

**KURSAT K. PEKGOZ**

[pekgoz@usc.edu](mailto:pekgoz@usc.edu)

90-536-202-6837

**EDUCATION**

**Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey**

*Bachelor of Science, Molecular Biology and Genetics (2004-2009)*

**Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey**

*Master of Arts, English Language and Literature (2010-2014)*

**University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California**

*Doctor of Philosophy, English Literature (2014-2020)*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

*Translator/Interpreter (since 2005).* Worked as a translator for various companies, such as Straker and Lionbridge. Turkish-English. Areas of specialization include: biomedicine, literature, law, European Union regulations. 15+ years of experience, including simultaneous interpretation.

*European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany. Research Intern (2007, Summer).* Performed research into lateral primordium development in *D. rerio*.

*University of Southern California, California. Assistant Lecturer (2015 - 2018).* Taught critical writing and thinking to freshmen and sophomores.

**Rosenberg & Ball Co, LPA, Ohio.** *Legal Assistant (2018-19).* Handled complex documentation and wrote legal briefs.

**Hathaway & Parker LLP, California.** *Legal Assistant (2019-21).* Handled complex documentation and engaged in legal research.

**Doruk Inc., Turkey.** *CEO (Present).* Chief executive of a real estate company.

**Academica Press, Washington DC.** *Author (Present).* Writing a book about civil rights theory and due process.

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

*Turkish*: native speaker.

*English*: native speaker.

*Ancient Greek*: advanced

*Russian*: intermediate

*German, Latin, French*: beginner

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

*Bilkent University: Comprehensive (100%) Scholarship*: awarded to students who achieve exceptional success in a Turkish college admissions exam.

*Turkish Prime Ministry Scholarship (2004-2009)*.

*Bogazici University: The Selcuk Altun Scholarship for Creative Writing (2010-2014)*.

*The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies: Merit-Based Award (2012)*.

*University of Southern California: Provost's Fellowship*: the most exclusive on campus, granted once per annum for each cohort (2014 - 2019).

*University of Southern California: Summer Study Grants (2015, 2016, 2017)*.

*Olive Tree Initiative: Student Diplomat Scholarship (2017, Summer)*.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Ranked 412th out of 1.6 million applicants in a Turkish college admissions exam (OSS)
- Human rights advocacy in multiple venues. For example, created a petition to oppose the prosecution of a dissident woman politician critical of fundamentalist Islam.<sup>1</sup> Devoted thousands of hours of *pro bono* work to defend students wrongfully accused of disciplinary infractions who were unable to afford legal counsel.
- Gave interviews to NBC, Fox News, Wall Street Journal
- Has absolute pitch, the rare ability to recognize notes in the absence of a referent.<sup>2</sup> Can memorize complex orchestral passages.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.change.org/p/court-of-cassation-turkey-petition-to-free-canan-kaftancioglu-human-rights-activist-critic-of-radical-islam>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fhmkd6w93Qs>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAnjte5rUJ8>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EF6GCZ0OoHI>