

Constructing a new language from a marxist perspective for social sciences in the 21st century: a proposal

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Abstract

As it has been widely argued, 20th century Marxism – especially in the second half of the century- was relatively more focused on “symbolic re-production” contrary to the thinkers such as Lenin, Hilferding or Luxemburg who emphasized the “material re-production”. There has been a general tendency to concentrate more on the areas such as aesthetics and culture rather than political economy and infrastructural analysis. It can be said that material re-production was subordinated by symbolic re-production. But on the other hand, the opposite is also present; the subordination of symbolic re-production to material re-production is in sight especially in the field of economics (in one Marxist variant to another). This fragmentation comes with the intensive division of social sciences - either Marxist or not - and depicts a true “schizophrenic” disciplinary look which results in over-specialization (for example; economics mainly focusing on *material re-production*, political science mainly focusing on *re-production of power* and cultural studies focusing on *symbolic re-production* while they are making a contribution to the *re-production of knowledge* by their own manner).

What makes Marx’s “Capital” important; is not only its explanatory content of the moment, but more than that, its methodological guidance – in an epistemological sense - for analysing the social phenomenon. Marx’s epistemology in “Capital”, is both *holistic* by taking the social phenomenon in the context of relations in which it is located in, is *historical* by taking the facts with their changing dynamics in time, and is also *critical* by indicating the relations of power. This paper suggests going back to the basic epistemological roots - which are embedded in “Capital” - for an entire understanding in analysing the social phenomenon. By doing so it seeks a new language between the spheres of material and symbolic re-production and the re-production of power and knowledge from a Marxist perspective. The final objective of the study

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is to constitute a conceptual framework for an alternative / critical analysis for social sciences in the 21st Century.

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Current Academic Situation:

Prof. Dr., Department of Economics, Marmara University, İstanbul

Books:

Money and Capitalism, 2005 (in Turkish)

Modernism Capitalism and Underdevelopment, 2001 (in Turkish)

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EDUCATION

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- 2001-2004/** **M.Sc** - Dokuz Eylül University, Institute of Social Sciences, Public Administration
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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BOOK CHAPTERS

Selçuk, Güven: “Emek Gücünün ve Üretim İlişkilerinin Yeniden-Üretimi Bağlamında Eğitimin ve Bilimin İdeolojik İşlevleri” (Ideological Functions of Education and Science in the Context of Re-production of Labour Power and Relations of Production), **Bilim ve İktidar**, Dipnot Yayınları (will be published in 2008).

INTERNATIONAL PROCEEDINGS

Hanssen, Graeme; Selçuk, Güven: “**The Importance of Focusing on E-commerce in Tertiary Institutions**”, Eastern Mediterranean University, The 6th International Educational Technology Conference, April 2006.

NATIONAL PROCEEDINGS

Selçuk, Senem Sönmez; Selçuk, Güven: “**Resmi Türk Kimliğinin İnşası Bağlamında Kimlik Krizleri ve Türkiye’de Vatandaşlık Bilmeceşi**” (Identity Crises and Citizenship Enigma in Turkey in the Context of Constructing Formal Turkish Identity), Türk Sosyal Bilimler Derneği, 10. Social Sciences Congress, ODTÜ Kongre ve Kültür Merkezi, Ankara, 28-30 November 2007.

Selçuk, Güven: “**Emek Gücünün ve Üretim İlişkilerinin Yeniden-Üretimi Bağlamında Eğitimin ve Bilimin İdeolojik İşlevleri**” (Ideological Functions of Education and Science in the Context of Re-production of Labour Power and Relations of Production), Karaburun Science Congress, 8-10 September 2006.
available at: http://www.kongrekaraburun.org/ozetler/A2_3.pdf

Selçuk, Güven: / “**Popüler Kültür Kavramındaki Anlam Kayması ve ‘Egemen Popüler Kültür’ün Postmodern Karakteri**” (The Semantic Transformation in the Concept of Popular Culture and the Postmodern Character of ‘Dominant Popular Culture’), Anadolu University Faculty of Communication Sciences, II. National Communication Students Symposium, 17-18 November 2005.
available at: <http://www.iletsem.anadolu.edu.tr/bildiriler/pdf/14.pdf>

NEWSPAPER COLUMNS

Selçuk, Güven: “**Zehirli Havuç**” (Poisonous Carrot), Radikal Newspaper, “Radikal İki” Sunday Supplement, 09 October 2005
available at: http://www.radikal.com.tr/ek_haber.php?ek=r2&haberno=5147

INVITED PARTICIPATIONS

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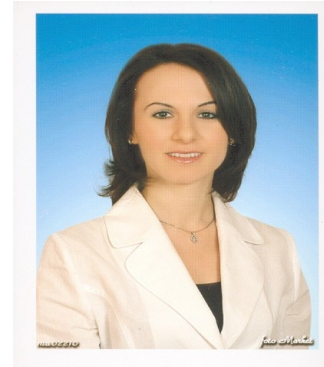
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Selçuk, Senem Sönmez; Selçuk, Güven: **“Resmi Türk Kimliğinin İnşası Bağlamında Kimlik Krizleri ve Türkiye’de Vatandaşlık Bilmecesi”** (Identity Crises and Citizenship Enigma in Turkey in the Context of Constructing Formal Turkish Identity), Türk Sosyal Bilimler Derneği, 10. Social Sciences Congress, ODTÜ Kongre ve Kültür Merkezi, Ankara, 28-30 November 2007.