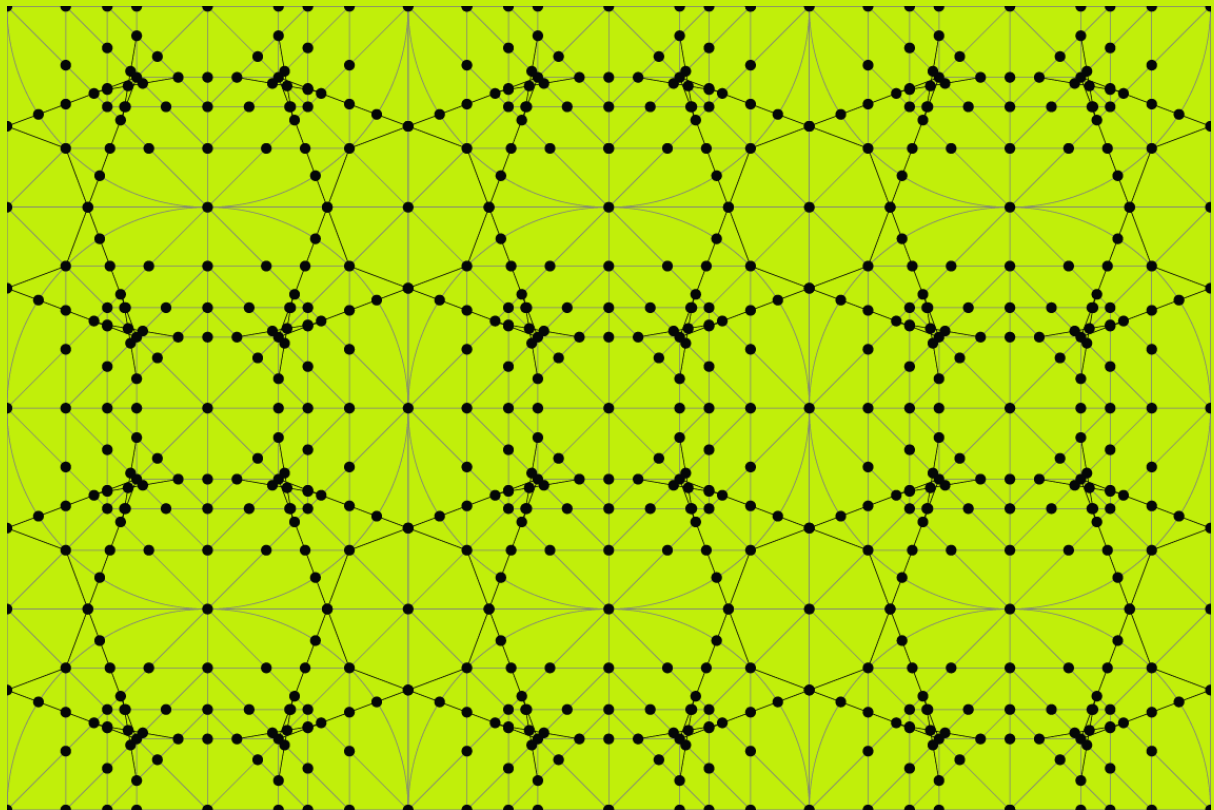


Workshop

Designing and Conducting Interdisciplinary Research



From Akgün, B. (2016). Seeing and Learning from Familiar Shapes of a Seljuk Pattern (M.Sc. thesis).

Format: In person, Heidelberg

Date: Wednesday, 6 May 2026

Duration: One day

Participants: Maximum 12

This workshop is an interactive, one-day exploration of interdisciplinary research as both a theoretical concept and a research practice. It will be held in person in Heidelberg and is designed particularly for researchers who identify their work as interdisciplinary or who are navigating research across disciplinary boundaries. The workshop brings together conceptual reflections, methodological questions, and the institutional and professional dynamics of conducting interdisciplinary work in academia today.

What is Interdisciplinary Research? The workshop will begin with a short conceptual introduction to interdisciplinary research as it has been defined and debated in scholarly literature, historically and today.

How is Interdisciplinary Research Designed? The second part turns to questions of design, examining key theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches developed for conducting interdisciplinary research. Particular attention will be given to how interdisciplinary methodology has been defined in theory and to the ways in which interdisciplinary research design differs from mono-disciplinary approaches.

How is Interdisciplinary Research Practiced? The workshop then turns to the practical dimension, examining how interdisciplinary research is conducted in research contexts through collaboration, the integration of methods, and the negotiation of disciplinary epistemologies and terminologies. While methodological frameworks may be articulated in theory, their implementation in practice requires deliberate design, reflexivity, and ongoing coordination across disciplinary boundaries.

How Is Interdisciplinary Research Institutionalized? While universities and research institutions increasingly encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, the practical implementation of such work often unfolds within traditionally structured faculties, departments, and evaluation systems. This part of the workshop examines the institutional tools, training formats, and infrastructures developed to support interdisciplinary research, as well as the ways interdisciplinary projects operate within established academic bureaucracies.

What Career Paths and Research Trajectories Exist for Interdisciplinary Scholars? It also addresses the structural tensions that emerge from the strong institutional promotion of interdisciplinarity alongside academic career paths that are frequently perceived as uncertain or limited for interdisciplinary scholars. The workshop will also open a space to reflect on the professional futures of interdisciplinary researchers, considering how interdisciplinary profiles are positioned within existing academic structures and what alternative research trajectories may be available within and beyond the university.

The workshop is designed as a highly interactive format combining short conceptual inputs with collective reflection and participant exchange. Each thematic section will be accompanied by guided discussion and practical exercises connecting the conceptual and methodological questions of interdisciplinarity to participants' own research projects.

The workshop aims to foster a reflective and intellectually open environment in which participants deepen their understanding of interdisciplinary research, critically engage with their own practices, and exchange experiences and strategies. Rather than offering a prescriptive model, it encourages collaborative reflection on how interdisciplinary research can be meaningfully designed and sustained within and beyond academia.

Please send your application to bahar.akgun@uni-heidelberg.de by 13 April 2026. Applications should include a short paragraph (150–200 words) describing your research and its relationship to interdisciplinary inquiry, along with your institutional affiliation and current stage of research.

About the Workshop Leader

Bahar Akgün is a multidisciplinary researcher and designer. Trained in architecture, civil engineering, and design computing, she is completing a PhD in Islamic Studies at Heidelberg University as a member of the Heidelberg Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HGGS). Her dissertation, *The Garih Mode in Context, in Experience, and in Practice: Toward a Cognitive Ecology of Islamic Ornament in Contemporary Architectural Design*,

develops a methodological framework for examining *giri* ornament through its historical foundations, visual experience, and implications for contemporary architectural design.