

1918

Calamity and Aspiration in the Ottoman Empire

Oct. - Dec. 2018 at 19:00h

Cezayir Toplantı Salonu



CEZAYİR Toplantı Salonu
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 ORIENT-INSTITUT
İSTANBUL



 ANADOLU KÜLTÜR

Fall 2018

Lecture Series of the Orient-Institut, Istanbul, Swedish Research Institute,
Istanbul in Cooperation with Anadolu Kültür and Evangelia Balta

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Calamity and Aspiration in the Ottoman Empire

Program:

10 October

The Ottoman Economy in 1918

Prof. Şevket Pamuk (Boğaziçi Üniversitesi)

24 October

Ottoman Cinema from 1917-1919

Prof. Serdar Öztürk (Gazi Üniversitesi, Ankara)

31 October

The Second Great War

Prof. Jay Winter (Yale University)

7 November

The Spanish Flu of 1918 and the Ottoman Empire

Prof. Önder Ergönül, MD, MPH. (Koç Üniversitesi)

28 November

*1918: The Concept of the “New Life” and “Emancipated”
Women in Turkey*

Prof. Zafer Toprak (Boğaziçi Üniversitesi / Koç Üniversitesi)

5 December

*Refugees and Mass Migration to Istanbul in the Wake
of World War I*

Prof. Kent Schull (Binghamton University, New York)

Venue: Big Hall in the Cezayır building - Galatasaray-Beyoğlu.

Time: 19:00h

6 October - 5 December 2018

The Ottoman Economy in 1918

by Şevket Pamuk



World War I had far reaching political, demographic and economic consequences for the Ottoman Empire. Most importantly, it led to the end of the empire and the establishment of a number of individual states. In addition to the losses suffered by the Muslim population, the dramatic decline in the Armenian and Greek populations had long term economic as well as political, social and cultural consequences. As World War I ended, the Ottoman Empire had an underdeveloped, mostly agricultural economy, weak industry which was mostly destroyed during the war and a

poor transportation network. Another important and enduring legacy of the War was the rise of economic nationalism and government interventionism. As the economies of the region turned inward and self-sufficiency and preparedness for a another war became basic priorities after 1929, experiences with interventionism accumulated during World War I began to shape the economic policies of the new states.



Şevket Pamuk is Professor of Economics and Economic History at Boğaziçi University. He is the author of many books and journal articles on Ottoman, Middle East and European economic history, including *A Monetary History of the Ottoman Empire* and most recently of *Uneven Centuries: Economic History of Turkey since 1820*. Pamuk was President of the European Historical Economics Society (2003-2005), President of the Asian Historical Economics Society (2012-2014), Editor of the *European Economic History Review* (2011-2014) and is a member of Academia Europea and the Science Academy, Istanbul.

Ottoman Cinema from 1917-1919

by Serdar Öztürk

October 24, 2018 19:00h • Cezayir Toplantı Salonu



One of the most distinctive features of the Ottoman Empire in the years between 1917 and 1919 is the

tendency to make both fictional movies and documentaries. There was a remarkable number of potential spectators in the capital city; consequently there was a significant rise in the number of Cinema Halls. The first local fictional films were met with great excitement and were advertised in newspapers and magazines. Reviews in the press in the years between 1917 and 1919 revealed a keen interest in the cinema and it drew huge audiences. The first screenings of local documentaries, dramas and comedies attracted both a general audience and intellectuals. The transformation of the cinema into a medium of



mass entertainment in Istanbul did not take place in the Republican period, but during the last years of the Ottoman Empire. Ottomans tried to build their own fictional world at a time when the Empire was collapsing. The lecture will delineate the details of this process, accompanied by the screenings of film examples from 1917-19.

Serdar Öztürk is Professor in the Department of Radio, Television and Cinema, Faculty of Communication, at Gazi University. He is the author of seven books concerning the cultural history of Turkey, as well as the history, sociology and philosophy of the cinema.

- Erken Cumhuriyet Döneminde Sinema-Seyir-Siyaset* (Elips kitap 2005) • *Cumhuriyet Türkiye'sinde Kahvehane ve İktidar 1930-1945* (Kırmızı yayınları 2006) • *Osmanlı'da İletişimin Diyalektiği* (Phoenix yayınları 2010) • *Türkiye'de İletişim Sosyolojisinin Kaynakları* (Siyasal kitabevi 2011) • *Mekan ve İktidar: Filmle İletişim Mekanlarının Alt politikası* (Phoenix yayınları 2012) • *Sinefilozofi Kurosawa'nın Düşler'inde Sinefilozofik Bir Yolculuk...* (Ankara: Heretik, 2016) • *Sinema Felsefesine Giriş* (Ankara: Ütopya, 2018)



The Second Great War

by Jay Winter



The history of the Great War falls into two

halves. The first, between August 1914 and March 1917, was dominated by failed offensives aiming at a breakthrough of the enemy's lines on both the Eastern and the Western fronts. It led only to stalemate and an unprecedented bloodbath. What I would like to call the "second Great War" started in early 1917, when the conflict turned into a revolutionary moment in Russia and when older fault lines in the societies of all other combatants emerged and deepened as a result of the hardships and injustices imbedded in the way the war was waged. Hunger led to demonstrations, strikes, and uprisings at home; the seemingly endless casualty lists and calls for further sacrifice led to grumbling, anger, and mutiny among soldiers and civilians throughout Europe, east and



west. With the Bolshevik takeover in November 1917, the Great War was transformed into a series of other conflicts which raged after the end of hostilities among belligerents of the First Great War in November 1918. Thus international war bled into civil war, counter-revolution, national wars, class war, brigandage, pogroms and ethnic cleansing legitimated in international law as "population exchange" in 1923. The Second Great War is the subject of this lecture, adding a new chronological, geographical, and analytical dimension to the history of the violent decade between 1914 and 1924.

Jay Winter is the Charles J. Stille Professor of History emeritus at Yale University and Honorary Professor at the Australian National University. He is the author of *Sites of Memory*, *Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History* (1995), *War beyond words: Languages of remembrance from the Great War to the present* (2017), and editor of *The Cambridge History of the First World War* (2014). He won an Emmy award as co-producer of 'The Great War and the shaping of the twentieth century' (BBC/PBS) in 1997, which was shown in 28 countries.

October 31, 2018 19:00h • Cezayir Toplantı Salonu

The Spanish Flu of 1918 and the Ottoman Empire

by Önder Ergönül



The influenza pandemic

1918-19 was one of the most dramatic outbreaks in history. This period marked the end of the Ottoman Empire and the start of the emancipation war. Mustafa Kemal caught the disease just before his departure from Istanbul to ignite the National Independence War in Samsun in 1919. The painter Fikret Mualla lost his mother to the Spanish flu when he was a teenager and he felt responsible for his mother contracting the disease because he caught it from school. In one of his poems, Nazım Hikmet described Spanish flu as one of the elements adding to the atmosphere in Istanbul in 1914-18, among numerous threats to the nation such as typhus, the railway car trade, mobilization for war, and the German

dominance in the country. The “Spanish disease” was first detected in Spain, then rapidly transmitted to France and then to Germany and caused the highest fatalities in Switzerland (Dr. Akil Muhtar, *Journal of the Medical School of Istanbul* no 7, 1918). The disease was first detected in July of 1918 in Istanbul. According to the records of the municipality of Istanbul, the number of deaths from influenza was 6,000 in 1918; however Dr. Hüsameddin Şerif estimated that more than 13,000 fatalities could be attributed to influenza in İstanbul in 1918. Balkan countries like Greece, Albania, and Bulgaria were all affected.



Önder Ergönül (MD, MPH) Professor of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology (ID&CM) at Koç University, School of Medicine. Research fellow in the Clinical Epidemiology division of the Infectious Diseases Department at the University of Utah, School of Medicine, USA (2000-2002). He is the co-editor of books on *Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever. A Global Perspective* (2007, Springer), *Emerging Infectious Diseases: Clinical Case Studies* (2014, Elsevier) which received the book of the year award from British Medical Association in 2015, and *Antimicrobial Stewardship* (2017, Elsevier, ESCMID/ESGAP). President of the Turkish Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (2013-2017). Member of the executive committee of ESCMID (European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases).

November 7, 2018 19:00h • Cezayir Toplantı Salonu

1918: The Concept of the “New Life” and “Emancipated” Women in Turkey

by Zafer Toprak



“New Life” as formulated by the Young Turks required radical changes in the cultural norms and social structures of Ottoman society during the Great War. Large numbers of women had been integrated into the social and economic life of the country. The poverty-stricken, isolated Ottoman women had no choice but to seek

employment to survive as their men, who had hitherto provided for the household, were called to arms. This led to the emancipation of women and the search to acquire a new identity. Gender issues became paramount as an era of trauma conquered the interregnum in 1918.

Professor Zafer Toprak graduated from Ankara University. He holds a master's degree from the University of London and doctorate degrees from Istanbul University and St. Olaf College [Minnesota]. His academic studies concentrated on 19th and 20th century Turkey. He published 25 books and about 300 articles in Turkish, English, French, German and Italian. Prof. Zafer Toprak started teaching at the University of London in 1972. He joined the Department of Humanities at Boğaziçi University in 1977 and taught at Minnesota and Paris Universities. He directed Atatürk Graduate Institute at Boğaziçi University for 20 years. He is the curator of the İş Bank Finance Museum and Asım Kocabıyık Borusan Museum as well as several expositions for Yapı Kredi Bank, Garanti Bank, İş Bank and Pera Museum. He is currently teaching at Koç University and Boğaziçi University. He is a member of the Academy of Science of Turkey.

November 28, 2018 19:00h • Cezayir Toplantı Salonu

Refugees and Mass Migration to Istanbul in the Wake of World War I

by Kent Schull



World War I and its aftermath caused nearly 5 million deaths in the Ottoman Empire. It also resulted in the forced displacement of millions more, many of whom made their way to Istanbul in search of safety and refuge. After the signing of Mudros Armistice in late October 1918, waves of forcibly displaced persons continued to flood the streets and neighborhoods of Istanbul fleeing conflict, economic ruin, persecution, atrocity, and starvation. They came from across the empire and region, including the Balkans, Russia, and Central Asia representing a heterogeneous mix of peoples in terms of ethnicity, religion,

socio-economic status, and nationality. This talk discusses the challenges and plight that refugees to Istanbul faced in the wake of the official end to WWI, particularly in terms of security, stability, and relief, as they attempted to adapt to a world “turned upside down.”



Kent Schull is Associate Professor of history at Binghamton University, SUNY. He received his doctorate from UCLA (2007) and is a twice Fulbright scholar to Turkey. His publications include *Prisons in the Late Ottoman Empire: Microcosms of Modernity* (EUP, 2014), two co-edited volumes: *Living in the Ottoman Realm: Sultans, Subjects, and Elites* (IUP, 2016) and *Law and Legitimacy in the Ottoman Empire & Republic of Turkey* (IUP, 2016), several articles, and book chapters. He is currently serving as the editor of the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* (JOTSA) and the book series editor for *Edinburgh Studies on the Ottoman Empire*.

December 5, 2018 19:00h • Cezayir Toplantı Salonu



1
 Pitkin Camp, Dec. 21, 1917.

Dear Mom

It'll just as tomorrow is your birthday I thought I would drop you a few lines and tell you how I am getting along. We are having some pretty cold weather over here now but it's turning warm again we had about two inches of snow about the first of the week and it is here yet but it is going fast to night and I am glad it is so damp over in the country that when it gets the least bit cold that a fellow nearly freezes. There was such a heavy fog this P.M. that it was nearly dark at three o'clock so we have having pretty long nights now. It is not light in the morning till about half past seven.

I have been pretty busy the last few weeks. I am taking a course in typing now and the morning the High Major told us there would



The year 1918 stands out as a year of dramatic change in Europe. The end of the First World War entirely redrew the map of its Eastern and Central parts and toppled its last autocratic monarchies; the final death toll and suffering of a war waged with the most modern means of technology and logistics left a generation traumatised and disillusioned; the Spanish flu pandemic added to the hunger and poverty brought about by a general breakdown in trade and infrastructure.

In the Ottoman Empire, however, the year marked just one stage in a long series of crises that commenced with the Young Turk revolution in 1908 and ended with the foundation of the republic in 1923. The Mudros armistice and subsequent allied occupation of Istanbul in the fall of 1918 changed the field of play, but did not so much alter as accelerate an already ongoing transformation.

Amidst both external and internal schemes, crises and interventions, the old capital at the Bosphorus found itself at a tipping point: politically, culturally and intellectually. It is the dynamic and uncertainty of the year 1918 in the Ottoman Empire that this series of six lectures is setting out to explore.

Academic Coordinators

Kristina Josephson Hesse, Director (Swedish Research Institute, Istanbul)

Richard Wittmann, Associate Director (Orient-Institut, Istanbul)

Evangelia Balta, Research Director (National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens)