






Obituary Prof. Dr. Ferhat Özçep

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Prof. Dr. Ferhat ÖZÇEP

(1968-2023)

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Prof. Dr. Ferhat Özçep, a distinguished Turkish Geophysical Engineer and an enthusiast of the history of science. His demise occurred in İstanbul on February 9, 2023, at 55.

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Prof. Dr. Ferhat Özçep commenced his academic journey by attaining a B.Sc. in Geophysical Engineering from Istanbul University in 1991 and an Associate's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology (AEET) from Hacettepe University in 1992. He received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Geophysical Engineering from Istanbul University in 1994 and 1999, respectively. His doctoral thesis was titled "Palaeomagnetism Traces of Neogene Volcanism along the Anatolite Belt and its Contribution to the tectonic evolution of the Region". Between 1992 and 2004, he was a research assistant in the Department of Geophysical Engineering at Istanbul University. His professional engagements extended beyond academia as a Member of the Executive Committee of "The Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects" between 2006 and 2008. He served as a Member of the History of Geophysics Committee, American Geophysical Union from July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2004. He was an esteemed member of the American Geophysical Union, European Geosciences Union, Deutsche Geophysikalische Gesellschaft (German Geophysical Society), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), Chamber of Geophysical Engineers of Turkey, Earthquake Engineering Association of Turkey, Environmental and Woodlands Protection Society of Turkey, and Turkish Society for History of Science.

Throughout his career, Prof. Dr. Ferhat ÖZÇEP has been a Visiting Scholar in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge during the term of 2015, a Visiting Scholar in the Department of History of Science at Harvard University in 2016 and 2017 with short periods (June to October). While at Harvard, Özçep conducted research on the "Investigation on Geophysical Ideas and Measurements in Ottoman Geography in Transition from Pre-Modern (Islamic) to Modern (Western) Periods". He was named Vice Chair and Chair of the Department of Geophysical Engineering at the University of Istanbul in 2017 and 2021, respectively.

Ferhat Özçep was highly interested in the history of magnetism and the earth sciences from the Ottoman to the modern era. His geophysical research was primarily focused on Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics. He frequently published papers, books, and book chapters on these topics (list given at the end of the article). He was also a prominent figure in the History of Science Department at the İstanbul University, Faculty of Letters. He consistently engaged with the department during fall semesters annually between 2014 and 2023, giving a lecture called History of Earth. Prof. Özçep's passionate approach to teaching the philosophy of the understanding of the earth from antiquity to recent times has been appreciated by his colleagues and his students.

He was a very passionate archivist and an addict of the Istanbul bibliopole. He shared his book findings occasionally on his social media accounts. Recognizing the immense value of

his extensive collection, he generously donated his many books to the Koç University Library before Istanbul University was divided into Istanbul University and Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa. His room, surrounded by dozens of books spanning disciplines from science to history, from art to philosophy, served as a library not only for Geophysical Engineering students but also for students from other university departments.

Besides, he also held a fascination for compasses. His collection included around 700 compasses collected from all over the world.

He was a pioneer geophysicist, dedicating his efforts to investigating the history of geophysics in the Republican and Ottoman periods. His book, *Geophysics and its Historical Development* (Özçep and Orbay, 2002), published by Istanbul University, emerged as a valuable resource for academic lectures for many years and will be used as a reference book. He has also written a forthcoming book entitled *Earthquakes from Aristotle to the Modern Period*, passionately expressing his aim of publishing.

Prof. Özçep played a pivotal role in mentoring numerous master students, such as Yunus Emre Fenerci (YEF), who pursued his MA thesis entitled “İstanbul Üniversitesi Fen Fakültesi Jeofizik Enstitüsü’nün kuruluşu ve Türkiye’de Jeofizik bilim dalının gelişmesine katkısı (1926-1977); [Foundation of Istanbul University Faculty of Sciences Geophysical Institute and its contribution to the development of geophysics in Turkey (1926-1977)]”.



Figure 1. Memorial Plate at the Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Büyükçekmece Campus

A commemoration ceremony event was held on 5 October 2023, at the Büyükçekmece Campus of the Istanbul University- Cerrahpaşa. Following the ceremony, a special dedication

event was organized, marking the name of a seminar hall in the Geophysical Engineering Department, in honor of Prof Dr. Ferhat Özçep. In remembrance of Ferhat Özçep, his students wrote the following on the bench where he frequently sat in the mornings before the faculty building (Figure 1). “In memory of Ferhat Özçep, a lover of Geophysics, History of Science, book, and compass who sat on this bench every morning and enjoyed his morning coffee. Your students will never forget you.”

His work and friendly personality will be deeply missed.

To his memory.

Prof. Dr. Ferhat Özçep’s contributions to the history of science:

Books:

1 Özçep, Ferhat and Orbay, Naci. *Jeofizik ve Tarihsel Gelişimi* (İstanbul: İstanbul Üniversitesi Yayınları, 2002), 4347.

2. Özçep, Ferhat and Zihni M. Hisarlı. *90 Yılın Ardından İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofiziğin Serüveni* (İstanbul: Literatur Yayınevi, 2017).

3. Özçep, Ferhat. *Jeofizik, Yerkürenin Kalbine Yolculuk* (İstanbul: Ginko Yayınevi, 2019).

4. Özçep, Ferhat. *Aristoteles’den Modern Zamana Depremler* (in preparation)

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1. Özçep, Ferhat and Naci Orbay. “History of the Geophysical Sciences in İstanbul (Turkey) since 1600” in: *Geomagnetism And Astronomy: With special historical case studies*, edited by Wilfred Schroder, 111-122. Science Edition:, 1997.

2. Özçep, Ferhat, Mustafa K. Tunçer, Naci Orbay, and Ahmet M. Işıkara. 2001, “Bilim ve Teknoloji Sürecinde Jeofizik ve Türkiye Örneği” in: *Türk Teknoloji Tarihi*, edited by Emre Dölen and Mustafa Kaçar, 171-188. Ankara:Türk Bilim Tarihi Kurumu Yayınları, 2001.

3. Özçep, Ferhat, Mustafa K. Tunçer, Naci Orbay and Ahmet M. Işıkara. Türkiye’de Jeomağnetik Çalışmalar” in: *Türk Teknoloji Tarihi*, edited by Emre Dölen and Mustafa Kaçar, 189-202. Ankara:Türk Bilim Tarihi Kurumu Yayınları, 2001.

4. Özçep, Ferhat, Naside Özer, Şahin Akkargan, and Tazegül Özçep. “Türkiye’de Sismoloji (Deprem-Bilim) çalışmaları” in: *Türk Teknoloji Tarihi*, edited by Emre Dölen and Mustafa Kaçar, 189-202. Ankara:Türk Bilim Tarihi Kurumu Yayınları, 2001.

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6. Özçep, Ferhat. Dilek Kepekçi. “Osmanlı İmparatorluğu’nda Jeoloji ve Jeofizik Bilimleri” in: *Osmanlılarda Bilim ve Teknoloji* edited by Yavuz Unat, 713-737. Ankara: Nobel Yayın, 2010.
7. Özçep, Ferhat. “Türkiye’de Jeofizik: Bilim, Mühendislik ve Eğitim” in: *TMMOB Jeofizik Mühendisleri Odası 25. Yıl*, edited by Senem Dere, 241-257. Ankara: TMMOB Jeofizik Mühendisleri Odası Yayını, 2010.
8. Özçep, Ferhat. “Jeofizik: Genç Bir Bilimin Cumhuriyet Dönemi Serüveni (1923-2010)” in: *Erdal İnönü Türkiye’nin Yer Bilimleri Araştırmalarına Katkılarından Kesitler (1900-2010): Tarihsel Gelişim ve 1923-66 Dönemi İçin Bir Bibliyografya*, edited by Feza Günergun, 256-311. Ankara: Türkiye Bilimler Akademisi (TÜBA) Erdal İnönü Bibliyografyaları, 2012.
9. Özçep, Ferhat. “Tarih ve Jeofizik” in: *90 Yılın Ardından İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofiziğin Serüveni*, edited by Ferhat Özçep and Zihni. M. Hisarlı, İstanbul: Literatur Yayıncılık, 2017.
10. Özçep, Ferhat. “Anadolu’da İlk Başlangıçlar” in: *90 Yılın Ardından İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofiziğin Serüveni*, edited by Ferhat Özçep and Zihni. M. Hisarlı, İstanbul: Literatur Yayıncılık, 2017.
11. Özçep, Ferhat. “İmparatorlukta Jeofizik Bilimleri” in: *90 Yılın Ardından İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofiziğin Serüveni*, edited by Ferhat Özçep and Zihni. M. Hisarlı, İstanbul: Literatur Yayıncılık, 2017.
12. Özçep, Ferhat. “Bilim Cumhuriyeti: (1927-2017)” in: *90 Yılın Ardından İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofiziğin Serüveni*, edited by Ferhat Özçep and Zihni. M. Hisarlı, İstanbul: Literatur Yayıncılık, 2017.
13. Özçep, Ferhat, Zihni M. Hisarlı, Özlem Makaroğlu, and İhsan Özdoğan. “İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofizik: Doğuşu ve Gelişmesi” in: *90 Yılın Ardından İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofiziğin Serüveni*, edited by Ferhat Özçep and Zihni. M. Hisarlı, İstanbul: Literatur Yayıncılık, 2017.
14. Özçep, Ferhat, Melda Küçükdemirci, and Nurcan Kaya. “İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Fen Fakültesi, Yer Bilimleri Fakültesi ve Mühendislik Fakültesi Mensuplarının Jeofizik Konulu Yayınları (1953- 2016)” in: *90 Yılın Ardından İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofiziğin Serüveni*, edited by Ferhat Özçep and Zihni. M. Hisarlı, İstanbul: Literatur Yayıncılık, 2017.

15. Küçükdemirci, Melda, Nurcan Kaya, Hande Aykut-Vardar, and Ferhat Özçep. “İstanbul Üniversitesi Jeofizik Bilimsel Projeler”, in: *90 Yılın Ardından İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofiziğin Serüveni* edited by Ferhat Özçep and Zihni. M. Hisarlı, İstanbul: Literatur Yayincılık, 2017.

16. Tekkeli, Anisya B, Gökhan Karcıoğlu, and Ferhat Özçep. “İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofizik Bölümünde Çalışmış Kişiler” in: *90 Yılın Ardından İstanbul Üniversitesi’nde Jeofiziğin Serüveni*, edited by Ferhat Özçep and Zihni. M. Hisarlı, İstanbul: Literatur Yayincılık, 2017.

17. Özçep, Ferhat. “Pre-Modern Dönemden Modern Döneme Osmanlı Coğrafyasında Jeofizik Düşünceler ve Ölçümler Üzerine Bir İnceleme (An Investigation on Geophysical Ideas and Measurements in Ottoman Geography in Transition from Pre-Modern to Modern Period)” in: *İslâm’da Medeniyet Bilimleri Tarihi*, edited by Recep Şentürk, Ahmet Süruri, Rıza Tevfik Kalyoncu, Mustafa Sürün, and Ebru Morgül, 53-89. İstanbul: İnbi Haldun Üniversitesi Yayınları, 2021.

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2. Özçep, Ferhat and Tazegül Özçep. “Notes on the History of Geophysics in Ottoman Empire.” *History of Geo- and Space Sciences (HGSS)*, 5, (2014): 163-174.

3. Özçep, Ferhat. “Terrestrial Magnetism in the Ottoman Empire: Documents and Measurements.”, *Earth Sciences History*, 37, 1 (2018): 1-24.

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6. Özçep, Ferhat. “Physical Earth and its Sciences in Istanbul: A Journey From Pre-Modern (Islamic) to Modern Times.” *History of Geo-and Space Sciences*, 11, (2020): 173-198.

7. Özçep, Ferhat. “Osmanlı ve Batı Kaynaklarına Göre Mıknatıslar, Pusulalar ve Yer Manyetizması Ölçümleri.” *Dört Öge*, 17, (2020): 121-150.

8. Özçep, Ferhat. “Batı Dünyasında Modern Sismoloji Öncesi Deprem Kuramları.” *Eskiçağ Araştırmaları Dergisi*, 23, (2020): 34-39.