

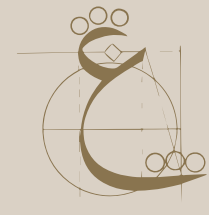
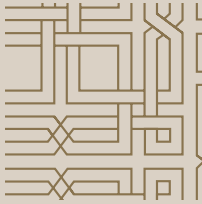


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08



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*“Kadim oldur ki
evvelin kimesne bilmeye”*

Kadim is that no one knows what came before.

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Meeting Report on CIÉPO-2025 at the European University of Tirana, Albania.

CIÉPO-2025 TOPLANTI
RAPORU: TİRAN AVRUPA
ÜNİVERSİTESİ,
ARNAVUTLUK



KAZUMA IWATA*

ABSTRACT

The 25th conference of the Comité International des Études Pré-Ottomanes et Ottomanes (CIÉPO) was held from June 21 to June 25, 2024, at the European University of Tirana, Albania. Coordinated by the Sami Frashëri Institute and supported by Air Albania, the conference attracted a diverse international assembly of scholars with English, Turkish, and French presentations. The event featured 23 pre-organized panels and over 100 individual presentations, covering a wide range of topics from Ottoman socio-economic dynamics to modern methodologies in historical research.

Keywords: CIÉPO-25, Ottoman Studies, Academic Conference, Global Scholarship, Academic Discourse.

ÖZ

Comité International des Études Pré-Ottomanes et Ottomanes (CIÉPO)'nun 25. konferansı, 21-25 Haziran 2024 tarihleri arasında Arnavutluk'da, Tiran Avrupa Üniversitesi'nde gerçekleştirildi. Sami Frashëri Enstitüsü tarafından organize edilen ve Air Albania tarafından desteklenen konferans, İngilizce, Türkçe ve Fransızca sunumlarla çeşitli uluslararası akademisyenleri bir araya getirdi. 23 panel ve 100'den fazla bireysel sunumu içeren etkinlik, Osmanlı sosyo-ekonomik araştırmalarından tarih çalışmalarındaki yeni metotlara kadar çok geniş bir yelpazedeki konulara değindi.

Anahtar Kelimeler: CIÉPO-25, Osmanlı Çalışmaları, Akademik Konferans, Küresel Sosyal Bilimler, Akademik Tartışma.



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The 25th conference of the Comité International des Études Pré-Ottomanes et Ottomanes (International Committee for Pre-Ottoman and Ottoman Studies, CIÉPO) took place from June 21 to 25, 2024, at the European University of Tirana, Albania. The conference was coordinated by the Sami Frashëri Institute and supported by Air Albania. Since its establishment and the first conference in Naples in 1974, CIÉPO's principal objective has been to promote academic research in Turkic studies and facilitate a broad array of research disciplines, encompassing history, philosophy, literature, and religion. CIÉPO embraces a diverse international assembly of participants with varied research interests, offering academic avenues, for emerging scholars, to engage in global discourse at an international symposium. Evidencing its global character, the conference showcased presentations in three languages: English, Turkish, and French. CIÉPO-25 hosted 23 pre-organized panels and over 100 individual presentations over five days, exploring diverse topics with varied methodologies spanning a wide temporal range.

The conference started on the morning of June 21st with an opening ceremony. Ambassadors from Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Bulgaria, as well as respected scholars, attended. Prof. İlhan Şahin, President of CIÉPO; Prof. Selami Xhepa, President of the European University of Tirana; Dr. Ardian Muhaj and Prof. Reis Mulita from the Canadian Institute of Technology, along with Ambassador Atay and Dr. Vehap Kola from Sami Frashëri Institute, spoke during the ceremony.

After a coffee break, three simultaneous panel discussions and four panels in the evening took place following the first day. These seven panels, on the initial day, delved into a range of topics such as societal order, religion, and medieval Anatolian culture; diplomatic practices in the pre-modern Ottoman Empire; the assimilation of foreign knowledge in the modern Ottoman Empire; the economic interactions between the Ottoman Empire and Venice with a focus on Split; innovative methodologies for studying the Sokollu family; and the socio-economic dynamics of the Ottoman frontier. One panel, led by Gül Şen and Benjamin Weineck, explored the maintenance of public order in peripheral Ottoman territories. Later in the day, the panel entitled 'Commercial Landscapes and Comparative Perspectives: Venice, Split, and the Ottoman Balkans', organized by Vera Costantini, featured four informative presentations that shed light on the Ottoman Empire through a Venetian lens. A noteworthy aspect illuminated was the strong local connections of most Ottoman merchants in Split, underscoring the significance of investigating border regions of the empire and adjacent states from a socio-economic vantage point.

The second day of the conference consisted of eleven pre-organized panels and 73 presentations. The first panel, 'Olive and Olive Oil Production in the Ottoman Empire in the Nineteenth Century,' was organized by Dilek Akyalçın Kaya. It focused on olive oil production and the economy surrounding it. Three of the presenters were not able to attend the conference, but the presentations and discussions that followed were very intensive, it is of great significance that we were able to have an intense discussion on olive oil. This was a significant attempt for the Ottoman studies since the topic not been adequately studied until today. Simultaneously, two panels organized by Nicolas Vatin and Nida Nebahat Nalçacı dealt with war captives and slaves when Henning Sievert coordinated a panel about the conditions of the Ottoman state authority in the Arab region. In the following, there were four panels focusing

on infrastructure and technological development around the nineteenth century, Tepedelenli Ali Pasha and Epirus, and farms (*çiftlik*) and labor in the central Balkans were conducted. Another panel was organized by Borianna Antonova-Goleva, Emily Neumeier, and Alp Yücel Kaya and Andreas Lyberatos. Hajnka Tóth's panel on Hungary and neighboring borderlands was in continuity with the subsequent panel chaired by Gabór Demeter. These panels extensively deliberated on a variety of topics, including the socioeconomics and diplomacy of the Ottoman Balkans and Arab territories, as well as the significance of local archival sources. Additional sessions of the day were presentations by Eleni Gara on the Muslim-Christian conflict in pre-modern Rumelia, Gül Şen on Christian-state relations of the state and the Christian populations in the Anatolian Seljuks and the Ottoman Empire, and Vefa Erginbaş on pre-modern religious practices in the Ottoman Empire.

In the morning of the third day there were five pre-organized panels followed by individual presentations in the afternoon. Murat Siviloğlu chaired a panel focusing on the reign of Mahmud II, Tomoki Okawara organized a panel examining population documentation within and beyond the Ottoman Empire, Christiane Czygan led a panel exploring Ottoman literature with a focus on poetry and language, and Uğur Bayraktar's panel focused on the nineteenth-century Ottoman province. Following the last panel, Ramazan Hakkı Öztan's panel addressed the Young Turks movement in the Danubian and Mediterranean regions. The significant panel of Uğur Bayraktar, Tuna Başıbek, and Yaşar Tolga Cora delved into labor in the nineteenth century with topics such as the condition of labor in the 19th century, including salt workers in Pomorie/Ahyolu, railroad construction in the eastern Ottoman Empire, and Istanbul as a transition point for migrant workers, and depicted the dynamics of labor and laborers in the late Ottoman Empire based on actual cases.

The presentations of individual papers on the third and fourth day of the conference had a wide range of subjects such as commercial commodities, health issues, political ideologies, criminal activities, nomadic activities, land possession, economy, architectural developments, cultural aspects, religious and ethnic minorities, security, urban and rural societies, regal theory, emotion, bureaucracy, women, immigration, modernization processes, diplomatic relationships, literature, philosophy and more. On June 23, notable papers on urban society and urban infrastructure were discussed. To illustrate, Eunjeong Yi examined Valide Han in Istanbul during the session chaired by Hedda Reindl-Kiel. Ahmet Yaşar chaired a Turkish panel featured papers focusing on written materials concerning merchandise in Ottoman Tirana, the disposal of waste in the wharves of Istanbul, the construction of the roof on the Covered Bazar in Istanbul, and tenants in the sixteenth-century Bursa. These papers demonstrated the role of urban infrastructure in society and urban socio-economic relationships. Some papers also dealt with the specific materials, such as garments of Şeytanoğlu Mihal, wood and coal, and the disease and hygiene.

On the final day of the conference, a panel was designated for the regal bureaucracy was hosted by Aslıhan Gürbüz, arguing on the examples of judges in Mecca, Albanian towns, and the economic situation of deputy judges (*naib*) during the Tanzimat period. Hirofumi Iwamoto's panel focused on the ideology construction of the Jewish in the Empire and Islamic religious discourse. Some other panels handled socio-economic history including the economic conditions of women, urban society, refugees and migration in various regions of the Ottoman

Empire of the multiple periods. Those presentations were on the spatial and socio-economic structure of specific cities, organization of occupational groups, the construction processes of buildings, conditions of women in the Ottoman Empire, population exchange after the Balkan wars. Some also handled the intellectual interactions of the Ottoman Empire with inside and outside of the border.

Despite the long duration of the five-day conference, many panels and sessions were of very high quality, and there were lively discussions during the question-and-answer time. Gathering of participants from different parts of the world sometimes led to discussions that even the presenters did not anticipate, and it seemed that there was no more stimulating space for the exchange of knowledge and opinions. Additionally, at large international conferences, it seems that while each participant's presentations focused on a particular topic, when viewed as a whole, it is possible to find the context for each topic in relation to the other presentations. At CIÉPO-25, this tendency was evident in many of the presentations, which is one of the advantages of a large international conference such as CIÉPO.

Despite the absence of some speakers, it was notable that multiple presentations were delivered at this year's CIÉPO, focusing on emerging research areas and innovative approaches that transcend conventional methods alongside revisiting traditional discussions. The utilization of diverse historical sources, including materials from the central government, foreign sources, and provincial records, was observed. Particularly noteworthy was a presentation highlighting the underexplored potential of historical sources in Ottoman studies, holding academic significance for future research endeavors in this domain. I found great satisfaction in the high-quality presentations concerning pre-modern and modern socioeconomic history, specifically emphasizing workers, infrastructure, and urban society. Additionally, exploring diverse research topics proved intellectually stimulating, broadening my exposure to unfamiliar subject areas. A key benefit of CIÉPO lies in the opportunity to engage with presentations delivered by esteemed researchers from various global regions. It is noteworthy that CIÉPO has successfully hosted a conference in Thessaloniki in 2022 and this time in Tirana, emphasizing the importance of in-person participation and scholarly interaction for academics. Many participants acknowledged the academic significance of the face-to-face conference in Tirana and the valuable interactions with fellow participants.

The CIÉPO-25 conference concluded with remarkable success. Throughout the five-day event, many acclaimed presentations were delivered, facilitating the exchange of fresh insights across various subject areas. The convergence of numerous scholars from different parts of the world in one place made for very active discussions, even during the breaks. CIÉPO-25 are poised to enhance future scholarly exploration of the Ottoman Empire significantly. I would like to seize this opportunity to convey my sincerest appreciation to all individuals engaged in the coordination and management of CIÉPO-25, and to anticipate heightened engagement in forthcoming CIÉPO-26 deliberations.

APPENDIX



The presentation “Bridging the gap. Venetian and Ottoman infrastructural investments into the scala di Spalato” of Petar Strunje, CIÉPO-25, Albania, Tirana



The presentation “Towns of Judges in the Late Ottoman Empire: Ergiri (Gjirokastër) and İbradı” of Jun Akiba, CIÉPO-25, Albania, Tirana



Archive of Canadian Institute of Technology (Access Date: July 25, 2024)



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