

## **Social Networks in Ottoman Istanbul**

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We use information from Ottoman court records to examine degrees of inbreeding homophily in hierarchical social and economic networks in Istanbul during the period between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. Court registers consist of various types of documents prepared by local officials, including disputes, contracts, and estate inventories. The dataset includes a total of about 330,000 individuals. The records specify the names of involved individuals and that of their fathers, which can be used to determine gender, religion, and social status. Within each group, the law recognized well-defined hierarchies between men and women, Muslims and Non-Muslims, and elites and non-elites. We calculate degrees of overall inbreeding homophily for each group across these hierarchies and examine how patterns of homophily varied contextually across types of interactions, temporally between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, and spatially across the four court/residential districts of Istanbul. The results show that social networks in the Ottoman Empire spanned across hierarchies in such a way that overall: (a) men were more inbreeding heterophilic than women, (b) Muslims were more heterophilic than Non-Muslims, and (c) non-elites were more heterophilic than elites. Moreover, patterns of homophily/heterophily varied systematically over time and across the districts and case-types.