I have told you my story, described my life with utmost sincerity, even I cannot know how much I have understood it as a whole. We can leave that job to future scholars, and the articles they will write for Innocence, the museum magazine. Let them be the ones to establish the structural relations between Füsun’s barrettes and brushes and the deceased canary Lemon. p. 525 Museum of Innocence.

The Museum of Innocence opened in 2012, and was founded by the author Orhan Pamuk. It has since it opened become one of the noted museums in Europe. It was awarded the European Museum of the Year price in 2014, Europe’s most prestigious museum award. The museum was developed in tandem with the novel Museum of Innocence, published in 2008. The novel tells the love story between Kemal and Füsun, and it takes place in Istanbul between the 1970s until the 2000, with a particular focus on the period 1975-1984. The fictional and the authentic are intimately intertwined in the now existing museum. It is a museum over a fictive love story, but one could also say that it is a museum over the recent past of Istanbul. A number of visitors also use the novel and the museum as guides when exploring Istanbul.

The aim of the research project “The Museum of Innocence and the Construction of Memories” has been to study in what different ways both the museum and the novel help to construct memories in relation to Istanbul and its history, and in what ways the museum and the novel create a framework for the structuring of these different types of memories. The main focus in the project has been to study how visitors perceive and experience the Museum of Innocence.

Björn Magnusson Staaf earned an MA degree at the University of California Los Angeles (1986), and a Ph.D at the Lund University (1996). He has worked as an expert on research and development at the Swedish Heritage Board in Stockholm, and as Director of Urban Heritage in the city of Lund, and as Deputy Director at Kulturen – museum of cultural history for south Sweden. He is currently working as senior lecturer in museology, and associate professor in archaeology at Lund University. His main interests of research are related to philosophy of history, heritage studies and social archaeology. He has been a guest scholar at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul since 2016.