

Emeritus Prof. Dr Mehmet Özdoğan

Born İstanbul 1943; degrees in the University of İstanbul, Department of Prehistory, student of K.Bittel, R.J.Braidwood and H.Çambel. After completing his academic career in the University of İstanbul, he chaired the Department from 1999 to his retirement in 2010.

Main focus of interest is the emergence and expansion of early village farming economies, working both in the formation zone of Neolithic cultures as well as in its contact zone with Southeastern Europe. Since 1964 participated over 25 excavations and surface surveys all over Turkey, leading major expeditions from 1975 to present. Among his large-scale surface survey projects are the reservoir areas of the Karakaya and Atatürk Dams along the Euphrates, Eastern Thrace, Gallipoli peninsula and Southern Marmara Region. Çayönü and Mezraa Teleilat in Southeastern Turkey and at Yarımburgaz Cave, Töptepe, and Hoca Çeşme in Eastern Thrace are some of the most important excavations he has led. Currently, directing Aşağı Pınar, a Neolithic site, and Kanlıgeçit an Anatolian Bronze Age colony in Eastern Thrace.

Geoarchaeology, history of archaeology and management of cultural heritage are among his other fields of interest. Concerned with site management, steering the foundation of open-air site museums, initiated and presided over the Cultural Heritage Project off the Turkish Academy of Sciences until 2013. Currently leading open-air site museum and heritage management projects in Eastern Thrace.

He has been elected as the member of numerous academic institutions including the National Academy of Sciences- NAS- and Academia Europea; he has received numerous awards including Turkish Academy of Sciences (2001), Vehbi koç Foundation (2008), the “Cavaliere” medal of Italy and Chamber of Architects 2020 award.. He has been the organizer of numerous international meetings, including the 20th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists EAA- in 2014 with over 2500 participants. He has published 23 books and 335 academic papers on archaeology and heritage.