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8th International Conference of Political Economy^{*}

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Abstract. The 8th International Conference of Political Economy (ICOPEC) was held in Belgrade on June 28-30, 2017. The main theme of the conference was "Institutions, National Identity, Power and Governance in the 21st Century". Since its first year, these conference series have been successful to bring together all academicians, students that are all interested in the topics of political economy.

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

JEL. F50, P16, H20, H70.

Conference Notes

This year, The eighth International Conference of Political Economy took place in Belgrade/Serbia in this year and Conference was held at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology. The conference was mainly organized by Marmara University, Batman University and University of Belgrade. The main theme of the conference was identified as "Institutions, National Identity, Power and Governance in the 21st Century." It covers wide range of topics related to economics, sociology, politics, public finance, public administration, international relations, philosophy and econometrics. The experts, academicians, and students from these areas made their significant contributions to the conference

After opening speeches, opening session of the first day was convened by Farhang Morady from University of Westminster. In this session, three invited speakers gave their talk under the title of "Institutions, Social and Political Interactions, Nationalist Right, Policy Space, Development and Governance." Hun Joo Park's presentation titled as "Institutions, Development Functionality, and Democratic Governance" and mainly evaluated the contributions (positive/negative) of institutions to economic development by examining Korean case. The market mechanism, developmental state and their place in the economy were questioned. However, the role of agents, citizens and NGO's should not be forgotten for making a substantial analysis of Korean economic history, was also emphasized. Joachim Becker from Vienna University gave a talk about "Economic and Social Policy Orientations of the Nationalist Right" and the main challenges the Nationalist have been facing in recent times. Fikret Şenses from Middle East Technical University gave a talk about "Rethinking Policy Space in Today's Development Discourse: A Turkish Perspective". Firstly, the policy space debate was explained and its acceptance/evaluation in the development history was given. Turkish case with its vulnerabilities and fragilities both at local and international dimension was also shown.

First day in the afternoon, the invited speaker session was convened by Adam Sofronijevic and the title of the session was "Neoliberalism, Great Recession,

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Political Interactions, Power, Violence, and Development". "Long Run View on Great Recession" was presented by Milenko Popovic from Mediterranean University and by comparing the growth rate of Asia, USA, and Europe, the general trend was shown. Some recommendations and solutions were given based on the problems of growth stagnation after the 2008 financial crisis, and hysteresis/Euro-sclerosis. Farhang Morady from University of Westminster focused on neoliberalism, natural resources and their interaction on development in Iran. The emphasis was on the implementation of neoliberalism and neo-liberal policies in the countries in different ways. Oil such as the most important natural resource should be evaluated both on the dimensions of the convergence/integration to the capitalism and development and also its effect to the state and development according to his point of view.

On the second day of the conference, the paper titled as "Sovereign Wealth Funds in Turkey" which was written by me and Nuri Baltacı, was presented. The aim of the paper was to understand the reason of establishing a sovereign wealth fund in a country. Therefore, a comparison was made between Turkey and the other countries which already had sovereign wealth funds. The presented paper from Mehmet Akyol and Yıldırım Beyazıt Çiçen was also about the sovereign wealth funds and mainly based on to explain their investment decisions. Another presentation about sovereign wealth funds was given by Sevda Akar from Balıkesir University. The new sovereign wealth fund of Turkey was compared with other sovereign wealth funds. In addition to that, the relation of the these funds with state-capitalism was questioned.

All the papers were presented in parallel sessions both in Turkish and English during three days. After presentations, the questions and comments from the participants were given. Publication possibilities and opportunities can be found both in the edited international books and also in several journals. These journals such as Çalışma ve Toplum, KPY Yıllık Açık Alan, Marmara Üniversitesi İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Fakültesi Dergisi, World Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Life Economics, and International Journal of Productivity Management and Assessment Technologies, are all peer-reviewed and important in their field.

These conference series make a great contribution to the field of political economy not just the side of mainstream perspectives but also by the critical perspectives. Interesting and non-ignorable issues could find a place to be discussed and evaluated. Therefore, its contribution for young academicians is an undeniable fact on the ground of (international) political economy in order to understand the main challenges and problems of world economy.



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