

ATA 59F
FISCAL SYSTEMS, SOCIAL WELFARE AND INEQUALITY IN
HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES
Fall 2021

Nadir Özbek

Wednesday 10:00-13:00

Office Hrs: Wednesday 14:00-16:00 and by appointment.

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Course Description: The seminar introduces students to issues ranging from capital accumulation, social justice, inequality, social welfare, income distribution, wealth and poverty, and taxation both in Ottoman and Turkish history and in contemporary world. We'll pay special attention to fiscal systems and taxation as an instrument of distribution. During the first part of the semester we are going to make common readings which will provide students with conceptual tools and help them formulate own research agendas and questions as to Ottoman/Turkish history and contemporary society. As part of course requirements students are expected to carry out one small research project and an in-class book report, both should be related to the general issues that we will be discussing throughout the first part of the semester. Research topics and books for report may be on historical issues, as well as on contemporary social problems.

Themes and Weekly Readings:

Week I: Introduction:

Week II: Property reconsidered: The Commons, Enclosures, and Resistance

Linebaugh, Peter. 2014. *Stop, Thief!: The Commons, Enclosures, and Resistance*. Oakland: Spectre.

Week III: Marx and Primitive Accumulation:

De Angelis, Massimo. 2001. "Marx and Primitive Accumulation: The Continuous Character of Capital's "Enclosures"." *The Commoner* 2.

Pradella, Lucia. 2014. *Globalization and the Critique of Political Economy: New Insights from Marx's Writings*. London: Routledge.

Week IV: New Debates on Primitive Accumulation:

Goncalves, Guilherme Leite, and Sergio Costa. 2020. "From Primitive Accumulation to Entangled Accumulation: Decentering Marxist Theory of Capitalist Expansion." *European Journal of Social Theory* 23 (2): 146-164.

Week V: Taxation and Primitive Accumulation:

Kimura, Motokazu. 1953. "Taxation and Capital Accumulation." *The Annals of the Hitotsubashi Academy* 4 (1): 15-39. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43751284>.

Week VI: Contemporary Inequalities and Redistribution

Piketty, Thomas. 2015. "Putting Distribution Back at the Center of Economics: Reflections on *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 29 (1): 67-88.

Piketty, Thomas. 2014. *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. Translated by Arthur Goldhammer. London: Harvard University Press.

Week VII: Taxonomy of Fiscal Systems and Taxation:

Peters, B.Guy. *The Politics of Taxation: A Comparative Perspective*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1991.

Week VIII: Global Debates about Taxation:

Nehring, Holger, and Florian Schui, eds. *Global Debates about Taxation*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Week IX: Formation of Modern Fiscal States:

Cardoso, Jose Luis, and Pedro Lains. *Paying for the Liberal State: The Rise of Public Finance in Nineteenth-Century Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Brownlee, W. Elliot. *Federal Taxation in America: A Short History*. Cambridge: Woodrow Wilson Center Press & Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Kotsonis, Yanni. 2014. *States of Obligation: Taxes and Citizenship in the Russian Empire and Early Soviet Republic*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Week X: Social Policy, Inequality and Contemporary Tax Reform:

Boylan, Delia M. "Taxation and Transition: The Politics of the 1990 Chilean Tax Reform." *Latin American Research Review* 31, no. 1 (1996): 7-31.

Gökşen, Fatoş, Gökhan Özertan, İsmail Sağlam, and Ünal Zenginobuz. 2008. Impact of the Tax System on Poverty and Social Exclusion: A Case Study on Turkey. *New Perspectives on Turkey* 38: 159-179.

Week XI: Economic Development, Inequality, and Distribution: Old and New Perspectives!

Boratav, Korkut, Çağlar Keyder, and Şevket Pamuk. *Kriz, Gelir Dağılımı ve Türkiye'nin Alternatif Sorunu*. İstanbul: Kaynak Yayınları, 1987.

Pamuk, Şevket. 2013. "Son İki Yüzyılda Türkiye'de Gelirin Bölüşümü." *ODTÜ Gelişme Dergisi* (40): 297-316.

Özmucur, Süleyman, and Şevket Pamuk. "Real Wages and Standards of Living in the Ottoman Empire, 1489-1914." *The Journal of Economic History* 62, no. 2 (2002): 293-320.

Week XII: Basic Income as a Social Democratic Agenda or New Technologies of Theft/Enclosure:

Buğra, Ayşe. 2007. "Poverty and Citizenship: An Overview of the Social-Policy Environment in Republican Turkey." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 39: 33-52.

Buğra, Ayşe, and Kaan Ağartan. 2007. *Reading Karl Polanyi for the 21st century*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Week XIII: The Problems of "Ottoman Economic Historiography"?

Kuran, Timur. "The Logic of Financial Westernization in the Middle East." *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization* 56, no. 4 (2005): 593-614.

Pamuk, Şevket, and Kıvanç Karaman. "Ottoman State Finances in Comparative Perspective."

Salzmann, Ariel. 1993. "An Ancient Regime Revisited: Privatization and Political Economy in the 18th Century Ottoman Empire." *Politics and Society* 21: 392-423.

Yaycıoğlu, Ali. 2019. "Perdenin Arkasındakiler: Osmanlı İmparatorluğunda Sarraflar ve Finans Ağları Üzerine bir Deneme." *Journal of Turkish Studies* 51.

Week XIV-XV: In-Class Presentations: