

Prof. Barlas Tolan's Biography

Born in Denizli in 1943, Barlas Tolan graduated from Galatasaray High School in 1962. After completing his undergraduate studies at the Bordeaux Institute of Political Studies, he earned his PhD from the University of Paris in 1971 with a dissertation entitled "The Problem of Urbanization in Turkey".

Between 1971 and 1973, Tolan worked as a specialist at the State Planning Organization. He began his academic career in 1974 at the Faculty of Administrative Sciences, Gazi University and continued it between 1986 and 1993 at the Department of Public Administration (French-medium), Marmara University. He was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1989. Throughout his academic career, he conducted research on urban issues, family structure, industrial workers, and alienation.

Tolan also taught as a visiting professor at the University of Bordeaux and the University of Paris. He published numerous books and articles in the field of social sciences. Among his major works are "Introduction to the Social Sciences" (Adım, Ankara, 1996), "The Crisis of Contemporary Society: Anomie and Alienation" (AİTİA Publications, No. 132, 1980), and "A View from Turkey to the World: The Image of Europe in Turkey and Its Impact on the Construction of National Identity" (Galatasaray University Publications, Istanbul, April 1999).

In addition to his academic and administrative responsibilities, social responsibility occupied an important place in Tolan's life. He was a member of the Turkish Sociological Association, the Turkish Social Sciences Association, the International Association of French-speaking Sociologists, and the Association for Thought and Culture, and he actively participated in the activities of these organizations.

From 1993 onward, Tolan served in various administrative positions at Galatasaray University, whose founding process he had personally helped to shape, including the position of Vice Rector. He remained Head of the Department of Sociology until his retirement.

Prof. Barlas Tolan was one of the founders of Galatasaray University, whose foundations were laid under the international agreement signed between France and Turkey in 1992. Together with retired Ambassador Coşkun Kırca, he made significant contributions to the design of the curricula of all university departments and to the establishment of the Advanced French and Preparation for the Social Sciences classes, which had no equivalent in the Turkish university system at the time. As the founding Vice Rector of Galatasaray University, he also played a leading role in the establishment of the Institute of Social Sciences, Galatasaray University and the Department of Sociology, Galatasaray University.