



Review

KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY

Gerald H. Read Center
for International and Intercultural Education

Global Pop Culture Presentations: Understanding “NOW”

When we think of different cultures, the flashes in our minds are of the history of the country, for example, the Farah's reign of Egypt, or of the touristic sites like the Taj Mahal, or the old cinema images of Casablanca. We think BACK and do not think about what life is like in TODAY's society. Through the annual Cultural Dialogues presented by the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP) visiting international secondary teachers, we have the opportunity to explore and experience the cultures that permeate society today in their nine countries. These interactive experiences, not really presentations, are designed to compare and contrast, find similarity through globalizations influences. What are the LATEST TRENDS in art, music, fashion, cinema, dance, television, in language, in activities that everyday citizens experience in Africa, South Asia, South East Asia, and South America? Join El Habib, Marini, Vivian, Rose, Mohammad, Daniel, Alessandro, Regina, Diene, Abir, Khayrul, Raky, Eric, Dorlina, Remoun, and Prabha and celebrate global pop culture.

Tuesday, February 3rd
Morocco, Indonesia
& The Philippines

Wednesday, February 11th
Senegal & India

Thursday, February 19th
Egypt & Brazil

Wednesday, February 25th
Kenya & Bangladesh

All the events will take place in
Room 200, White Hall
12:00-1:00 P.M

Light Refreshments will be Served

mask painting

cultural Jeopardy

art

TV show



fashion

Indian Hip Hop



Popular culture (or pop culture)

is the entirety of ideas, perspectives, attitudes, memes, images, and other phenomena that are within the mainstream of a given **culture**.

What are current trends in China and Turkey? Let's learn from CIIE Graduate Assistants Ang Li and Ece Gogebakan. The conversation revolves around three main areas: Television shows, social media, and books/literature.

Ece: So Ang Li, today we will chat about popular culture. I know it is a broad subject but let's start with TV shows in China. What is trending? What is new?

Ang Li: Something that jumps into my mind is Talent Shows. China's most popular talent show has produced some interesting stars. For example: China's Got Talent; this show is a Chinese reality television series. It is a talent show that features all different kinds of performances of all ages. It is in series 5 now. How about Turkey? Do you have these types of TV talent shows and produced stars?

Ece: Yes. It is quite similar actually. We have an increasing number of talent shows. For example, there is a popular show which has the same format as "Voice." Moreover, we have several trending fashion shows based on styling clothing and accessories. How about social media's role in China? I feel as if it is becoming very prominent in Turkish culture.

Ang Li: Sina Weibo is a Chinese micro blogging (weibo) website. Also, to a hybrid of Twitter and Facebook, it is one of the most popular sites in China, Facebook and Twitter are blocked. No matter young and old, many Chinese have a Sina weibo account. How about the social media role in Turkey, do elderly people use it?

Ece: Without doubt, social media is a big part of the culture in Turkey. Especially while the Gezi protests were taking place during the summer of 2013, Facebook and Twitter served as the main communication tools among the protesters. Instagram is also becoming very popular right now as well. Even most TV shows, and organizations have their own accounts where they reach out to citizens. Also, the older generation has been using social media as a way to connect with others and browse news. Another platform which has a growing number of Turkish members is LinkedIn. Since it is a business-oriented website, a lot of younger generation people seek jobs through LinkedIn. I personally use all these mentioned social media platforms. How about literature and books? What are the trending books in China right now?

Ang Li: Well, that is a hard question. I think everyone has their own preferences. I haven't read a book written in Chinese for more than two years since I am studying in the US. I have little knowledge about this. How about it in Turkey?

Ece: I totally understand. It is difficult to keep up with your own culture while you live in another country. There are several websites I check to learn about literature and movies. For example, Hunger Games Series had great success in Turkey. In terms of books, several classic books are trending in Turkey right now...Such as The Little Prince. It is my personal favorite as well!

Ang Li: That's cool! I cannot wait to see the ILEP scholars' cultural dialogues and learn more about the pop culture in their countries.