

From the Editor

Florya Chronicles was started by the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences at Istanbul Aydın University. In this respect, we are charged with an additional duty to make international academic community aware of ongoing research in our own vicinity. Hence, we use this special issue to promote and connect research by our staff and researchers at the Faculty with a broader academic audience around the world. In a way this issue of Florya Chronicles provides links between our Faculty and researchers around the globe.

Here we present four papers by our research assistants. Two of these papers are written in English and the following two are in Turkish. They are all part of an ongoing research project. We have decided to include two papers in Turkish to make their contents available to the Turkish reader since these are extensively reviewing international literature. As such, these papers contribute greatly to the academia and broader readers in Turkey. We have nevertheless, provided abstracts in English to inform international readers of their coverage.

In selecting these papers, we have established a “scientific selection board” which consisted of the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Prof. Dr. Celal Nazım İrem, Heads of the Departments of the Faculty, Economics and Finance; Prof. Dr. Sedat Aybar, Accounting and Finance; Prof. Dr. Gülümser Ünkaya, Business Management; Prof. Dr. Salih Güney, Politics and International Relations; Prof. Dr. Hatice Deniz Yüksek. We have after careful scrutinization decided to publish the four out of six papers.

The first paper by Kutay Kutlu questions neo-liberal food policies. It begins by establishing inequalities in accessing adequate and healthy food and discusses that present policies formulated around the neo-liberal

framework does not address to resolve these. On the contrary, as Kutlu argues, these policies exacerbate food security problems and turns it into a chronic one. He refers to institutional inadequacies of UN food security programs in implementing proposed policies. Additionally, he questions the viability of global trade regime while investigating the adequacies of the World Trade Organization (WTO) vis a vis food security aspect of international trade. He follows a similar logic in questioning the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and implications of their neo-liberal approach for food security. He finishes by looking into the alternative policy options through the prism of critical movements that have developed as a reaction to the mainstream neo-liberalism.

The second paper by Deniz Keskin is an empirical investigation. This paper looks at the intermingling of economic growth with political stability. Keskin justifies such focus on the inter-connections of economic with non-economic categories by emphasizing increased popularity of these topics within the political economy framework while being widely debated. This paper, using data from the MENA region (Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia), examines the impact of political variables on the economic growth. The MENA according to Keskin provides an excellent set up lending support to empirical investigation since their demographic, cultural and economic spheres are very much alike. The relationship between political stability and economic growth is measured by using Least Square Dummy Variable estimation for linear dynamic panel data model covering the years of 1990 to 2012.

The next paper by Zafer Çakmak focuses on the ways in which developments in information technology use upon business management. He argues that our understanding of business concept has also changed while the new ones have emerged. One of the areas that is known to develop is the virtual business. These types of enterprises perform their activities independent

of space and time, which turns them to be fundamentally different from traditional companies. This paper proposes that such use of technology enables these organizations to lift hierarchical structures, to innovate rigorously and to meet consumer demands faster, rendering them far superior to the businesses using traditional practices. Additionally, Çakmak argues that using flexible organizational structures provides virtual companies competitive advantage in a rather rapidly expanding digitalized markets. In terms of their employment practices, virtual companies can be located in different geographical regions which changes their management function that has been altered dramatically. Çakmak explains how the new management concept of virtual organization is different from traditional companies, particularly in terms of their management functions.

The fourth paper by Uğur Bankacı examines the importance of the concept of “psychological capital” which has become one of the focal points in the literature of organizational behavior. This paper reviews the ever rapidly expanding vast literature on the topic. He then relates the concept of “psychological capital” to the study of economic organizations. He proposes that along social and human capital, the “psychological capital” is also an important part of smooth functioning of economic units. In a way, this paper relates a non-economic factor, the “psychological capital” to the economic categories.

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Prof. Dr. Sedat Aybar
Editor