Proposal for the 3rd MMHN Conference

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Social Space and the Public Sphere in the Making of Izmir, c.1750s-1900s

This paper has as its aim to analyze how society in a city such as Izmir, and its hinterland, generated its social space, at a historically finite time, namely from the mid-eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries and how this (regional) social space interrelated within and with the (national) social space of the Ottoman Empire and with the (international) social space of Europe and, in some cases, beyond.

The paper will also examine how the city’s social space evolved in the course of the period under study and its impact on the making of greater Izmir – namely the city and its hinterland. It will look at the forces within the economy and society of Izmir that led to the genesis and functioning of this social space and the different components, concentric circles of sub-space(s), that made up the city’s social space.

Social space will be considered as a fluid and ever-changing entity being produced and re-produced through concentric circles of social relationships and inter-relationships as well as by economic needs and activities that society both undertook and acted upon. In the process, the public sphere of the city of Izmir, itself a key component of its social space, will be examined.
CV

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Born in Alexandria of Greek parents (from Chios and Lemnos), she grew up in Athens and London. She studied in London and Paris and has a PhD in Economic History from King’s College, London University. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (England), she has been Visiting Research Fellow at the London School of Economics and at Newnham College, Cambridge University. Her research interests relate to the social and economic history (commercial and financial) of the eastern Mediterranean (S. Greece, Aegean islands, western Turkey) in the 18th to the early 20th centuries, with particular emphasis on the economic relations between the city of Smyrna and the West.

Her publications include The Commerce of Smyrna, 1700-1820 (1992); I Chiotes Emporoi stis theithnis synallages, 1750-1850 (1995); Trade and Money: the Ottoman Economy in the 18th and early 19th centuries (2007) and numerous articles in international journals.