

Journal of
Social and Administrative Sciences

www.kspjournals.org

Volume 3

June 2016

Issue 2

**IX. European Conference on Social and Behavioral
Sciences, Paris***

By M.Yavuz ALPTEKİN[†]

Abstract. International Association of Social Science Research-IASSR organized ninth of its conference series as “European Conference on Social and Behavioral Sciences” themed on February 3-6, 2016, at Paris. The conference president was Çanakkale On Sekiz Mart University, Prof. Dr. Hasan Arslan. The conference was comprised from 79 sessions and nearly 400 presentations to be made in three days. Average of five presentations were planned to be delivered in each session. Twenty one of presentation was planned to be presented in English while fifty eight of them was in Turkish. Since the conference was a social science event, almost all of the studies were related to dynamism, potential and agenda of social science studies in Turkey except some health science related studies. In this point of view, Education Science was the social science discipline which had most amount of session with 19 sessions in the conference. This quantity is a normal situation for Education Faculties which focus on creating teachers in Turkey. On the other hand, Philosophy was represented in the conference with only one session and three presentations therefore this gave a clear understanding about the dynamism, focus and potential of social science studies conducted in Turkey. Firstly, the message of sufficient motivation is not provided for Philosophy science could be understood. Secondly, the result of that thought, interpretation, comprehension and contemplation level of social science studies conducted in Turkey is low could be derived. The authorized bodies in Turkey should give greater attention to this subject could be thought.

Keywords. Paris- IASSR Conference, Social science, Social science development in Turkey.

JEL. A10.

Conference Notes

Ninth of Social and Behavioral Sciences series was organized by IASSR (International Association of Social Science Research) on February 3-6, 2016, at Paris. The conference took place in six session rooms with 79 sessions during three days. 21 of sessions were in English while 58 of them in Turkish.

Following the commencement speech of IASSR President Prof. Dr. Hasan Arslan in the conference, three professors from Europe and America delivered presentations. The first speaker was Prof. Francesco Sidoti from University of L’Aquila, Italy. The presentation title of Sidoti was “Habits enforcement and peace enforcement”. The second speaker was Prof. Maria Slowery from University of

* International Association of Social Science Research, 3-6 February, Paris, France.

[†] Karadeniz Technical University, Department of Sociology, Trabzon, Turkey.

☎ +90 462 3774378

✉ m.yavuzalptekin@ktu.edu.tr

Journal of Social and Administrative Sciences

Dublin, Ireland. The presentation title of Slowery was “Rethinking equality challenges: higher education in the wider educational land scape”. The third speaker was Prof. Alejandro J. Gallard from University of South Georgia, United States of America and the presentation title was “Plan all you want but if you do not take into account the contextual factors that mitigate your plans, the best you will do is plan hard”. All of three presentations were seminal as suitable to an international conference spirit.

Although the event was international and there were foreign participants, Rome Congress presented very important information related to Social Sciences’ dynamism and focus area conducted in Turkey since majority of the academicians were from Turkey. Through this perspective, it is clearly seen that the most presentation was delivered in Education Sciences with 19 sessions. Education Sciences were followed by Business Administration with 7 sessions, Economics with 7 sessions, Sociology with 6 sessions, Fine Arts with 6 sessions, Psychology with 5 sessions, Law with 4 sessions, Communication with 4 sessions, Finance with 3 sessions, and Culture Sciences, Human Sciences, International relations, Politics, History and other Social Science fields with each of 2 sessions.

Like dominating the whole congress Education Sciences had the most amounts of sessions as creating a huge gap with other Social Science fields is an important topic to discuss. For example, Philosophy was represented in only one session with three presentations, while Education Sciences were represented in 19 sessions with 90 presentations and this situation could be explained as History, Geography, Language, Literature and Philosophy Groups fields are considered as teacher profession groups.

In the congress where Geography was not placed as categorically, the sum of sessions of History, Language, Literature and Philosophy Groups was behind the Education Sciences. Therefore, the quantitative superiority of Education Sciences was not associated with the quantitative explanations but related to research methodology. The studies conducted in this area were quantitative studies which were generally based on survey studies. Although the implementation of survey based studies and converting the obtained data into an article as evaluating the data is tiresome, it is seen that it has high potential on motivating science production in this way. This ontological structure of Education sciences could be explained as that it is more productive. Additionally, in spite of all, science studies, which were conducted with quantitative methods as including many surveys, were successful on drawing attentions as Fernand Braudel, Berrington Moore and many other authorities in Social Sciences mentioned. It is understood that we should give greater attention to interpret, explanatory approach and explanatory understanding in addition to explain the society, social groups and individuals.

Since it is also my interest area and is the social field which has interdisciplinary characteristics in Social Sciences, the analysis of presentation topics, delivered in Sociology sessions, might be taken into account even in a non-exhaustive way. Throughout the congress, Sociology was represented in six sessions with 29 presentations. As E. Durkheim mentioned, Sociology Science might have more amount of sessions since it is the intermediate and also middle of each science; and it is also a unique study room alike with other science fields in a science house. Without hesitation, this situation is both advantage and disadvantage of Sociology.

Therefore, focusing on some of the Sociology presentations delivered in the Congress might be beneficial. For instance, one of the presentations was titled as “Social Science, Or Social Engineering? Some Criticisms On Doxological Social Science Practices In Turkey” and directed serious critique to Sociology studies in Turkey. According to this critique, Sociology studies in Turkey could not release

Journal of Social and Administrative Sciences

themselves from making social engineering in the direction of some sort of thoughts, beliefs and speculations, and important amount of studies might be included into this group. According to the study, which was grounded depending on the real data from the field, Sociology is not and must not be engineering. This approach, might also be named as easiness, gives obstacles to Sociology Science development in a healthy and prestigious way.

Another study, presented in Sociology sessions, was titled as “Corruption and Its Social Roots in Asian Societies” and focused on the corruption cases in Asian societies. The study was based on World Transparency Union data and interpreted this data. According to the related data, Africa and Asian countries represented the worst countries in terms of corruption cases in the world. The author claimed that Africa cases could be explained with colonialism, center-periphery effects and getting underdeveloped however Asia had a more complex situation and associated the unique corruption cases of Asia with the paternalistic, egoist and reaver culture in the basis of geography.

Other Sociology presentations and agenda in the congress had various topics. Presentations were delivered in many sub disciplines ranging from Family Sociology to Economic Sociology. However, some studies about migration and social exclusion were made together and this situation could be interpreted as the reflection of migration topic, which was sourced through Syria, to scientific studies.

When the organizational aspects of Paris Conference, which was the 9th scientific event organized by IASSR, are evaluated, many deficiency could be found. For example, the event location was too far from Paris center, the transportation for the location was difficult and lasting a long time for those who did not know Paris, small portative devices which had insufficient resolution were used for presentations instead of quality and effective projection devices. Additionally, a group from Turkey organized an international scientific event like this conference in abroad was a new concept, therefore this is a very important event which showed that scientific studies in Turkey reached to a certain degree at least in terms of quantitative means as structurally in addition to individual entrepreneurship.



Copyrights

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0>).

