Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 25 November 2021, 6.00 pm (UK time)
Speakers: Costas Lapavitsas & Pinar Cakiroglu
Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register
Title: 'Ottoman industrial capitalism in Macedonia'

The Ottoman Empire was a *sui generis* political entity between East and West, not fully belonging to either but bearing influences from both. It thus offers an important terrain for social scientists to examine economic development. The place of the Empire in the long 19th Century, within a global capitalist system and engaging in constant modernization / Westernisation attempts, has been regularly debated. Modernisation became the official agenda of the Empire after the Tanzimat. The ruling classes considered Western Europe as the model of development, although reform had very mixed success. The weak position of the Empire in the global balance of power was an important factor in this respect.

Much less researched, however, are the internal, spontaneously emerging forces of capitalist transformation during the final years of the Empire. Our work focuses on this issue by unravelling the story of capitalist industrial development in the area of Mount Vermion in Macedonia, the countryside of the multicultural port city of Salonica. Through archival, literature, and field research we tell the story of a group of Greek Orthodox capitalists who managed to turn the Mount Vermion area into one of the most significant textile industry regions of the Empire. It is a fascinating case study, with broad significance, casting fresh light on the modernisation and development of the Ottoman Empire.

In this light, our presentation consists essentially of parts: first, the story of the emerging capitalists and capitalism in Macedonia; second, its broader theoretical significance for the political economy of the development of capitalism.

Booking essential: https://lapavitsas-cakiroglu-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk
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Costas Lapavitsas is Professor of Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. His research during the last few years has focused on the Eurozone and the financialisation of capitalism. He has published widely in the academic field and writes frequently for the international and the Greek press. In January 2015 he was elected in the Greek Parliament with the incoming SYRIZA party.

His most recent books include 'Capitalism in the Ottoman Balkans', with P. Cakiroglu, I.B.Tauris, 2019, 'The Left Case Against the EU', Polity Press, 2018, 'Against the Troika: Crisis and Austerity in the Eurozone', with H. Flassbeck, Verso, 2015, and 'Profiting Without Producing', Verso, 2013.



Pinar Cakiroglu is a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of History and Archeology in the University of Crete since March 2017. She has graduated from the Middle East Technical University (B.Sc. in Economics) in Turkey and completed her graduate studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London (M.Sc. in Development Economics, Ph.D. in Economics). Her masters' dissertation focused on the political economy of Turkey in the post-1980s' neoliberal era with special reference to the emergence of Islamic bourgeoisie. In her PhD dissertation, titled "Industrialisation in provincial Macedonia in the late Ottoman Era: Economic, Social and Communal Factors", she has worked on the transformation of Salonica region on the face of the changing global economy following the industrial revolution. She has worked in the METU, SOAS-University of London and University of Erciyes as teaching staff.

Her research interests are economic and social history, political economy, long-term growth and development, industrialisation and the Balkans, Turkey and the Middle East.

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