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7th International Conference of Political Economy *

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Abstract. In this study, the 7th International Conference of Political Economy in İstanbul was evaluated. This year it was organized by Marmara University Faculty of Economics and Batman University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences with the cooperation of their international supporters all over the world. These conference series are said to be successful to bring all the scholars, academicians, students, and volunteers who are interested in political economy. Starting from 2009, the contribution of these conference series into the field of political economy is undeniable.

Keywords. Political Economy, State, Taxation, Institutions, Poverty.

JEL. F50, P16, H20, H70.

Conference Notes

The 7th International Conference of Political Economy (ICOPEC) was held on June 28-30 at Marmara University in Istanbul. The conference was organized by Marmara University Faculty of Economics and Batman University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences. The international supporters of the conference were such as University of Westminster, Institute for Economics and Social Research of Piedmont, Ostrava Technical University, University of Belgrade, GITAM School of International Business, Aligarh Muslim University and Pontifica Catholic University of Lima. This year the main theme of the conference was "State, Economic Policy, Taxation and Development". During the conference, papers both in English and Turkish were presented in the parallel sessions.

First day after the opening speeches, main issues in the economic development in the context of social and political interactions were discussed. Ziya Öniş evaluated the inequality and democratic development dynamics based on global north and global south cases. Korkut Boratav analyzed the distributional changes in Turkey for the period of 2003-2014 within the context of its political impact. Joachim Becker from Vienna University gave insight to the relationship between financialization, industrial development and industrial policies of Turkey.

Each three days, parallel sessions were both in the morning and in the afternoon. On the second day, under the session "Regional Developments and Poverty Dynamics", I presented the paper "Some Critics and Comments on the Austerity Policies" which was moderated by Murat Yülek. Another discussant Ensar Can from University of Basel explained the poverty dynamics in Switzerland. In their (Ensar Can and George Sheldon) study, it is not just poverty

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but also the poverty persistence was used to evaluate the poverty of the country. Then, Cihan Kızıl from Istanbul University tried to find an answer about the behaviour of Syrian refugees in Turkey by using regional data whether they are going to stay or not.

One of the most discussed topic of current days, the middle income trap was also evaluated in the presentations. İbrahim Öztürk analyzed the middle income concept both for emerging markets and Turkey. Murat Yülek examined this middle income concept in the context of industrialization and industrial policies also for Turkey. In this session, A.Sedat Aybar gave some information in his talk entitled "Mapping Global Investments and the Rise of Authoritarian Liberal State". Hun Joo Park evaluated the Korean political economy in the framework of politics and institutions.

These conference serials make undeniable contributions for anyone who is interested in political economy. The first conference in 2009 was organized by Kocaeli University, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University and Silesian University and the main theme was Adam Smith and tried to show how important A.Smith is for our century. In 2010, the main theme was chosen as "Crisis and Development" and the organizers were Kocaeli University, Westminster University and Silesian University. In the third year of the conference, labour markets and employment was evaluated broadly. Then, in the fourth year, with the harsh reality of globalization, the conference main theme was flexibility as we could see in the workplaces, in the production structure and markets. In its fifth year, the main theme was "Logic of Our Age: The Individual and Society in the Market's Grasp". In 2014, the new socioeconomic perspectives, social movements and actors were chosen as the main theme of the conference in order to present a better understanding and perception of our modern society. As it is easily seen from the main themes and from the history of the conference, the main socio-economic issues were broadly evaluated during these conference series.

This year, as it was said before, the main theme was "State, Economic Policy, Taxation and Development". In accordance with the main theme, a wide variety of topics and subjects were covered in the conference. The papers were related with the topics such as development, welfare, institutions, politics, taxation, poverty and financialization. Therefore not just the economic dimension and perspectives but also social and political dimensions of the themes were evaluated. It should be taken into account that all the feedbacks and comments were made as in a positive way to improve yourself and your research.

Also, the conference provides several publication opportunities to the participants as of journals and there will be an edited book from the selected papers as it has always been so far. The conference series present an important platform to share your work and knowledge with other participants. Therefore, the conference is both informative and self-improving for anyone dealing with the studies in the field of political economy.

Starting from the first conference, this platform presents a good opportunity to bring the scholars who are interested in political economy altogether. As I have participated to the conference three times since 2010, it is noteworthy to mention that the content and the coverage of the themes and discussions were so informative and helpful. Different perspectives and different school of thoughts are represented well and this makes an important contribution to the research you conduct.



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