

Hacı Ömer Akyıldız

Economic historian

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I am an economic historian of the late Ottoman Empire. My research examines state capacity, bureaucratic institutions, labour markets and human capital.

Using quantitative methods and large-scale historical datasets, I study institutional transformation, public employment, wage structures and career mobility during Ottoman modernisation.

Research interests

Economic history · Bureaucratic institutions · Ottoman state capacity · Historical labour markets · Human capital

Appointments

2025-2026	Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar Department of Economics, University of Connecticut
2020-2023	Lecturer Balkan Research Institute, Trakya University

Education

2018-2024	PhD in Economic History Marmara University
2016-2018	MA in History University of Leicester With Merit
2010-2012	MA in Economic History Marmara University Ranked first in the programme
2005-2009	BA in Economics Marmara University

Scholarships & honours

Turkish Government merit-based scholarship for master's study in the United Kingdom (2010).
Ranked first in the MA programme in Economic History, Marmara University.

Research

Journal articles

Hacı Ömer Akyıldız (2026). **Son Dönem Osmanlı Bürokrasisinde Himaye ve Kariyer: Posta ve Telgraf Nazırı Hasan Ali Efendi ve Oğulları.** *Kadim*, 12, 171-188.

doi: 10.54462/kadim.1897502

Hacı Ömer Akyıldız (2026). **Human Capital and Wages in the Late Ottoman Bureaucracy: A Descriptive and Regression Analysis.** *İstanbul Journal of Economics*, 76(1), 149-171.

doi: 10.26650/ISTJECON2025-1799729

Hacı Ömer Akyıldız, Abdülhamit Kırmızı (2026). **Osmanlı Memurlarının İncelenmesinde Büyük Veri.** *Tarih Dergisi / Turkish Journal of History*, 89, 221-245.

doi: 10.26650/iutd.1801116

Current research

Pricing Human Capital in a Modernizing State: Education and Skill Premia in the Ottoman Civil Service.

Working paper

State Capacity Paradox: Can State Expansion Empower Political Opposition?

Manuscript under review

Book chapters & other writing

Ömer Akyıldız (2021). **Gazâlî ve Adam Smith'in Paranın Gerekliliği Konusundaki Görüşleri Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme.** *Sabri Orman'ı Anlamak: Bir Mütefekkirin Düşünce Dünyasının İzinde.* Mehmet Babacan & Ahmet Faruk Aysan (eds.). İstanbul Ticaret Odası, 247-262.

Publisher's edition

Ömer Akyıldız (2021). **Umurfakı Kazası Örneğinden Hareketle Osmanlı Balkanlarında Zirai Sektörün Ticarileşebilme Olanakları Üzerine Bir İnceleme (1844-45).** *Balkan Tarihi Araştırmaları I.* Bülent Akyay (ed.). Trakya Üniversitesi Balkan Araştırma Enstitüsü Yayınları, 97-124.

Ömer Akyıldız (2015). **Bir İktisat Tarihçisi: Mehmet Genç.** *Türkiye'nin Birikimleri: Tarihçiler.* İlke Yayıncılık.

Ömer Akyıldız (2014). **Sezai Karakoç'ta İslam ve İktisat.** *Kahramanmaraş'ta Sezai Karakoç Sempozyumu.* Cevdet Kabakcı & Serdar Yakar (eds.). Kahramanmaraş Belediyesi.

Talks & conferences

13 June 2026

Middle and Lower Ranking Officials: Postal and Telegraph Employees in the Ottoman Empire.

BİSAV, invited talk

9 January 2026

Ottoman State Capacity: Postal and Telegraph Network Expansion (1840-1910).

New Perspectives on Middle Eastern Economic History, Industrial History Review online workshop

Event details

22 November 2025

Beyond Birthplace: Geographic Mobility during Ottoman Modernization.

Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Washington, DC. Panel: Borderlands and Belonging: Conflict and Mobility in the Modern Middle East

5 November 2025

Transforming Sicill-i Ahvâl Registers into Structured Data: A Data-Mining Approach to Ottoman Civil Servants.

Digital Humanities Meetings (DBB-21), Marmara University Digital Humanities Research Center, invited online talk

9 January 2025

Ottoman Civil Servants in the Age of Modernization: An Empirical Analysis of Postal and Telegraph Employees.

Müktesebat Meetings 43, Media Literacy Association, invited online talk

November 2022

Postal and Telegraph Officers of Darüşşafaka College (1881-1912).

Postal History Workshop: From Ottoman to Republic

November 2022

Analysis of the Income Distribution of Zistovi City from the Temettuat Books Using the Gini Coefficient and Lorenz Curve (1844-45).

14th International Balkan History Congress

Academic service

Co-organiser of Medrese Talks (2023-2024), an international online lecture series on Islamic and Ottoman intellectual history at the Fatih Sahn-ı Semân Education and Research Center.

Organising committee member for the Medrese and Ulema Studies training programmes in 2020 and 2021.