

# CV. ABDI DEEQ



**Born:** 1999, Somalia

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**Phone:**0090 537 693 74 96

**Languages:** English (fluent), Turkish (fluent), Arabic (fluent), Farsi (good), Somali (Native)

**Computer Skills:** Final Cut Pro X, Photoshop, Illustrator, Microsoft Office tools (word, excel, ppt)

**Hobbies:** Traveling, Running, Soccer, Swimming, Athletic Jumping, Coffee tasting, watching documentary films and learning new languages.

**Web Site :** [www.abdiddeeq.com](http://www.abdiddeeq.com)

## EDUCATION

- 2017-2021 *BA on photography and video*, Faculty of Communication with Assistantship at the Sociology department, **Bahcesehir University** (Turkey, Istanbul)
- 2016-2017 English Preparation year, **Bahcesehir University** (Turkey, Istanbul)
- 2012-2016 *High School diploma* from Foreign Language department  
**Ahmet Sani Gezici Mesleki ve Teknik Anadolu lisesi** (Turkey, Istanbul)

## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

- **50% fee waiver student scholarship** at Bahcesehir University (4000 USD per year)
- **Research Assistant Grant from Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF)** funded research project from the Social Anthropology Institute University of Bern and PH Bern. 1500 CHF for transcriptions and monthly stipends of 500 CHF for translation work for 4 months. In total:3500 CHF (2015/2017).
- **Monthly stipends from UNHCR**, during state protection for asylum seeking youth residing at COGEM (Cocuk ve Genclik Destek Merkezi) in Yeldegirmeni, Kadikoy/ Turkey.

## RESEARCH & MEDIA EXPERIENCE

**2015-2018 Research Assistant at TRANSEDUSCAPES Research project** <https://www.transeduscapes.com>

- Funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), the research project is led by Prof.Dr. Sabine Strasser at the Social Anthropology Institute, University of Bern and Prof. Dr. Kathrin Oester at PH Bern.
- I have worked as a research assistant in Turkey. I have assisted the PhD student Eda Elif Tibet in conducting and translating for the radio show workshops taking place at COGEM ,where I reside along with the asylum seeking youth coming from Somalia, DRC, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Iran and Afghanistan. We collected in depth life stories, discussed and accumulated knowledge regarding the issues on border crossings, migration, violence, displacement, resilience, freedom, media, survival strategies, agency, learning, educational pathways, policies, trauma, loss, family backgrounds.
- I have transcribed life stories from Arabic to Turkish and from Turkish to English.
- I led the photography workshops with the refugee youth staying in the shelter and created my own self ethnographic photography portfolio that can be viewed on my personal web page: [www.abdiddeeq.com](http://www.abdiddeeq.com) .
- I then worked on analysing the radio and eliciting the photographs together with the PhD student and Co-authored a research paper *In éditorial de la revue Jeunes et Mineurs en Mobilité (forthcoming) France.*

**2017 Photography Workshop with Syrian children at ZEYTINBURNU Municipality**

- I have conducted a two days' workshop with Syrian children on migration and the environment.
- Our work and results have been published and exhibited by the Municipality.

**2016-Present Videographer and Photographer at KARMA Motion, Independent Documentary film label**  
[www.karmamotion.com](http://www.karmamotion.com)

- I have conducted and leaded photography and workshops with refugee children
- I have assisted as the second camera person and sound assistant at the award wining documentary film Ballad for Syria [www.balladforsyria.com](http://www.balladforsyria.com)

**2012-2018 Volunteer Translator for UNHCR & COGEM**

- I have assisted the social workers and the UNHCR staff members visiting us regularly within the shelter COGEM: Cocuk ve Genclik destek merkezi, as a child translator from 2012 till 2018.
- Translated important documents for Afghans and Syrians.
- Assisted the asylum seeking children in writing life stories for the UNHCR interviews.
- I helped new coming minors resettling in Istanbul and helped and accompanied them when they needed to go to the hospital.
- Transferred knowledge on their rights and opportunities in reaching out for social support and healthcare services.

**PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECTS & EXHIBITION**

**ERASE & REWIND | SIL BASTAN | DE NOVO** First Personal exhibition at TAK Yeldegirmeni, funded by the Kadikoy Municipality. <http://takortak.org/etkinlik/kadikoy/sil-bastan-erase-rewind-de-novo/>

Every year, Children of the world are running away from their war torn countries to seek for better lives for themselves and their families. Throughout these journeys they cross many borders and they have to go through different legal frameworks and agreements of different nations where they are forced to start life from afresh. Many of them are not able to get their previous transcripts and diplomas accepted, as a results they cannot continue studying. They have to work under precarious, unsafe and exploitative conditions, they are trying to hold on to life. This situation leads them to continue their journeys into Europe where they hope to find better conditions. All have many talents, hopes and dreams. Despite all odds and constraints, refugees provide great assets in sports, arts and music to their hosting societies. Just like Maisa Alhafez whom migrated to Istanbul from Syria and Abdi Deeq whom escaped from Somalia. "Erase and Rewind" photography exhibition and film screening, is about the stories of those who had to leave all the beloved behind, whom has lost everything and had to rewind their lives by starting from scratch, of those whom continue to resist and never give up.

*Media coverage on the exhibition:*

- **Yeni Safak | Somali Photographer Highlights refugee plight in Erase & Rewind Exhibition**  
<http://www.yenisafak.com/en/life/somali-photographer-highlights-refugee-plight-in-erase-rewind-exhibition-2797453>
- **Evrensel | Young Refugee Abdi Deeq opened a photography exhibition**  
<https://www.evrensel.net/haber/336659/somalili-genc-multeci-abdi-deeq-fotograf-sergisi-acti>
- **Hurriyet | A Refugee from Somalia, Abdi Deeq opened a photography exhibition**  
<http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/kendisi-de-multeci-olan-somalili-abdi-deeq-foto-40630930>
- **Sozcu | The young Somali Deeq asks "where are my roots?"**  
<http://www.sozcu.com.tr/hayatim/kultur-sanat-haberleri/somalili-genc-deeqin-koklerim-nerede-cigligi/>
- **Gazete Kadikoy | The Black Continent's earnest child Abdi Deeq**  
[http://www.gazetekadikoy.com.tr/images/dosyalarim/910\\_sayipdf\\_bc446.pdf](http://www.gazetekadikoy.com.tr/images/dosyalarim/910_sayipdf_bc446.pdf)
- **Milliyet | A migrant 's story, erase and rewind**  
<http://www.milliyet.com.tr/bir-gocmenin-sil-bastan-hik-yesi-istanbul-yerelhaber-2377003/>
- **Es Haber | The life story of a Somali child**  
<http://www.eshaber.tv/gundem-haberleri/somalili-cocugun-hayat-hikayesi-6854.html>

**WAR-DROBE** <https://www.abdideeq.com> (work on progress)

A wardrobe is a standing closet used for storing clothes and it has been used as a luxury possession that could only be attained by the powerful nobles of palaces and castles. It's major function was to keep the king's robe and then to preserve precious items like gold. The name of wardrobe was then given to a room in which the wall space was filled with closets and lockers. The modern wardrobe differs in one respect from the historical one for its triple partitioning: there are two linear compartments on either side with shelves as well as a middle space made up for

hanging pegs and drawers. For me and my friends, we also keep our most precious things in our wardrobes and store them carefully. Batteries for our phones, important documents stereotyped behind the drawers, underwear that should not be stolen, money hidden carefully within those underwear, class books, homework notes, dictionaries, coffee for late night studies, hygiene items for self care, a tekvando robe, a broken guitar, good soccer shoes and the photographs of the very new friends made in the shelter. Never the less, these are the fundamentals being kept along with a few more personal items that one managed to rescue from the many wars being witnessed outside and inside.

## VIDEOGRAPHY

### **WORK OUT** (2018, Director & Narrator, Cinematographer )

A young underage Afghan migrant flees into Turkey not knowing where to go or what to do next. While preparing for his next journey into Europe, he picks up on kick boxing and starts working out each and every day. He finds refuge at the sports room on the roof top where he currently resides, at the shelter of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in Istanbul. He practices hard and soft kicks, as into prepare for the next hurdle and struggle awaiting for him. <https://vimeo.com/267122205>

### **A Borderless World** (2017, Director & Narrator, Camera, 7 mins)

This short ethno-fiction film opens a glimpse into the journey taken by the unaccompanied asylum seeking youth in Turkey. The film provides a coincidental and visual composition of the city while two friends meet in Istanbul, planning for their migration into Europe. **Film:** <https://vimeo.com/188056470>

## PUBLICATIONS

### ***Academic Journal:***

Tibet, Eda Elif & Deeq, Abdi (2018) De Novo: Photography as a way of finding place in the world, presenting Abdi Deeq's Art Work. *Revue Jeunes et Mineurs en Mobilité Journal* (With co-author Abdi Deeq, in French and English, on press).

### ***Photography Book:***

Deeq, Abdi (2018) Erase& Rewind Photography Book (publisher to be announced).

### ***Other Publications:***

'Displaced in Media: Advocacy Publication. Case study from Turkey on the good practices of participatory filmmaking with unaccompanied asylum seeking youth' (Book edited by European Culture Foundation funded and published by Erasmus + Project).

'From Mogadishu to Istanbul: An auto-ethnography on childhood, migration and education. Blog article at Youth Circulations'. <http://www.youthcirculations.com/blog/2017/7/10/from-mogadishu-to-istanbul-caadils-auto-ethnography-on-childhood-migration-and-education>

## CONFERENCES & EVENTS & TALKS:

*Erase & Rewind Photography Work and A Borderless World 7 min , Work Out. short films being screened, shared and exhibited at Universities and Conferences:*

- **24 November 2018 (Switzerland):** Swiss Anthropological Association (SEG-SSE- SAA Annual meeting) Panel 4b: *Unlearning Anthropology, Through the Co-creation of transformative knowledge*, Eda Elif Tibet Presenting the co authored paper with Abdi Deeq; *Learning to be Freed: Deep Encounters with the Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers in Turkey.*
- **23 November 2018 (Turkey):** Türkiye'de Sığınmacı gençler: Hukusal ve Egitimsel Perspektifler panelinde konuşmacı. Speaker at the asylum seeking youth in Turkey: Legal and Educational Perspectives Panel. Istanbul Bilgi University. In collaboration with Swiss Confederation and EU Erasmus + Program.
- **6 November 2018 (Switzerland):** Online Speaker at Geneva Peace Week 2018: 'Building Peace in a Turbulent World. Presenting on ReSTORYing Peace project as part of the enacting global transformation

initiative, University of Oxford, with Dr. Rama Mani and exhibiting *Erase & Rewind photography project* at the UN library, United Nations, Palais des Nations 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

- **4 November 2018 (France):** Talking at the launching of the *Displaced in Media: Advocacy Publication* in a meeting with the policy makers in France. Coordinated by European Culture Foundation, funded by Erasmus + Project, hosted by *Les Tets De le`Art* , September in Marsailles. Presenting the Case study from Turkey as a good practice of collaborative and participatory media making and research with the unaccompanied asylum seeking youth.
- **18<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 (Turkey):** Presenting a paper at Kadir Has University in collaboration with the UN and University of Coventry on *Youthful Research and Displacement: Refugee Youth's Access and Rights to Well-being, Socio Economic Welfare and Education*.
- **14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 (UK):** Short films screened as part of good practices of participatory filmmaking with the asylum seeking youth at the British Film Institute (BFI) in London during the *Displaced in Media* event, Funded by European Culture Foundation.
- **12<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 (UK):** Erase & Rewind exhibition at the *enacting global transformation across cultures, Building peace through collaborative methodologies and stories*, conference at the Center for International Studies, University of Oxford, UK.
- **20<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 (Turkey)** Presentation and talk on unaccompanied minor asylum seekers and sharing of own life story at Swiss Embassy and Multeci Haklari Dernegi (Refugee Rights NGO) in Ankara.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2018 (Greece):** Virtual Exhibition and screening at Urban Struggles in the Mediterranean Cities: The right to the city and the common space Unconference, at the School of Architecture in the National University of Athens.
- **22 Feb 2018 (Switzerland):** Photographs and films presented by Eda Elif Tibet at, Bringing empathy to academic research: Participatory filmmaking and transformation. The Graduate Institute of Geneva, at Maisaon de la Paix, Geneva, Switzerland.
- **11-12 December 2017 (UK);** CONSTRUCTING VIABLE FUTURES: Unaccompanied Migrant Young People Transitioning to 'Adulthood' at St Anthony's College, University of Oxford.
- **3-5 March 2017 (USA):** Childhoods in Motion: Children, Youth, Migration, and Education Conference. AAA Anthropology of Children and Youth Interest Group Council on Anthropology and Education, University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA)- Centre for the Study of International Migration.
- **17 July 2016 (Turkey):** People's Movements: Violence and Solidarity in the South-eastern Peripheries of Europe: An Encounter in Istanbul, at the Bosphorus University, "Media Making and Research with Refugee Adolescents".
- **31 May 2016 (Germany):** Photography showcased at Lecture series on Educational Injustice, Kassel University Germany.
- **23 April 2016 (Turkey):** No Limits Conference – Mexico-Munich-Istanbul by Goethe Institute Istanbul at Salt Galata, "Arts and Documentary Filmmaking with Refugees".
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## REFERENCES

**Prof.Dr. Kathrin Oester** (PH Bern) E-mail: [kathrin.oester@phbern.ch](mailto:kathrin.oester@phbern.ch) Web : <https://www.phbern.ch/kathrin.oester>  
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