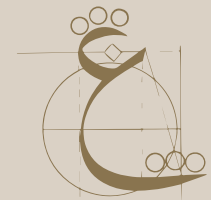
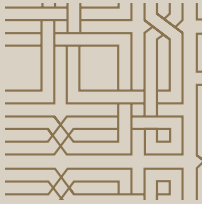




# kadim

SAYI / ISSUE 3 • NİSAN / APRIL 2022



*kadim*

*“Kadim oldur ki  
evvelin kimesne bilmeye”*

*Kadim* is that no one knows what came before.

# kadim



Osmanlı arařtırmalarına münhasır, altı ayda bir (Nisan ve Ekim) neşredilen, açık erişimli, çift kör hakem sistemli akademik dergi

*Double-blind peer-reviewed open-access academic journal published semiannually (April and October) in the fields of Ottoman Studies*

SAYI | ISSUE 3 • NİSAN | APRIL 2022

İMTİYAZ SAHİBİ | PROPRIETOR

Burhan ÇAĞLAR

SORUMLU YAZI İŞLERİ MÜDÜRÜ | MANAGING EDITOR

Ömer Faruk CAN

İRTİBAT | CONTACT

Kadim • Sakarya Üniversitesi

Esentepe Kampüsü, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, C Blok, Ofis: 113,  
Serdivan/Sakarya (Turkey) 54050

Telefon | Phone • 00 90 264 295 60 15

İnternet Adresi | Webpage • [dergipark.org.tr/kadim](http://dergipark.org.tr/kadim) • [kadim.sakarya.edu.tr](http://kadim.sakarya.edu.tr)

E-posta | E-mail • [kadim@sakarya.edu.tr](mailto:kadim@sakarya.edu.tr)

TASARIM | DESIGN Hasan Hüseyin CAN

BASKI | PRINTED BY

MetinCopyPlus • Artı Dijital & Baskı Merkezi

Türkocağı Cad. 3/A Cağaloğlu/Fatih/İstanbul

BASIM TARİHİ | PRINT DATE • NİSAN | APRIL 2022

ISSN 2757-9395 • E-ISSN 2757-9476

ÜCRETSİZ | FREE OF CHARGE

Kadim'deki makaleler, [Creative Commons Atınlı-Gayriticari 4.0 \(CC BY-NC\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) Uluslararası Lisansı ile lisanslanmıştır. Bilimsel arařtırmaları kamuya ücretsiz sunmanın bilginin küresel paylaşımını artıracacağı ilkesini benimseyen dergi, tüm içeriğine anında Libre açık erişim sağlamaktadır. Makalelerdeki fikir ve görüşlerin sorumluluğu sadece yazarlarına ait olup Kadim'in görüşlerini yansıtmazlar.

Articles in Kadim are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 \(CC BY-NC\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) International License. Kadim provides immediate Libre open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge. Authors are responsible for the content of contributions; thus, opinions expressed in the articles belong to them and do not reflect the opinions or views of Kadim.

“Kadim oldur ki  
evvelin kimesne bilmeye”

Dergi Park



EDİTÖR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Arif BİLGİN | Prof. Dr., Sakarya Üniversitesi

MİSAFİR EDİTÖR  
GUEST EDITOR

Fatih BOZKURT | Doç. Dr., Sakarya Üniversitesi

YAYIN KURULU  
EDITORIAL BOARD

Necmettin ALKAN | Prof. Dr., Sakarya Üniversitesi  
Fatih BOZKURT | Doç. Dr., Sakarya Üniversitesi  
Ömerül Faruk BÖLÜKBAŞI | Doç. Dr., Marmara Üniversitesi  
Kerim İlker BULUNUR | Doç. Dr., Sakarya Üniversitesi  
Büşra ÇAKMAKTAŞ | Dr. Öğr. Üyesi, Sakarya Üniversitesi  
M. Talha ÇİÇEK | Doç. Dr., İstanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi  
Filiz DIĞIROĞLU | Doç. Dr., Marmara Üniversitesi  
Miraç TOSUN | Dr. Öğr. Üyesi, Karadeniz Teknik Üniversitesi  
Kenan YILDIZ | Doç. Dr., İstanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi

YAZIM VE DİL EDİTÖRLERİ  
WRITING AND LANGUAGE  
EDITORS

Ömer Faruk CAN | Sakarya Üniversitesi  
Burhan ÇAĞLAR | Sakarya Üniversitesi  
Burak ÇİTİR | Sakarya Üniversitesi  
Mehmet KERİM | Sakarya Üniversitesi  
Bünyamin PUNAR | Sakarya Üniversitesi

TÜRKÇE DİL EDİTÖRÜ  
TURKISH LANGUAGE EDITOR

Sedat KOCABEY | Sakarya Üniversitesi  
Büşranur KOCAER | Sakarya Üniversitesi  
Muhammed Emir TULUM | Dr., İstanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi

İNGİLİZCE DİL EDİTÖRLERİ  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
EDITORS

Didar Ayşe AKBULUT | Marmara Üniversitesi  
İrem GÜNDÜZ-POLAT | Sakarya Üniversitesi  
Hâcer KILIÇASLAN | Sakarya Üniversitesi

MİZANPAJ EDİTÖRÜ  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Hasan Hüseyin CAN | İslâm Araştırmaları Merkezi (İSAM)

SOSYAL MEDYA EDİTÖRÜ  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Büşranur BEKMAN | Sakarya Üniversitesi

YAYIN SEKRETERİ  
SECRETARIAT

Yusuf İslam YILMAZ | Sivas Cumhuriyet Üniversitesi

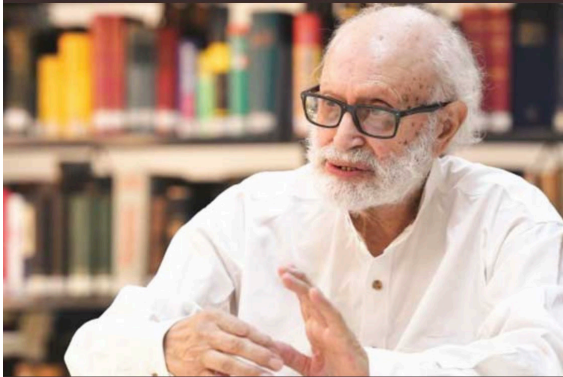
## A Life on the Path of Knowledge: *Rifa'at 'Ali Abou-El-Haj*

İLİM YOLUNDA BİR HAYAT:  
RIFA'AT 'ALI ABOU-EL-HAJ



ISA BLUMI\*

Rifa'at 'Ali Abou-El-Haj, a scholar of the Early Modern Ottoman Empire, passed away in Brooklyn, New York on March 14, 2022. Beloved husband to Barbara Abou-El-Haj (d. 2015), brother of Asia, Hidayet, Samira, and Amal; uncle to Thea Abou-El-Haj, Nadia Abou-El-Haj, and Tabatha Abou-El-Haj; mentor to many. He was 89.



Completing a Ph.D. in Princeton University's Departments of Oriental Studies and History in 1963, Dr. Abou-El-Haj represented a key member of a generation of scholars that included Peter Gran, Talal Asad, and Engin Akarlı who sought to challenge the largely Euro-American dominated academy and its study of the Middle East. While well-respected by his peers, Dr. Abou-El-Haj spent the

majority of his teaching career at California State University, Long Beach and thus unable to train graduate students. Beginning in 1964, for the next 31 years, Dr. Abou-El-Haj sought through his publications, including the books *The 1703 Rebellion and the Structure of Ottoman Politics* (Leiden: Brill, 1984; translated into Turkish in 2011) and *Formation of the Modern State: The Ottoman Empire, Sixteenth to Eighteenth Centuries* (Albany: SUNY University Press, 1991; translated into Turkish in 2018) to critically engage scholars working on the early modern Ottoman state and society. Consistently challenging the "teleological" and often Euro-centric approaches entrenched in the established universities training students in Ottoman history, Dr. Abou-El-Haj remained loyal to a scholarly ethos that combined



ATIF | CITATION

Blumi, Isa. "A Life on the Path of Knowledge: Rifa'at 'Ali Abou-El-Haj". *Kadim* 3 (April 2022), 267-268.  
[doi.org/10.54462/kadim.1096714](https://doi.org/10.54462/kadim.1096714)

\* Assoc. Prof., Stockholm University, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, isa.blumi@su.se, ORCID: [0000-0003-3591-741X](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3591-741X).

deep textual analysis with the integration of methods of research embraced in more critically engaged fields of studies. Often criticized for his challenges to the conventions of Ottoman scholarship at the time, as many sought to ignore his work, he has been notoriously referred to as both an “iconoclast” and “gadfly” by others in the field when engaged.

Perhaps as a result of his polemics, Dr. Abou-El-Haj’s significant works remained obscure to younger scholars until much later in his career. While able to occasionally supervise graduate students during the years he dedicated to teaching from within the California State system, it was only after receiving an invitation to return to Princeton as Ahmet Erteğün Visiting Professor (1996-1997) that his work gained new interest. By the time he joined his wife Barbara, a prominent Art Historian relocating to Binghamton University in 1997, his work became more an accepted part of the mainstream curriculum. Reflective of this growing appreciation of his work, under an initiative led by his colleague Peter Gran (Temple University), his out-of-print *Formation of the Modern State* (1991) would be republished in a second edition by Syracuse University Press in 2005. A further sign of appreciation took place in 2010 when colleagues Donald Quataert and Baki Tezcan (a former attendant to his 1996-1997 Princeton seminar) co-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Ottoman Studies* celebrating his lifetime work.

Perhaps the primary generative force behind this new interest in Dr. Abou-El-Haj’s work was the impact he had made on a new generation of Ottoman historians who attended his seminar on critically reading Ottoman sources at Princeton over the academic year 1996-1997. Able to teach advanced graduate courses upon settling in Binghamton, Dr. Abou-El-Haj became a mainstay for numerous Ph.D. and M.A. students passing through the Ottoman Studies program. During these years, Dr. Abou-El-Haj taught courses on Ottoman history, Comparative History, History from Below, The Formation of the Modern State, and a seminar in translation and interpretation of Arabic and Ottoman Turkish primary sources. By the time of his retirement in 2014, he had advised forty-four Ph.D. dissertations including 25 in History, 7 in Art History, 4 in Near Eastern Studies, and 4 in Sociology.

In many ways, Dr. Rifa’at Abou-El-Haj’s pioneering excavations of the early modern Ottoman Empire taught our current generation of Ottoman historians to think critically about their sources. Pushing us to put the authors of these sources into their varied socio-economic, and thus class, political, and ideological contexts, upset the teleological assumptions Ottoman historians carried about the empire in early works. As such, by pushing young historians to think beyond the predictability of an institutional “decline” long assumed of the Ottoman Empire in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Rifa’at Abou-El-Haj leaves behind an enduring legacy. For this former interlocutor and student, muse, and source of debate, his passing is a source of reflection as much as sadness. May he rest in peace.