About the Contributors

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**Ebru Caglayan Akay** was born in Giresun in 1973. After primary, secondary and high school education in Istanbul she registered the Department of Econometrics in Marmara University in 1992. Her graduation from this department was 1996. Then she became a research assistant in the same department in the same year. Then in 1998 her master thesis and in 2002 her phd thesis about econometrics fields were finished. She continued her academic life in the same department of Marmara University. She has taught lectures econometrics, mathematical economics, micro and macro econometrics. She has 11 books and numerous national and international articles about economics and econometrics. She has been awarded national and international grands. One of them was outstanding referee award from applied economics series and other was Marmara University Academic Achievement Awards, (Publica-
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Randa Alami holds a M.Sc. in Development Economics from Oxford University and a Ph.D. in Economics from London University. She has worked for UNCTAD, Debt Relief International, the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. She is currently a Senior Teaching Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies, and a member of the London Middle East Institute and Middle East Economic Association. She has written on public debt (domestic, external, and military), electricity, and energy issues in Arab countries and the Middle East. Her current research focus is on poverty, equity, and social policy in the context of inclusive growth, with a particular emphasis on healthcare and health policies.

Abdullah Mohammed Alshamsi has been the Vice Chancellor of The British University in Dubai since February 2007. In 1980 Alshamsi graduated from Eckerd College, St Petersburg, USA with a BSc (Mathematics), followed by a BSCE with Honors in 1982 and a MSCE in 1983 both from Georgia Institute of Technology. Alshamsi went on to complete his PhD at Leeds University in 1988. In 1989 Alshamsi joined UAE University and became full Professor of Civil Engineering in 2002. Alshamsi has published numerous journals worldwide and he was also a Member and Chair of numerous committees nationally and internationally.

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Richard M. Bird is Professor Emeritus of Economics, Rotman School of Management, and Senior Fellow of the Institute for Municipal Governance and Finance, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. He has served with the Fiscal Affairs Department of the IMF, and has been a visiting professor in the United States, the Netherlands, Australia, Japan, and India as well as a frequent consultant to the World Bank and other national and international organizations. He has published extensively on taxation and fiscal issues, particularly in developing countries.

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Mohammad R. Farzanegan is Full Professor of Economics of the Middle East and head of Economics of the Middle East Research Group at the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS) of Philipps-Universität Marburg in Germany. From 2012 to 2015, he was assistant professor of Economics of the Middle East at CNMS. In 2010, he was awarded the Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. His PhD study at Dresden University of Technology was mainly focused on the examination of political economy of Iran. His main fields of research are the political economy of natural resources, quality of governance, demographic transition and shadow economy. He got his MS and BA degrees in Energy Economics and Theoretical Economics from Tehran University and Allameh Tabatabai University, respectively. He is affiliated with CESifo Network (Munich), Economic Research Forum (ERF, Cairo), and Marburg Centre for Institutional Economics (MACIE, Marburg). He has several publications in internationally refereed journals such as Applied Economics, Defence and Peace Economics, Ecological Economics, Economics Bulletin, Energy Economics, European Journal of Political Economy, International Journal of Strategic Property Management, SAIS Review, and World Development. He is in Advisory Board of the Middle East – Topics & Arguments.

Justina A. V. Fischer obtained her Master’s Degrees from the University of Heidelberg, the European University Institute and her PhD in Economics from the University of St.Gallen. Her research interests are in Behavioral Economics, Political Economy, Welfare Economics, Labor Economics and Public Economics. She received various Marie Curie fellowships for the Stockholm School of Economics, the University of Rome ‘Tor Vergata’, and the University of Bern, and national fellowships for research stays at the LSE and the Hoover Institute (University of Stanford). Justina AV Fischer worked for the OECD on a project on wellbeing. She also served as visiting professor at the University of Hamburg, the Technical University of Chemnitz and the University of Oradea; she is currently a Visiting Fellow at the University of Mannheim.
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Leonid Efimovich Grinin (b. 16.12.1958) is a Russian philosopher, sociologist, political anthropologist, economist, and futurologist. He has a PhD and is Senior Research Professor of Laboratory of Monitoring of Destabilization Risks, National Research University Higher School of Economics as well as Senior Research Professor at the Institute for Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. He is co-editor of the international journals Social Evolution & History and the Journal of Globalization Studies. Dr. Grinin is the author of more than 400 scholarly publications in Russian, English, and Chinese, including 27 monographs. Grinin’s academic interests lie in the sphere of social laws, social evolution, driving forces of historical development, cyclical trends and patterns, the theory of historical process and its periodization and certain aspects (the productive and political ones), evolution of statehood.

Betül Gür was awarded both her undergraduate degree and M.A. by Istanbul University in 1998 followed by her Ph.D. in Economic Policy from Marmara University. Her career began at Istanbul Commerce University in 2004 where she rose to Assistant Professor in 2007. Subsequently she served as both Vice Director and Director of the Vocational School. In 2013, she was appointed Vice Director of the Graduate School of Foreign Trade. She has published two books; ‘Bilimsel Araştırma ve Yazmada İlkeler-Yöntemler’ (Scientific Thought, Research And Writing: Principles, Methods) and ‘66 Soruda KOBİ Finansmanı’ (Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Finance in 66 questions). She has published various works on macroeconomic issues, economic development and micro credit, including a project report for The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK). Since 2013, Assist. Prof. Dr. Betül Gür has been, and continues to serve as, a member of the Istanbul Commerce University Faculty of Economics.

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Andrey Korotayev is a Russian anthropologist, economic historian, and sociologist, with major contributions to world-systems theory, cross-cultural studies, Near Eastern history, Big History, and mathematical modeling of social and economic macrodynamics. He is currently the Head of the Laboratory of Monitoring of the Risks of Sociopolitical Destabilization of the National Research University Higher School of Economics, and a Senior Research Professor at the Center for Big History and System Forecasting of the Institute of Oriental Studies as well as in the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In addition, he is a Senior Research Professor of the International Laboratory on Political Demography and Social Macrodynamics (PDSM) of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, as well as a Full Professor of the Faculty of Global Studies of the Moscow State University. He is co-editor of the journals Social Evolution & History and Journal of Globalization Studies, as well as History & Mathematics yearbook (together with Leonid Grinin).

Jihène Malek is a doctor in economics, graduated from The University of management and economic sciences of Tunis, Tunis El Manar. She is also researcher, writer of newsletter with some think-thank and member of some international network. His PhD is entitled “industrial policy, globalization and autonomy.”
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**Gokce Dervisoglu Okandan** was born in Istanbul and attended Sankt Georg Commercial School and graduated from Istanbul University School of Economics. She started her academic career right after the graduation at Istanbul University. Her master research and thesis was awarded by Austrian government scholarship and later published as a book on Knowledge Management. She has continued her studies for 7 years and assisted several courses related with basic management education. After resigning from the university she worked as management consultant, especially on participatory methods with several major clients in Turkish industry and third sector. Dervisoglu has than become coordinator of Design Culture and Management Program at Istanbul Bilgi University in 2006. With her PhD Thesis ‘Corporate Support on Art’ (in collaboration with Art & Leadership Centre- Copenhagen Business School) she became Assistant Professor in the same university. Her research interest continues in creativity related issues such as art, design, especially in terms of innovation and sustainability. In 2010 she acted as the pioneer academic actor in the foundation of YEKON- Turkey’s Creative Industries Association and has been working especially on creative entrepreneurship within the GEW Executive Committee and Istanbul Chamber of Industry Quality Board. She has recently completed her post doctoral research at Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School Center for Arts Policy and Research.

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Hilal Yıldız graduated from Istanbul university, department of Finance, completed the PhD in econometrics in 2002, and has been working as associated professor doctor in Kocaeli University, department of economics. The special research areas are econometrics, time series analysis.

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