

In Memory of Assist. Prof. Dr. Selhan Savcıgil Endres

(1957–2019)

It is with profound sadness that I write these lines in memory of my dear friend, classmate, and colleague Dr. Selhan Savcıgil Endres, an active member of the American Studies Association of Turkey. She participated in all our early conferences and activities, and also served on the Executive Board, first as Treasurer between 1994 and 1995, and then as Vice President between 2005 and 2007.

Selhan Savcıgil graduated from the Department of English Language and Literature at Hacettepe University in 1979. She received her MA in American Culture and Literature from Hacettepe University in 1984, and her PhD in 1987 from the same department with a dissertation entitled "A Thematic Study of the Afro-American Religious Folk Songs in the Antebellum South." It was the first time African American spirituals were studied in Turkey with such seriousness and depth.

After receiving her BA, she worked in the School of Foreign Languages at Hacettepe University until 1984, after which became a Research Assistant in the Department of American Culture and Literature at Hacettepe University. In 1995, Selhan left Hacettepe for Başkent University, where she became one of the founders of the American Culture and Literature Department. After marrying Professor Clifford Endres, she moved to Istanbul and worked on the establishment of the American Culture and Literature Department at Kadir Has University.

I still recall when we were undergraduate students together, and how we became teachers at the Turkish American Association when we were juniors. We both attended seminars on teacher training and learned new pedagogical methods while gaining experience. I remember Selhan's eagerness to teach, and how she drew stick figures with great speed and dexterity to help students understand concepts. She was very talented in drawing, and attended the late Kayhan Keskinok's atelier, where she received formal artistic instruction and displayed her paintings in a number of exhibitions. She had a unique elegance which was also reflected in her sartorial style. Selhan did everything with passion and panache.

In addition to working at Hacettepe Unviversity's Prep School and Department of American Culture and Literature together, we also attended conferences in Turkey and abroad. Selhan's students enjoyed her classes, which were always creative and innovative. She was a devoted instructor and a source of inspiration for students, and would even get carried away teaching and forget the time.

Selhan conducted research in and published articles on Turkish and American authors such as Orhan Pamuk, Toni Morrison, Langston Hughes, and Paul Auster. In later years, she contributed to the literary field with her translations of Turkish authors; in particular, her translations of poetry and drama by Enis Batur, Güven Turan, Gülten Akın, Haldun Taner among others. Her work appeared in *An Anthology of Modern Turkish Drama*, *Eda: An Anthology of Turkish Poetry, New European Poets, The Edinburgh Review, The Massachusetts Review, Quarterly West, Seneca Review,* and *Talisman.* In collaboration with Clifford Endres, she translated two novels by Selçuk Altun: *Many and Many a Year Ago* (2009) and *The Sultan of Byzantium* (2012). She was also the translator of *Edouard Roditi ve Istanbul Avangardı* (Istanbul: Kırmızı Kedi Yayınevi, 2018).

Selhan was an active member of the International Society of Contemporary Literature and Theater (ISCLT) and presented papers at their conferences, the American Studies Association (ASA), and the Salzburg Alumni Association. She was also on the Board of the Women's Library and Information Centre Foundation in Istanbul, where she served since 2008.

If she had lived longer, Selhan would have undoubtedly continued to work relentlessly, making more contributions to our field. She would have also touched many more lives with her idealism and enthusiasm. Selhan will not be forgotten. May she rest in peace.

Prof. Dr. Meldan Tanrısal

Hacettepe University