

International Conference

Contemporary Turkey 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 20th 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 the studies of Turkey as an interdisciplinary and applied area of study. Additionally, while the conference is underway, organizations, journals and other actors engaged with the studies of Turkey will set-up stands to exhibit their work and publications.

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Program

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

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

Chair: Elise Massicard - Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

11:30 - 13:00

Session I

Panel I

Turkey and its Neighbors

Birce Altıok - Koç University

Sinan Karşıyaka - Istanbul Bilgi University

Re-calibrating the Turkish Foreign Policy after the Arab Spring: From Pro-activism to Uncertainty by Easing off Ideational and Liberal Goals

Jean-Baptiste Le Moulec - Institut Français Anatoliennes

A Turkish Epistemic Community: Sociology of a Foreign Policy Brainstorming

Magdalena Kirchner - German Council on Foreign Relations

Şafak Baş

Chaldiran 2.0: Conceptualizing Iranian-Turkish Relations after the Arab Spring

Chair

Senem Aydın Düzgüt - Istanbul Bilgi University

Panel II

Democratization and Institutional Reform

Nicolas Monceau - University of Bordeaux

State and Religion: the Evolution of Secularism in Turkey - Official ideology, Political Polarization and Social Perceptions

Ceren Lord - London School of Economics
'Path-dependent Path-shaping'; Situating Change under the AKP

Kerem Yıldırım - Koç University
Clientelistic Linkages and the Turkish Democracy

Ebru İlhan - Eczacıbaşı Group
Plugged Out: AKP's Mishandling of Turkey's Economic, Political and Social Adaptation to the Digital Era

Chair

Fuat Keyman - Istanbul Policy Center

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch Break

14:30 - 16:00

Session II

Panel III
Public Space and Contestation

Azat Zana Gündoğan - University of Michigan
Divergent Forms of Contestation against Urban Transformation Projects in the Istanbul City-region: The Role of Ethnicity and Political Memory in Grassroots Mobilization

Deniz Yonucu - Boğaziçi University
Thinking the Gezi Uprisings together with the Violence in Alevi Neighborhoods: Reflections on Conflict, Politics and Radicalisation

Zerrin Özlem Biner - University of Cambridge, *tbc*
What is Hidden beneath the Wall Surrounding the Mor Gabriel Monastery? Consolidating Borders between Self and Other, Self and the State

Chair

Ayfer Bartu Candan - Boğaziçi University

Panel IV
Diasporas and Transnationalism

Kristen Biehl - University of Oxford
Contested Homes: Social and Spatial Encounters with Difference in a Migrant Hub of Istanbul

John McManus - University of Oxford
Exploring Virtual Diasporic Space: Examples from European Beşiktaş Fans

Aylin Yıldırım Tschoepe - Harvard University
Locating the German Turks: Transnational Return Migration and Constructions of Culture, Identity and Space

Gerda Heck - University of Göttingen
Worshipping in the Hotel Golden Age

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 Semerci - Istanbul Bilgi University

October 19, 2014

9:30 - 10:30

Keynote Speech

Cihan Ziya Tuğal - University of California, Berkeley

10:45 - 12:15

Session III

Panel V

Historical Perspectives

Christiane Czygan – University of Hamburg
The Ruler and the People: Shifting Paradigms in Ottoman Ruler Poetry from the 15th to the 19th century

Sara-Marie Demiriz - University of Münster
Pledging Allegiance to the Nation: Celebrations of the Nation in Atatürk's Turkey

Erol Ülker - Istanbul Kemerburgaz University
Turkish National Movement, Mass Mobilization, and Demographic Change in Istanbul, 1922-1923

Chair

Suraiya Faroqhi - Istanbul Bilgi University

Panel VI

Political Economy

Tim Dorlach - Koç University
Social Neoliberalism in Comparative Perspective: Changing Patterns of Inequality during the AKP Era

Lisa Ahsen Sezer – London School of Economics
The Political Economy of Business Associations in Turkey: Social Movement Tactics, Social Networks, and Regional Development

Meltem Yılmaz Şener – Istanbul Bilgi University
AKP's Implementation of a Risk Management Project of the World Bank: Creating Entrepreneurial or Charity Dependent Poor People?

Gül Berna Özcan - Royal Holloway University London

Umut Gündüz - Istanbul Technical University
Changing Business-Politics Connections Under Political Islam: The Case of Energy Privatisations

Chair

Çağlar Keyder - Boğaziçi University

12:15 - 13:30

Lunch Break

13:30 - 14:30

Keynote Speech

Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

14:45 - 16:15

Session IV

Panel VII: Rule of Law

Elif Gözler - University of Exeter*Turkey's New Constitution Making Attempt and the Participation of Minority Organizations during the Public Consultation Process***Ayşegül Kars Kaynar** - Middle East Technical University, tbc*Political Trials and Second Jurisdiction of the State: Normalcy of the Exception***Mine Yıldırım** - Norwegian Helsinki Committee*The ECtHR- An Effective Agent of Domestic Change in the Context of the Protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Turkey?***Chair**

Kerem Altıparmak - Ankara University

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

Chiara Maritato - University of Turin*Reassessing Turkish Social Assistance in the Light of Religious Female Engagement: Female Preachers (vaizeler) between Spiritual and Social Support***Hikmet Kocamaner** - Brandeis University
*Governing the Family through Religion in Contemporary Turkey: Secularism, Presidency of Religious Affairs, and Family Guidance and Counseling Offices***Esin Düzel** - University of California
*Becoming "Beautiful" in Diyarbakir: Changing Moral and Political Landscapes in Post-Conflict Kurdistan***Bülent Bilmez** - Istanbul Bilgi University
*Coming to Terms with the Future: Collective Memory Politics on Dersim Massacre (1937-38) and (un)willingness to Confront the Religious and Ethnic Complexity in Turkey***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