

studies on the Ottoman rural population that is going on the market as this dissertation is being defended, Suraiya Faroqhi observes, “villagers before the late 1800s – or even the twentieth century – have left very few traces of their cultural orientations, including even religious practice[. W]ith a few notable exceptions, once culture and identity dominated the [historiographical] scene, Ottoman peasants disappeared from the historiography.”<sup>26</sup> In this regard, Amy Singer’s investigations in the 1990s of the Ramle and Jerusalem countryside in the sixteenth century are innovative in their successful efforts to extract from statistical and other sources “from-above” villagers’ political, social, and economic roles.<sup>27</sup> In the same vein, Leslie Peirce has written a historical study of legal culture and gender, based on one year in the court of sixteenth-century Aintab. Peirce focuses on the stories of individual rural and urban subaltern clients of the courtroom in order to analyze and explain local legal culture and the local interpretation of broader contemporary historical processes.<sup>28</sup> These studies have served me as methodological guides in this dissertation, because it sets before itself two equally important goals: one, understanding the implementation of Ottoman property-tenure reform in rural Palestine and two, recovering the histories of the Palestinian

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<sup>26</sup> Quoted in the Introduction to *Halcyon Days in Crete VIII: Ottoman Rural Societies and Economie* (Crete University Press, 2015), entitled “Bringing the Peasants Back In?” and authored by Elias Kolovos .[http://www.cup.gr/Files/files/HALCYON\\_VIII-INTRODUCTION.pdf](http://www.cup.gr/Files/files/HALCYON_VIII-INTRODUCTION.pdf) , accessed 27 December 2015.

<sup>27</sup> Amy Singer, “The Countryside of Ramle in the Sixteenth Century : A Study of Villages with Computer Assistance”, *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 33/1 (1990), 51-79; Idem., *Palestinian peasants and Ottoman officials: Rural administration around sixteenth-century Jerusalem* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994).

<sup>28</sup> Leslie Peirce, *Morality Tales: Law and Gender in the Ottoman Court of Aintab* (Berkeley: UC Press, 2003).