 2026.
- *Mother State*. Short play, work in progress, 2026.
- *Dream Closet*. Short play, work in progress, 2026.
- *Our Founding Father*. Short play, 2024.
- *The American Letter*. Full-length play, 2023. Produced at the College of Southern Idaho in fall 2024.
- *Disowned*. Full-length play, 2019.
- *X*. Full-length play, 2018.
- *Three Scoops of Ice Cream*. Short play, 2018.

Creative Nonfiction

- Seyben, Burcu. "A Lawn Picnic." *The Brussels Review*, 2026. <https://thebrusselsreview.com/burcu-seyben/a-lawn-picnic/>.
- Seyben, Burcu. "Gravity of the Distance." *Door Is a Jar Literary Magazine*, no. 39, Summer 2026.

- Seyben, Burcu. “Private Lessons.” *The Brussels Review*, Winter 2025.
- Seyben, Burcu. “Broken Mirror: On Home and Language.” *Synkroniciti* 6, no. 4, Fall 2025.
- Seyben, Burcu. “Fugue.” *The RavensPerch*, 2025. <https://theravensperch.com/fugue-by-burcu-seyben/>.
- Seyben, Burcu. “Skirts.” *The Manifest-Station*, August 19, 2025. <https://www.themanifeststation.net/2025/08/19/skirts/>.
- Seyben, Burcu. “The Bean.” *The RavensPerch*, 2025. <https://theravensperch.com/the-bean-by-burcu-seyben/>.
- Seyben, Burcu. “Homeless.” *The RavensPerch*, 2025. <https://theravensperch.com/homeless-by-burcu-seyben/>.
- Seyben, Burcu. “(Bi)Cycles.” *The RavensPerch*, 2025. <https://theravensperch.com/bicycles-by-burcu-seyben/>.
- Seyben, Burcu. “Phantom of Cinema.” *Door Is a Jar Literary Magazine*, no. 33, Summer 2025.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “How I Got to Drive.” *The RavensPerch*, 2025. <https://theravensperch.com/how-i-got-to-drive-by-burcu-seyben/>.
- Seyben, Burcu. “Some Turkish Phrases About Words.” *The RavensPerch*, 2025. <https://theravensperch.com/some-turkish-phrases-about-words-by-burcu-seyben/>.
- Seyben, Burcu. “Dwellers of Non-Place.” *Synkroniciti* 6, no. 4, Fall 2024.
- Seyben, Burcu. “TV.” *Door Is a Jar Literary Magazine*, no. 32, Winter 2024.
- Seyben, Burcu. “Vignettes of Him.” *Door Is a Jar Literary Magazine*, no. 31, Summer 2024.
- Seyben, Burcu. “Ferris Wheel.” *Door Is a Jar Literary Magazine*, no. 30, Spring 2024.
- Seyben, Burcu. “Rivermaid.” *The RavensPerch*, 2022. <https://theravensperch.com/rivermaid-by-burcuseyben/>.

Edited Volumes

- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin, and Kevin Robins, eds. *Cultural Interventions: Cultural Policy and Management Yearbook 2014–2015*. Istanbul: Istanbul Bilgi University Press, 2016. ISBN 978-605-399-436-7.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin, Aylin Kalem, and Ayşe Güngör, eds. *Performart’14/Performing Arts Conference Proceedings: Performing Arts and Public Space*. Istanbul: DAKAM Publishing, 2014. ISBN 978-605-5120-97-9.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin, and Özlem Hemiş, eds. *Encounters: İstanbul 2010 International Theatre Education Symposium Proceedings*. Istanbul: Istanbul 2010 Capital of Culture Publishing, 2010. ISBN 978-605-88394-6-5.
- *Tiyatro Eğitimi Sempozyumu, 28–29 Mayıs 2009: Bildiriler [Theatre Education Symposium: Proceedings]*. Istanbul: Istanbul 2010 Capital of Culture Publishing, 2009. ISBN 978-605-60853-1-4.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Food as a Site of Female-Centric Dramaturgy in *Oysters Orgasms Obituaries*.” Forthcoming.

- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “‘My Life Has Become More Absurd than My Play’: *Mi Minör* and the Crackdown on Artistic Freedom in Turkey.” *TDR: The Drama Review* 63, no. 3 (2019): 36–49. https://doi.org/10.1162/dram_a_00855.
- Aksoy, Asu, and Burcu Yasemin Seyben. “Storm over the State Cultural Institutions: New Cultural Policy Direction in Turkey.” *International Journal of Cultural Policy* 21, no. 2 (2014): 183–99. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10286632.2014.890605>.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin, and Tatiana Langerova. “Two Models of Performing Arts Funding: German versus Turkish.” *Ekonomika a Management* 7, no. 3 (2013). [
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “(In)sight of Things: An Analysis of the Relation between Subjectivity and Reality in *His Master’s Voice*.” *Third Text* 26, no. 6 (2012): 745–55. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09528822.2012.732294>.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Görsel Sanatta Zaman ve Mekan Parametreleri ve Sitüasyonist Estetik” [“The Time and Space Parameters in Visual Arts and Situationist Aesthetics”]. *Akdeniz Üniversitesi Güzel Sanatlar Fakültesi Akdeniz-Sanat Dergisi* 2, no. 4 (2009): 99–110.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Yapmamayı Tercih Ederim: *Godot*’yu Beklerken ve *Bartleby*’de Varoluş Endişesinin Sonu: Apatı” [“I Prefer Not To: The Result of Existential Anxiety in *Waiting for Godot* and *Bartleby*”]. *İstanbul Üniversitesi Tiyatro Eleştirmenliği ve Dramaturji Bölüm Dergisi* 7 (2005): 137–61.

Book Chapters

- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Absence as Presence: Toward Multilingual Dramaturgy in *Dream American* and *The Franca Rame Project*.” In *Theatres of Resilience: Navigating Censorship, Gender, and Intersectionality in Turkey*, edited by Deniz Başar, Eylem Ejder, and Pieter Verstraete. Forthcoming. [Forthcoming]
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Survival of the Weakest.” In *Exiled Scholars in Western Academia: Refugees or Intellectuals?*, edited by Alfred Babo and Sayed Hassan Husseini. Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming. 2026
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin, and Mehmet Özgür Bahçeci. “Mahalle Hayalleri ve Temsilleri: *Sahibinin Sesi*’nde Mahallenin Toplum Hayaliyle İlişkisi” [“Neighborhood Fantasies and Representations: The Relationship of the Neighborhood with the Fantasy of a Community in *His Master’s Voice*”]. In *Dikmen Gürün’e Armağan Kitabı*, edited by Yavuz Pekman. Istanbul: Habitus Kitap, 2020. ISBN 978-605-0969030.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Kod Adı Kongo Oyununda Devlet İktidarının Eril Kodlarının İfşası ve Yeniden İnşası” [“The Exposition and Reconstruction of the Masculine Codes of State Power in *Code Name: Congo*”]. In *Tiyatroyla Düşünmek: Zehra İpşiroğlu’na Armağan Kitabı*, edited by Yavuz Pekman. Istanbul: Habitus Kitap, 2016. ISBN 978-605-4630-45-5.
- Aksoy, Asu, and Burcu Yasemin Seyben. “Storm over Culture: Transformation of Cultural Policy in Turkey.” In *Cultural Policy and Management Yearbook 2014–2015: Cultural Interventions*, edited by Burcu Yasemin Seyben and Kevin Robins. Istanbul: Istanbul Bilgi University Press, 2016. ISBN 978-605-5120-97-9. Revised and updated from “Storm over the State Cultural Institutions: New Cultural Policy Direction in Turkey.”
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Muhsin Ertuğrul’un Sinemacılığı” [“Muhsin Ertuğrul in Cinema”]. In *Sinemada Bir Asır [A Century in Cinema]*, edited by Ş. Abdurrahman

Çelik, 28–36. Antalya: Altın Portakal Film Festivali Yayınları, 2015. ISBN 978-975-6124-37-6.

- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin, and Rasim Erdem Avşar. “Home as a Public/Private Space: Headscarved Female Characters in *Good Things Are on Our Side* and *Clouds May Wander*.” In *Performart’14/Performing Arts Conference Proceedings: Performing Arts and Public Space*, edited by Burcu Yasemin Seyben, Aylin Kalem, and Ayşe Güngör, 207–12. Istanbul: DAKAM Publishing, 2014. ISBN 978-605-5120-97-9.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Anayurt Otel: Zamansız ve Mekansız Bir İzlek” [“Motherland Hotel: A Timeless and Spaceless Spectacle”]. In *Darbeli Düşler: 80’li Yıllar Türkiye Sineması* [*Dreaming under the Coup: Turkish Cinema in the 1980s*], edited by Özgür Şeyben, 127–43. Antalya: Altın Portakal Film Festivali Yayınları, 2011. ISBN 978-605-5366-02-5.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Açıkhava Etkinlikleri: Fetih Şenlikleri, Cumhuriyet Kutlamaları ve Hıdrellez” [“Open-Air Festivities: Anniversary of Istanbul’s Ottoman Conquest, Republic Day Celebrations, and Hıdrellez”]. In *İstanbul’un Festivalleri* [*Istanbul’s Festivals*], edited by Serhan Ada, 53–78. Istanbul: Istanbul Bilgi University Press, 2011. ISBN 978-605-399-201-1.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Engaging the Local, Urban, and Global: The Ahırkapı Hıdrellez Spring Festival.” In *Cultural Policy and Management Yearbook 2010: Cultural Policy and City*, edited by Ülkü Zümray Kutlu and Cas Smithuijsen. Istanbul: Istanbul Bilgi University Press, 2010. ISBN 978-605-399-168-7.
- Seyben, Burcu Yasemin. “Congo as a European Member: The Cultural Role of the State in the European Membership Process.” In *Cultural Policy and Management Yearbook 2010: Cultural Policy and City*, edited by Ülkü Zümray Kutlu and Cas Smithuijsen. Istanbul: Istanbul Bilgi University Press, 2010. ISBN 978-605-399-168-7.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION

- “Revising Theater History, Curricula, and Repertoires: Theatre Aesthetics from Türkiye.” Roundtable with moderator Aycan Akçamete and discussants Zishan Ugurlu and Deniz Başar. Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, online, July 22–31, 2024.
- “An Ethnographic Approach to Canadian Theatre Institutions: The Case of Deniz Başar and Her Play *Wine and Halva*.” With Deniz Başar. Presented as part of “Staging Justice through Cultural Policy: Perspectives from Artists in Multiple Geographies,” with Taiwo Afolabi, Deniz Ünsal, and Pieter Verstraete. Canadian Association for Theatre Research Conference, online, June 5–6, 2024.
- Staged reading of an excerpt from *The American Letter*. Directed by Stacey Schiller; dramaturgy by Kristi Good; performed by Nâlân Erbil-Erkan and Katherine Clemons. Pitch-Your-Play Showcase, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, Madison, Wisconsin, March 7–10, 2024.
- “Theatre Programs at HSI Colleges and Universities.” Roundtable co-chaired with Shane Brown. Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, Austin, Texas, August 3–6, 2023.

- “Orphans of a Stateless Nation: Construction of Autonomy in and through Transnational Kurdish Films.” Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, DC, March 21–24, 2019.
- “The Personal, Political, and Linguistic: The Dynamics of Self-Translation.” Presentation and reading from *A Beauty Mark. Drama Across Borders: The Politics and Poetics of Contemporary Theatre in Translation*, Cornell University and the Cherry Artspace, May 11–12, 2018.
- “Home as a Public/Private Space: Headscarved Female Characters in *Good Things Are on Our Side* and *Clouds May Wander*.” With Rasim Erdem Avşar. Performart’14 Performing Arts Conference: Performing Arts and Public Space, Istanbul, Turkey, December 2014.
- “The Opportunities and Challenges of Managing Alternative Theatre Stages in Istanbul: The Collective and Individual Actions and Propositions.” *Performing Arts Management Today*, organized by IUGTE, Retzhof Castle, Austria, April 2012.
- “An Encounter with the Third Kind of Spectatorship in Berkun Oya’s Cinematic Theatre Production.” *Staging Illusion: Digital and Cultural Fantasy*, Sussex, United Kingdom, December 2011.
- “Türk Tiyatro Yazımında ‘Mahalle’” [“Neighborhood in Turkish Dramatic Writing”]. With Mehmet Özgür Bahçeci. *Mekân ve Kültür VI: Kültür Araştırmaları Sempozyumu [Space and Culture VI: Cultural Research Symposium]*, Istanbul, Turkey, September 2011.
- “Ahırkapı Hıdırellez Spring Festival: Engaging the Local, Urban, and Global.” *Celebrating Europe: How International Festivals Strengthen Civil Society*, organized by Adam Mickiewicz University and the European Festival Research Project, Poznań, Poland, April 2010.
- “Sevim Burak’ın *Ah Ya Rab Yehova* ve *Sahibinin Sesi* Adlı Eserlerinde Kimliklerarası Diyalog” [“Intercultural Dialogue in Sevim Burak’s *My God Jehova* and *His Master’s Voice*”]. *Sanatta Kimlik ve Etkileşim Uluslararası Sempozyumu [Identity and Interaction in the Arts Symposium]*, Istanbul, Turkey, April 2010.
- “(In)sight of Things: An Analysis of the Relation between Subjectivity and Reality in *His Master’s Voice*.” Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Montreal, Canada, April 2010.
- “Bologna Süreci, Tiyatro Eğitimi ve Bir Örnek.” Theatre Education Symposium, Istanbul, Turkey, May 2009.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024-Ongoing, National Michael Chekhov Association

- Teaching and Directing Certification Tracks with Lisa Dalton and Wil Kilroy

2024, HB Studio Online Classes

- Scene Study III with Austin Pendleton

2024, College of Southern Idaho

- SPAN 101: Beginning Spanish I
- SPAN 102: Beginning Spanish II

2023, HB Studio Online Classes

- Acting II with Julissa Roman
- Acting for the Camera with Magaly Colomon

2021, College of Southern Idaho

- CISG 109: Digital Media Tools

2021, HB Studio Online Classes

- Acting I with Julissa Roman
- Voice I with Craig Dolezel

2021, Stella Adler Studio Online Classes

- Scene Study II with J. Claude Deering
- From Sound to Action with Nicol Cowans

2021, Michael Chekhov Association Virtual Festival and Workshops

- Little Pieces of Art with Jessica Cerullo
- Psychophysical Fundamentals with Lenard Petit
- Chekhov Technique and Your Character with Ted Pugh and Joanna Merlin
- Psychophysical Fundamentals with Marjolein Baars
- Psychophysical Fundamentals with Craig Mathers
- A Piece of Text on an Ocean of Movement with Bethany Caputo

2020–2021, College of Southern Idaho

- CABW 104: Woodshop Foundations
- CABW 112: Introduction to Cabinetmaking
- CABW 113: Intermediate Cabinetmaking
- CABW 114: Advanced Cabinetmaking
- CABW 201: Finishing Techniques
- CABW 202: Furniture
- XMSC 044: Creative Writing

ACADEMIC AND ARTISTIC SERVICE

Board and Professional Memberships

- Board Member, Magic Valley Arts Council, 2024-2026

- Board Member, Cultural Policy and Management Research Center, Istanbul Bilgi University, 2014–2017
- Member, International Association of Art Critics, Turkey, 2004–2007

Master’s Theses Supervised

- “Changing Cultural Politics, Actors, and Strategies in Bursa since the 2000s: The Bursa Nilüfer Municipality Example.” Completed 2021.
- “Sosyolojik İzlekte Tiyatro-Seyirci İlişkisi: Örnek Bir Çalışma Olarak Semaver” [“The Relationship between Theatre and Its Audiences from a Sociological Perspective: The Case of Semaver Kumpanya”]. Completed 2011.

Workshop, Seminar, and Conference Organization

- Co-organizer, Water Film Festival, Bennington College, Fall 2018.
- Co-organizer, BOSA Workshops: Body-Based Performing Arts Workshops, Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, 2007–2016.
- Co-organizer, Performart’14/Performing Arts Conference, DAKAM and Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, December 20–21, 2011.
- Co-organizer, *Encounters: İstanbul 2010 International Theatre Education Symposium*, Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency, Istanbul, May 7–8, 2010.
- Co-organizer, Theatre Education Symposium, Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency, Istanbul, May 28–29, 2010.