In histories of preventing and treating tuberculosis, physicians came
to prioritize the place and role of the home by the late nineteenth
and early twentieth centuries. This was as true in the West as it was
in the late Ottoman Empire. Also common, practices of
scapegoating the poor and other marginalized populations as
TB sources and carriers were pervasive. This paper examines how
ideas of health, TB, and home converged to accentuate class in the
ostensibly objective public health literature and propaganda of late
Ottoman and early republican Turkey. Analyzing both textual and
graphic narratives found in primary sources written in Ottoman
Turkish, this study explores how officials – lacking resources and
alternatives – opted to pursue ambitious public health propaganda
campaigns to at least achieve broad educational inoculation of the
population. In doing so, rudimentary matters of treatment were
taught and legislated in ways that aligned with the contemporary
propagation of national citizenship.