

Seeding Island: Carte de Liminalité
A collaborative cartography project by women in filmmaking

Seeding Island is a collaborative visual project inspired by Catherine Grant's 2021 keynote speech "Making Nearby" at the conference *Teaching Women's Filmmaking*. Grant's emphasis on key concepts such as border, suture and threshold, suggesting fluidity and transgression without aggression highlighted an alternative imagery of geography: Carte de Liminalité.¹

The idea of "seeding" was suggested by Colleen Kennedy-Karpat, who moderated Grant's speech. Framing knowledge as space, the project brings together nine women at different stages of their academic careers, with Gökçen Erkılıç at the helm, as the cartographer and coastliner of the *Seeding Island*. The mapped personas of the contributors, as originally suggested by Erkılıç, were derivatives of the films and images each referred to, as well as their words and how they appeared on the Zoom's screen structure as the technological face of the group's interface. These mapped personas then became the springboards for each contributor's variations and experimentations while layering and covering depth as well as the surface space(s) with collage, desktop aesthetics and screen space(s).

The proposed presentation is a work-in-progress and will be in the form of a workshop, with the *Seeding Island* exposed and explored as a multi-faceted imaginary reality. Below is the legend (in alphabetical order) of the participants, with keywords for the mapped personas that have inspired and guided their contributions.

Legend:

Revna ALTIOK / The **beach** ... liminality, where land and water meet. A site of change, hope, and fluidity, where everything is connected and in touch, where nothing is absolute or eternal. The coast, a place where water can alter the land, and where land can alter water.

Mesrure Melis BİLGİN / The **mountains**... Outwardly ascending but inwardly vibrating with clashes of eras bygone. Seemingly liminal between earth and sky, but actually the yearning of matter for emptiness.

Berna ÇELİKKAYA / The **bridge** that both separates and unites the lagoon and the sea.. The sea embraces what passes under the bridge, coming from the lagoon, from bae blue to dark blue, from shallow to deep, and from the subconscious to conscious.

Feride ÇİÇEKOĞLU / The **sea**... surrounding, touching, embracing, caressing and nurturing. Both the fluid that gives life, and that which drowns and kills. "Tiny waves" but tsunamis also. Continuous ebb and flow due to lunar eclipse. Ups and downs... ups and downs...

Çağla DEMİRBAŞ / The **lagoon**... the womb where the river finds rest, where the waves seek nest. Somber and dull at the first glance, beneath the surface, it is where oysters sink in sand with delight, and where Venus rises from shell, resplendent, majestic and spellbinding.

¹ La Carte du tendre
<http://expositions.bnf.fr/cartes/grand/sq11-06.htm>

Gökçen ERKILIÇ / The **delta**... is a field where the fresh water of the river meets the salty waters. Here, the river pours out her carried sediments; meanders form endless networks. A tender ecosystem, it defends radical multiplicity. Its coastline is in constant flux through years.

Çağla GİLLİS / The **river**... depicts the beginnings of life and always eventually lands in the bosom of the sea. Flows easily around the curves and rocks, sometimes tenderly and sometimes quite intensely, moving, connecting, washing, cleansing... ablution and rebirth.

Colleen KENNEDY-KARPAT / The **volcano**... Creation and destruction by fire; solid rock (stable, dependable, constant), rendered liquid (pliable, uncertain, fleeting); fertile soils & new land; extinction; visible evidence of past upheavals persisting in the present.

Miray SÖZEN / The **isles**.. One and many. Alone but crowded. Tranquil but comes from boisterous. Formed by a mergence. Depends on the water and magma. Right at the center, always nearby. Completely surrounded, embraced, enfolded.

Bio Notes:

Moderators:

Colleen Kennedy-Karpat is an Associate Editor of the journal *Adaptation* and co-editor of the volumes *Adaptation, Awards Culture, and the Value of Prestige* (2017) and *The Sustainable Legacy of Agnès Varda* (2022, with Feride Çiçekoğlu). She teaches film studies at Bilkent University.

Gökçen Erkiliç is an architect, cartographer and video maker. She works with forms of coastlines to narrate human and environment relations. She is currently a visiting researcher at Harvard University Center for Middle Eastern Studies; and lecturer at Northeastern University College of Arts, Media, and Design. She writes regularly in *Manifold*.

Participants:

Revna Altıok has received her Master's degree in media and visual studies from Bilkent University. Her research interests include ecocriticism, speciesism, the visual and narrative culture, as well as the history and theory of film, animation, and comic books.

Mesrure Melis Bilgin is an interdisciplinary artist and scholar with interests in animation, dramaturgy, mythology and painting. Currently, she is Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor at Istanbul Bilgi University's Management of Performing Arts Program.

Berna Çelikkaya is a doctoral student in Communication at Istanbul Bilgi University. She has master's degrees from University of Toronto and Kadir Has University. As a scholar, her primary research interests include dramaturgy, writing, digital performance, and acting.

Feride Çiçekoğlu has a background in architecture, literature and film. Currently, she is the director of the master program in film and television at Istanbul Bilgi University.

Çağla Demirbař has her Bachelor's in film and media studies. She curates non-profit short film screenings and narrates her stories through photography and screenwriting.

Çağla Gillis's interests include journalism, contemporary art, and film. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Film and Television at İstanbul Bilgi University.

Miray Sözen has her bachelor degree in philosophy from Middle East Technical University. She is currently in the master program Film and Television at İstanbul Bilgi University.