

VISUALIZING HISTORY IN FENER:

INSIGHTS FROM OTTOMAN CENSUS RECORDS (1844)

This study analyzed a dataset on **Greek Orthodox communities** in **Fener**, a historic neighborhood in Istanbul, Türkiye. The dataset includes **1,992 Ottoman census records (defter 230)** from **1844**. It provide information on **places of origin**, **professions**, **tax status**, **names**, **physical features**, and **illnesses**. The data contain some gaps. To address these gaps, a semi-automated and manual cleaning process was performed, including deleting **empty rows**, deleting **special characters**, and adjusting **data formats**. Only one value was retained in cases of double values in the records. After the cleaning process, **frequency** and **bivariate** analyses were performed and visualization are showed below.

This study is part of [İstanΠόλις Collaborative’s Ottoman Census Registers project](#) at [UC Berkeley](#).

Top five places of origin



Places of Origin

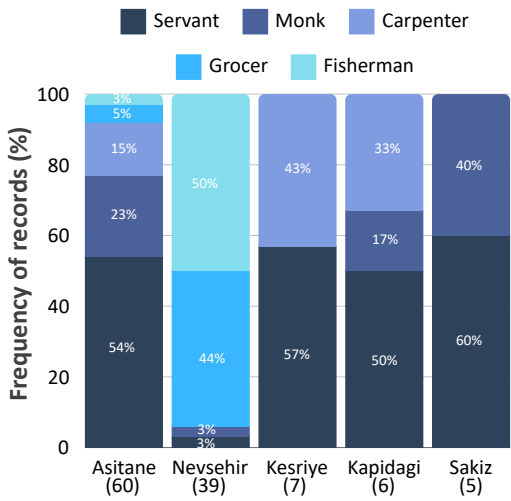
1

257 different places of origin.

The most common **places of origin** are **Asitane** and **Nevşehir**.

Asitane is currently known as **Istanbul**.
Kesriye (Kastoria), Yanya (Ioannina).

Top five professions by top five places of origin



Professions

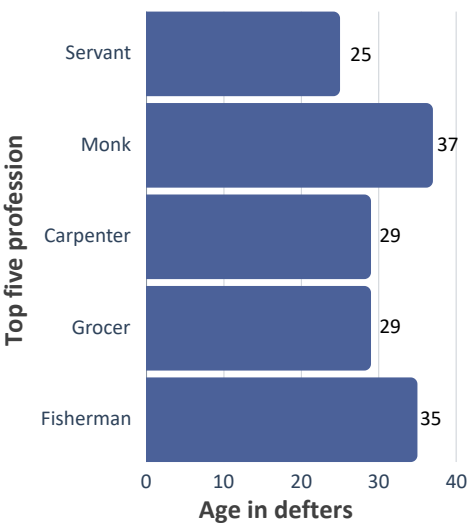
2

287 different professions.

50% of people from **Nevşehir** were **Fisherman**.

Nevşehir lacked bodies of water, so people from there likely adapted to become **fishermen** in Fener, located in the cost of Istanbul.

Average age of people by top five professions in defters



★ Percentages were calculated using a subset including **top five profession** and **top five places of origin** (117 records).

★ The monks averaged 37 years of age.

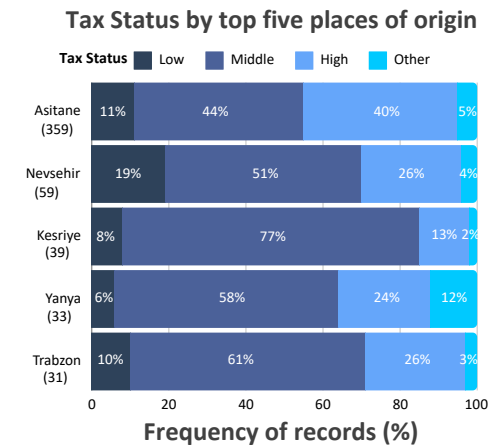
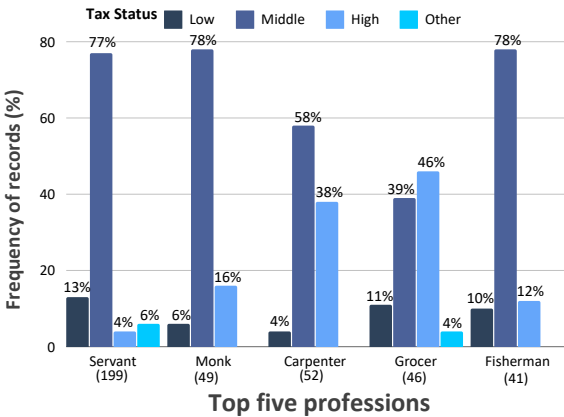
Tax Status

3

Tax status (cizye) means a fee imposed to non-Muslims for providing protection.

Fener was a key commercial center. **Grocers** likely had high incomes, **increasing** their need for **protection** and resulting in a higher **tax status** for them.

Tax status by top five professions



★ Percentages were calculated using a subset including **tax status** and **top five places of origin** (521 records).

★ Percentages were calculated using a subset including **tax status** and **top five professions** (387 records).

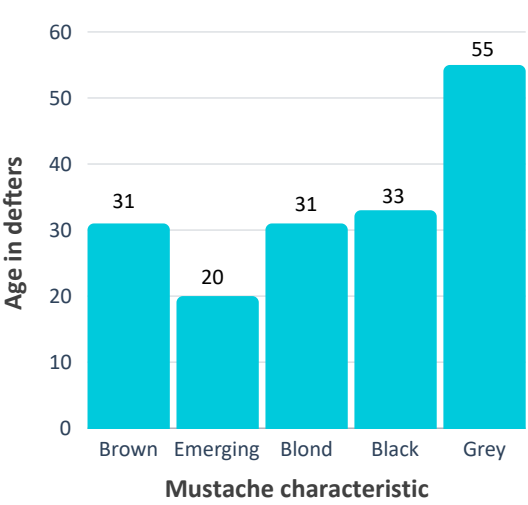
Physical Features

4

Brown mustache was the most common physical feature.

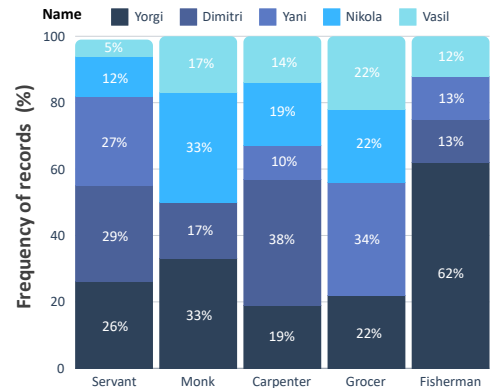
People with **gray** mustache were **elderly**.

Average Age by top five physical features



★ Percentages were calculated using a subset including **top five physical features** and **top five places of origin** (422 records).

Most common names in defters



Names

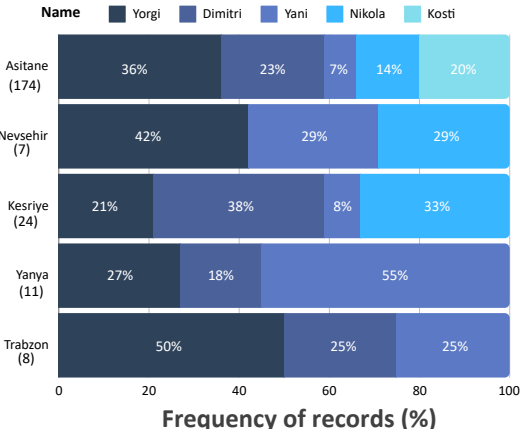
5

481 different names.

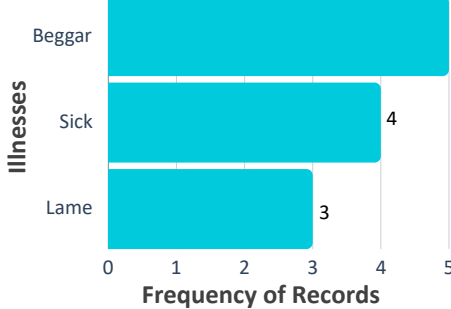
55% of the **servants** were called **Nikola** or **Yorgi**.

There is not **enough** data, but **apparently** the name **Yani** was more common in people from **Yanya**.

Common names by top five places of origin



★ Percentages were calculated using a subset including **top five names** and **top five places of origin** (224 records).



Others

6

Out of **1,992** records, only **16** contained data in the **illnesses** column.

Out of **7** different words in the **illnesses** column, only **3** referred to diseases.