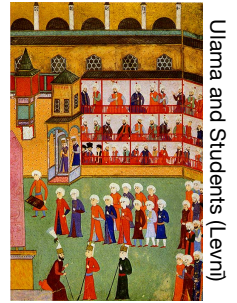


University of Toronto

Departments of History and Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations  
Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies

## Seminar in Ottoman & Turkish Studies



Ulama and Students (Levni)



Map of Anatolia (Natoliae by Ortelius, 1570)

### Ecological and Demographic Transformation in Early Modern Ottoman Anatolia and its Impact on Agricultural Production in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries

Mehmet Kuru, University of Toronto

This paper aims to reconsider the environmental circumstances and their impact on agricultural crops in early modern Ottoman Anatolia from the “heyday” to the “decline” of the Empire, covering roughly the period between the 1520s and the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Ottoman historians working on environmental or demographic history tend to accept without question two phenomena that supposedly caused social and demographic crises in the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries: an empire-wide demographic boom and climatic change. Based on an analysis of large-scale tax registers and recent research on contemporary climatic conditions, this paper argues that there were sharp regional divergences in relation to these developments. During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, inner Anatolia experienced a rapid increase in population and agricultural crop yield, while the Mediterranean coastal regions could not follow a similar pattern due to the negative impact of contemporary climatic conditions. These trajectories were reversed in the following period. While the population declined and crop failure occurred in inner Anatolia, the economy of western Anatolia was on the rise thanks to its peculiar regional ecological features in the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Wednesday | 6 April 2016 | 4:00-6:00 pm

Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations | Conference Room (BF200B) | 4 Bancroft Ave.