



## A Quantitative Approach to Variables Affecting Production of Short Films in Turkey

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### Abstract

This study aims to explore the influence of various variables affecting the production of migration themed short films in Turkey. We proceeded to our analysis using descriptive statistics to describe the main futures of the sample data quantitatively. Due to non-uniformity of the data available, we were unable to use inductive statistics. Our basic sample statistical results indicated that short film producers preferred to produce short films on domestic migration theme rather than international. Gender and university seemed on surface as significant determinants to the production of migration themed short films in Turkey. We also looked at the demographic variables to provide more insights into our quantitative approach.

Key Words: Immigration, Short Film, Diversity

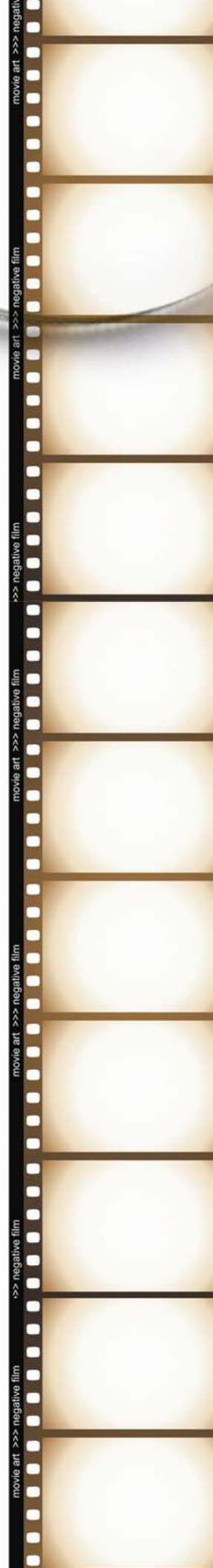


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## 1. Introduction

In Turkey, between years 2009 and 2010 alone, 1727 short films of which 433 were documentary, 89 animation, 79 experimental and 1126 fiction which participated in short film festivals or competitions around the country<sup>1</sup>. (Çölaşan, 2011) The only possible way to collect concrete data on short films made in Turkey was to follow shortfilm websites, shortfilm festival websites, publications and associations. Unfortunately, there was no concrete or complete continues data available on short films made in Turkey due to following reasons; lack of enough information on the festival websites, irregular disclosure of the short films participating or winning in festivals, and regularity of false information about entries. (Çölaşan, 2011) We were bound by above mentioned limitation in our efforts to collect and analyse our sample data<sup>2</sup>.

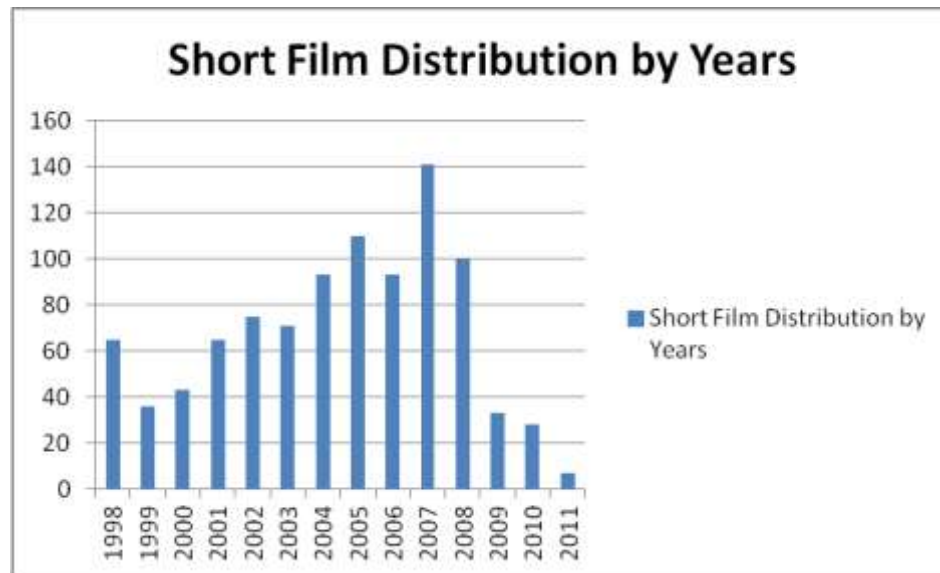


Figure 1: Short Films Sorted Year (Source: <http://www.kisafilm.com/liste.htm>)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kisafilm.com/liste.htm> (05.31.2011)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.kisafilm.com/liste.htm> (05.31.2011)

## 2. Background

The War Veterans' Association of Turkey was among the first PA to produce a series of short films before it ceased producing films in 1921. (Yaren, 2007) PA's are crucial in the organisation and formation of the film industry in general, these boards, foundations and societies working within the framework of the cinema industry are: (SESAM) Union of Professional Owners of Cinema Works; (SED) Cinema Workers' Association; (TÜRKSAK) Turkish Cinema and Audiovisual Cultural Foundation; (FİLM-YÖN) Film Directors' Association; (SODER) Cinema Actors' Association; (SİYAD) Cinema Writers' Association; and ÇASOD Modern Actors and Actresses Association. In 1990 With the participation of 203 experts from the cinema, press, universities and business circles, the Turkish Cinema and Audiovisual Culture Foundation was established.

### 2.1. Literature

Literature on immigration themed short films are: (Shohat, 1994; Göktürk, 1999; Bergfelder, 2005; Naficy, 2001; Yaren, 2007) Immigration short film focuse are: discrimination (Fratricide–Brudermord, 2005); racism (La Haine, 1995; Beautiful People, 1999), isolation (Palermo oder Wolfsburg, 1980; Zwischen den Sternen, 2002), gender (Smith, 2010), conflict of cultures and generations (L'honneur de ma famille/Ailemin Namusu, 1997; Le Grand Voyage, 2004); integration problem (Zozo, 2005), identity (Hamlet Kardesler, 1996); society pressure (Bend It Like Beckham, 2002), females (Sirin'in Dügünü, 1976; 40 m<sup>2</sup> Germany, 1986; Yasemin, 1988); unemployment and poverty (Kanak Attack, 2000). (Yaren, 2007)

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1. Sample

Our purpose is to identify a concise list of variables representative of immigration themed short film production in Turkey. We used SPSS statistic data analysis program. Our analyses included descriptive statistics. We hope to gain an initial understanding of the relationship between the variables influencing the production of immigration themed short films in Turkey.

	ProductionYear	Date of Birth	Time	Gender	University	Faculty	Theme
n	Valid	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Missing	8	8	8	8	8	8

We eliminated n:50 out of N:960 of which were all short film selections between 1990-2011.<sup>3</sup> We tried to complete for the missing information of our selected sample data (according to our selected theme “immigration”) to complete and get more accurate picture from our quantitative approach to better understanding variables influencing migration themed short film production in Turkey.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1990-1995	1	1,7	2,0	2,0
	1996-1999	2	3,4	4,0	6,0
	2000-2005	23	39,7	46,0	52,0
	2006-2010	23	39,7	46,0	98,0
	2011-	1	1,7	2,0	100,0
	Total	50	86,2	100,0	
Missing	System	8	13,8		
Total		58	100,0		

### 3.2. Instruments

The data collected from the main pool of 960 short films produced between years 1997 and 2011 was analysed using descriptive statistic method. We could only find by immigration themed around n:50 selections among the the pool of N:960 short films.<sup>4</sup> We took immigration theme in two segments domestic and international. We approached each with crosstabulation of variables influencing theme selection.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	International	10	17,2	20,0	20,0
	Domestic	40	69,0	80,0	100,0
	Total	50	86,2	100,0	
Missing	System	8	13,8		
Total		58	100,0		

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.kisafilm.com/liste.htm> (05.31.2011)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.kisafilm.com/liste.htm> (05.31.2011)

In our descriptive cross-analysis among the two segments of migration themed short films produced between years 1998-2011, in our sample selection of n:50, domestic migration clearly attracted more attention from short film producers in Turkey. Our univariate analysis, involving the examination across cases of one variable at a time, helped us understand the characteristics of each the variables in our study. Our approach is clearly distinguished from inferential statistics which requires more concrete data in which our case not available.

#### 4. Analysis and Results

Demographic data were also summarized to provide insights into the nature of the short film producers. Our demographics included gender, age, educational attainment, and location. According to our analysis time of the short films on average (46,6%) were between 1-10 minutes and rarely 6% above 30 minutes. According to our overview of short film festival submission procedures in general, maximum 20-30 minutes seemed to be the ideal time period which is also consistent with our findings.

	Time	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	<1	3	5,2	6,0	6,0
	1-2	4	6,9	8,0	14,0
	3-4	15	25,9	30,0	44,0
	5-10	8	13,8	16,0	60,0
	10-20	4	6,9	8,0	68,0
	20-30	10	17,2	20,0	88,0
	31-40	2	3,4	4,0	92,0
	>41	4	6,9	8,0	100,0
	Total	50	86,2	100,0	
Missing	System	8	13,8		
Total		58	100,0		

For our sample group male short film makers seem more dominant in producing migration themed short films in Turkey. Gender imbalances also seem to be effective in short film theme selection and production process. A further study here seems relevant for the future of short films. Study released by the Geena Davis

Institute<sup>5</sup> on Gender in Media <sup>6</sup> (Smith, 2010) about the under-representation of women and girls in movies (including directors, writers, and producers ) which 70.8% were male and 29.2% were female. (Smith, 2010)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	,00	1	1,7	2,0
Male	31	53,4	62,0	64,0
Female	18	31,0	36,0	100,0
Total	50	86,2	100,0	
Missing System	8	13,8		
Total	58	100,0		

Short film makers who have a degree from universities outside Istanbul, Ankara with 22,4%, leading the group. It seems short film makers in rural areas are more interested rather than their big city counter parts.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Not Available (NA)	22	37,9	44,0	44,0
Ankara University	13	22,4	26,0	70,0
Marmara University	1	1,7	2,0	72,0
Istanbul University	3	5,2	6,0	78,0
Selçuk University	2	3,4	4,0	82,0
Anadolu University	1	1,7	2,0	84,0
Ege University	3	5,2	6,0	90,0
Çanakkale 18 Mart University	2	3,4	4,0	94,0
Sakarya University	1	1,7	2,0	96,0

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.thegeenadavisinstitute.org>

<sup>6</sup> Smith, Stacy, “Gender Oppression in Cinematic Content? A Look at Females On-Screen & Behind-the-Camera in Top-Grossing 2007 Films”, Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, University of Southern California, 2010.

	Boğaziçi University	1	1,7	2,0	98,0
	ODTÜ University	1	1,7	2,0	100,0
	Total	50	86,2	100,0	
Missing	System	8	13,8		
Total		58	100,0		

Short film makers are graduate of various faculties, Communication and Radio & TV making 32,7% of the sample, from a dozen different fields.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not Available (NA)	15	25,9	30,0	30,0
	Communication	13	22,4	26,0	56,0
	Literature	1	1,7	2,0	58,0
	Fine Arts	3	5,2	6,0	64,0
	Master	1	1,7	2,0	66,0
	History	2	3,4	4,0	70,0
	Architecture	1	1,7	2,0	72,0
	Management	1	1,7	2,0	78,0
	Sociology	3	5,2	6,0	80,0
	Vocational	1	1,7	2,0	82,0
	International	1	1,7	2,0	84,0
	Relations				
	Economics	1	1,7	2,0	86,0
	Geology	1	1,7	2,0	88,0
	Radio and TV	6	10,3	12,0	100,0
	Total	50	86,2	100,0	
Missing	System	8	13,8		
Total		58	100,0		

## 4.2 Frequency Cross Analysis

In our case processing summary, time and choice of theme crosstabulation clearly shows the domestic migration related short films constitute 44% of the 1-10 minute time interval. For our sample in general the time rate was 46,6% for 1-10 minutes which makes our finding consistent. So that leaves only 25% of the domestic related migration short films with different time intervals from our sample pool.

	THEME		Total
	International	Domestic	
TIME 1	1	2	3
-2	0	4	4
3-4	3	12	15
5-10	2	6	8
10-20	1	3	4
20-30	2	8	10
31-40	0	2	2
>41	1	3	4
Total	10	40	50

The gender and choice of theme crosstabulation clearly shows the domestic migration related short films constitute 40% of the male short film makers 27% of the domestic migration theme short films. For our sample in general the gender rate was 53,5% against 31% in favor of the male directors making immigration related short films.

The university and choice of theme crosstabulation clearly shows the graduates of rural area universities (Ankara leading the way) held a strong grip on the making of domestic migration related short films. With the domestic and international migration of 4 to 1 which is consistent with our previous statistic findings from the sample data pool.

	THEME		Total
	International	Domestic	
UNIVERSITY Not Aavailable (NA)	4	18	22
Ankara University	3	10	13



	Marmara University	0	1	1
	Istanbul University	1	2	3
	Selçuk University	0	2	2
	Anadolu University	0	1	1
	Ege University	1	2	3
	Çanakkale 18 Mart University	1	1	2
	Sakarya University	0	1	1
	Boğaziçi University	0	1	1
	ODTÜ University	0	1	1
Total		10	40	50

The choice of study (faculty) and choice of theme crosstabulation clearly shows the graduates of communication (12), literature(11) and radio & tv(6) graduates in order held a strong grip on the making of domestic migration related short films. With the the domestic and international migration of 5 to 1 which is consistent with our previous statistic findings from the sample data pool. The choice of making international immigration themed short film once again were modest and insufficient for our sample group n.

		THEME		Total
		International	Domestic	
FACULTY	Not Available (NA)	3	12	15
	Communication	2	11	13
	Literature	1	0	1
	Fine Arts	1	2	2
	Master	1	0	1
	History	0	2	2
	Architecture	0	1	1
	Management	0	1	1
	Sociology	0	3	3
	Vocational	0	1	1

International Relations	1	0	1
Economics	0	1	1
Jeoloji Fakültesi	0	1	1
Radyo TV Fakültesi	1	5	6
			6
Total	10	40	50

The year of the making of the short film and choice of theme crosstabulation clearly shows the years between 2000-2005 (46%) and 2005-2010 (46%) with total of 92% of the short films between year 1990-2011. With the the domestic and international migration of 7 to 1 between years 2000-2005 and 3 to 1 between years 2005-2010 is also consistent with our previous statistic findings from the sample data pool.

		THEME		Total
		International	Domestic	
YEARS	1990-1995	0	1	1
	1996-1999	1	1	2
	2000-2005	3	20	23
	2006-2010	6	17	23
	2011-	0	1	1
Total		10	40	50

#### 4. Conclusion

This study explores quantitative approach towards variables influencing short film producers selection of immigration theme. Regarding the frequency distribution of the data, there is almost absolute dominance of domestic immigration as the choice of theme in migration related short films. When we consider the possible variable that might have influence over the choice of theme such as gender, year, time, university and faculty, we see that males are three times more likely to select immigration theme with time interval 1-10 minutes. He is most likely to be a graduate of a rural university with a degree from communications, literature or radio & tv. The peak period according to our sample was between 2000-2010 and not before. So we can assume that short film production

is gradually increasing and the selection of immigration theme is still in favor of domestic migration. The question than becomes how can we help to increase the production of immigration related short films in Turkey ? If we consider our statistical findings from our small sample group n., we certainly need more concrete data to be collected on short films made in Turkey and related PA's, associations and organizations need to be more active and collective.

Our research of the literature pointed us in the direction, where there was no ampirical or quantitative research on the topic of immigration in short films in Turkey. There is a clear lack of quantitative research on short films which this paper hopes to encourage others by generating facts through selected sample pool to provide useful data for further meaningful studies.

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