

## Editorial Note: 30th Anniversary Conference of the Journal

On May 16, 2016, a conference was held at Boğaziçi University to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Journal*. Prominent scholars in the fields of Economics, Management and Political Science & International Relations presented their recent research work.

Kemal Kirişçi, Brookings Institution, introduced *The Consequences of Chaos: Syria's Humanitarian Crisis and the Failure to Protect*, a recent book written with E. Ferris. Drawing connections between humanitarian need and politics in the Middle East and in Europe, Kirişçi articulated the dire circumstances and outlined the challenges to international humanitarian governance.

Melani Cammett, Harvard University, presented the ongoing research (with I. Diwan) on "Variation in the Rule of Law in the Middle East." "How, if at all, does resource wealth affect governance?" It was examined by studying the variation in governance indicators with respect to oil wealth across the MENA region.

Andrea Vindigni, IMT Lucca, spoke on "Forbidden Fruits: The Political Economy of Science, Religion, and Growth," co-authored by R. Benabou, Princeton University and D. Ticchi, IMT Lucca. He pointed out that "Scientific discoveries damage religiosity by falsifying important doctrinal statements about how the world works." Accordingly, the interplay between distributions of religiosity and income and the resulting coalitions in power could suppress growth-promoting discoveries or knowledge. Finally, religious entrepreneurs could attempt to reform doctrine as scientific discoveries erode them.

Ulrich Schmidt, University of Kiel, discussed the paper titled "Risk Taking and Social Comparison." Risk averse choices reduced economic outcomes for women although in experimental studies the evidence was not conclusive. Schmidt claimed that one explanation to this contradictory evidence might be the fact that the social context played an important role in risk taking.

Zeynep Gürhan-Canlı, Koç University, introduced "Inclusive Business: A New, Sustainable and Innovative Private Sector." She defined "inclusive business" as "providing goods, services and livelihoods on a commercially viable basis" to people living at the bottom, "making them part of the value chain of companies' core business as suppliers, distributors, retailers, or customers." Gürhan-Canlı inquired what made inclusive business successful.

Yılmaz Argüden, ARGE Consulting and Argüden Governance Academy, defined "Good Governance for Quality of Life" with three aspects of power: "how it is acquired, how it is exercised, and how it is legitimized and controlled." Argüden argued that "good governance was the main methodology for improving the quality of the decisions taken and for improving the quality of life through the more effective use of resources."

The Keynote Speech of the Conference entitled "Still the Right Agenda for Europe?" was delivered by Andre Sapir, Université Libre de Bruxelles. Sapir addressed the EU/Eurozone growth puzzle and argued that, despite additional constraints such as the dismal state of public finances, the aging of the population and the political capital having been spent on short term fixes, still the cure was in growth friendly policies and structural reforms that work on both the demand and the supply sides.

These presentations from the Conference can be accessed on the web page of the *Journal*. ([www.bujournal.boun.edu.tr](http://www.bujournal.boun.edu.tr)).

**Refik Erzan**

*Editor*