

Tracing food and money: 19th and early 20th-century grocers in Istanbul as important urban actors in the supply chain and financial networks

Abstract

Ottoman grocers were an integral part of the neighborhood where the inhabitants met their daily needs from the near-by grocery shops. The products they sold in their shops indicate the consumption habits and preferences of the Istanbul residents. Moreover, the shop owners also had extensive networks with different occupational groups including merchants, other artisans and the bureaucracy. These connections had been built through the supply chain and various financial relations. Therefore, the grocers' influence exceeded the neighborhood boundaries.

This presentation will focus on the place of Istanbul grocers in the financial networks and the supply chain for the Ottoman capital in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The inheritance inventories of the grocers will provide the main primary material for analysis. These documents include a detailed list of the products they sold and their debt-credit relationships with other people.

Short Bio

Deniz Özeren took her BA and MA degrees from the Department of History at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara. Her MA thesis titled "The dirt of İstanbul: Coping with pollution in the 19th century" deals with the political, economic and environmental aspects of the waste management policies of the late Ottoman government. She has worked as a pre-doctoral researcher in TÜBİTAK project "Animal Trade from Anatolia to Istanbul and Meat Provisioning (1783-1920)" for two years between 2020 and 2022 at Koç University. Currently, she is a PhD student at the Department of Near Eastern Studies of University of Vienna where she is also a project member in the FWF Project "Grocers of Istanbul: Tracing Food Consumption (GrocerIST)". Her dissertation project deals with the supply and financial networks of the late Ottoman grocers in Istanbul.

