

Ottoman Households and Networks in Action: New Sources and Approaches

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The impact and significance of households and personal networks on the Ottoman political system are often stressed in modern Ottoman historiography. Every factor related to the political system – i.e., factionalism, decision-making, political economy – was also a matter of networks and households. However, how these networks and households can be investigated and contextualized remains an essential issue for Ottoman studies. By treating the empirical and theoretical sides of the issue as equally important, in this panel, we point out the primary sources and approaches simultaneously. Introducing lesser-known sources and their potential role in comprehending the Ottoman households and networks is the empirical side of the coin, while how to read and interpret them is the theoretical side.

In the first paper of the panel, by using a well-known text, *Seyahatname*, as a rewarding source for historical networks, Günhan Börekçi will discuss a lesser-known network of power clustered around a Bosnian town, Nevesin, that spreads across the Ottoman Empire. In addition to drawing attention to *Seyahatname* as an empirical source for historical network studies, Börekçi will also suggest how to treat the data obtained from his source by emphasizing the Digital Humanities tools.

In the second paper, İsmail Emre Pamuk will discuss the procedure of admission payment to the Grand Vizier, a well-known but lesser-examined issue of Ottoman historiography. By utilizing some unofficial bidding letters by candidates to kethüdas of Grand Viziers about their intended posts and court records, Pamuk will describe the daily process of admission payment. This paper will comprehend minor details of a major problem more clearly.

In the last paper, Fatma Süheyla İslamoğlu will present the intertwined nature of households and networks by focusing on Prince Murad's [III] household. Based on a relatively lesser-known register (*Maliyeden Müdevver*, 1324) that was written after the enthronement of Murad in order to list his princely household and other archival sources, İslamoğlu will demonstrate the complex personal networks and households of the members of the Prince Murad's household. This paper will be a case study that shows how to handle the problem of intra-household networks.