

International Conference

## **Contemporary Turkish Studies at a Glance II: Turkey Transformed? Power, History, Culture**

Date: **October 18-19, 2014**

Venue: **Istanbul Bilgi University, Santral Campus**

Turkey has undergone substantial social, economic, and political transformations over the last decades. Political reforms have reshuffled power relations between institutions, actors, and elites; economic development has benefited broad segments of society across the country; and, until recently, Turkey convincingly presented itself as a key actor in the region.

Yet, authoritarianism, corruption, and growing societal polarization recall some of the darker moments in the country's troubled history. At the same time, these developments have sparked a social counter-movement, which cuts across ideological, social, religious, and cultural divisions. The movement, which became most visible during the Gezi protests, illustrated the capacities of a pluralistic civil society and offered a snapshot of the potentialities of inclusive forms of social organizations in Turkey.

Recent political developments have raised the question to what extent the last decades have witnessed a real transformation of the power structures that shape Turkish society. Has the country's political culture moved beyond modes of hierarchical engagement between the state and its citizens? Are we witnessing the rise of new forms of state action or a return to 20<sup>th</sup> century authoritarianism? In this context, the transformative impact and lasting power of the Gezi movement must be critically assessed.

### **Outline**

The two-day conference will provide an opportunity for young scholars focusing on issues related to Turkey to present their papers to some of the most renowned academics and institutions in the field. They will have the chance to position themselves in the international research community and to debate related topics and research questions in an interdisciplinary environment. The event will be framed by a panel discussion and keynote speeches by some of the most prestigious scholars in the field. Furthermore, eight panels will focus on central issues and research questions for the studies of contemporary Turkey. Each panel will include three presentations and a discussion moderated by the panel chair.

The topics, framing the presentations and the discussions of the panels have detailed in the Call for Papers. Each day will finish with a roundtable discussion highlighting the outcome of the panels by the chairs and the implications for Turkish Studies as an interdisciplinary and applied area of study. Additionally, while the conference is underway, organizations, journals and other actors engaged with Turkish Studies will set-up stands to exhibit their work and publications.

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**October 18, 2014**

**09:30 - 10:00**

**Registration**

**10:00 - 10:30**

**Welcoming Remarks**

Remzi Sanver - Rector of Istanbul Bilgi University, *tbc*

Ayhan Kaya - Istanbul Bilgi University

Daniel Grütjen - Network Turkey

Esra Özyürek - London School of Economics

Fuat Keyman - Istanbul Policy Center

Michael Schwarz - Stiftung Mercator, *tbc*

**10:30 - 11:15**

**Panel: Gezi and Beyond**

Fuat Keyman - Istanbul Policy Center

Nilüfer Göle - Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales

Craig Calhoun - London School of Economics

**Moderator:** Elise Massicard - Centre d'études et de recherches internationales

**11:30 - 13:00**

**Panel Session I** (three 20 minutes presentations per panel, 30 minutes discussion)

**Panel I**

**Turkey and its Neighbors**

**Chair**

Senem Aydın Düzgit - Istanbul Bilgi University

**Panel II**

**Democratization and Institutional Reform**

**Chair**

Fuat Keyman - Istanbul Policy Center

**13:00 - 14:30**

**Lunch Break**

**14:30 - 16:00**

**Panel Session II**

**Panel III**

**Public Space and Contestation**

**Chair**

Ayfer Bartu Candan - Boğaziçi University

**Panel IV**

**Diasporas and Transnationalism**

**Chair**

Ayhan Kaya - Istanbul Bilgi University

**16:00 - 16:30**

**Coffee Break**

**16:30 - 17:30**

**Concluding Panel**

Senem Aydın Düzgit - Istanbul Bilgi University

Ayfer Bartu Candan - Boğaziçi University

Ayhan Kaya - Istanbul Bilgi University

Fuat Keyman - Istanbul Policy Center

**Chair:** Pinar Uyan - Istanbul Bilgi University

**October 19, 2014**

**9:30 - 10:30**

**Keynote Speech**

Cihan Ziya Tuğal - University of California, Berkeley

**10:45 - 12:15**

**Panel Session III**

**Panel V: Historical Perspectives**

**Chair**

Suraiya Faroqhi - Istanbul Bilgi University

**Panel VI: Political Economy**

**Chair**

Çağlar Keyder - Boğaziçi University

**12:15 - 13:30 Lunch**

**13:30 - 14:30**

**Keynote Speech**

Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

**14:45 - 16:15**

**Panels**

**Panel VII: Rule of Law**

**Chair**

Kerem Altıparmak – Ankara University

**Panel VIII: Identities and Transgressions:  
Religion, Ethnicity, Sexuality**

**Chair**

Esra Özyürek - London School of Economics

**16:15 - 16:45**

**Coffee Break**

**16:45 - 17:45**

**Concluding Panel**

Kerem Altıparmak - Ankara University

Suraiya Faroqhi - Istanbul Bilgi University

Çağlar Keyder - Boğaziçi University

Esra Özyürek - London School of Economics

**Chair:** Kerem Öktem - University of Graz

**17:45 - 18:00**

**Closing Remarks**

Meltem Ersoy - Network Turkey

Ayhan Kaya - Istanbul Bilgi University