



# Contemporary **Turkish** Studies

## PUBLIC CONFERENCE

# TURKEY'S REGIONAL POLICY AT A CROSSROADS

**Date:** Monday, 28 April 2014

**Time:** 16:00-20:00

**Venue:** CLM.3.02, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Clement House, LSE, WC2B 4JF, London

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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**16:00 – 16:10**      **Introduction**

**Professor Maurice Fraser**, Director, European Institute, LSE

**16:10 – 17:40**      **Session I: *Turkey's Syria Predicament***

**Paper Titles and Speakers:**

***"Turkey and the Syrian Uprising: Between a Rock and a Hard Place"***

**Dr. Özlem Tür**, Associate Professor of International Relations, and the Chair of the Middle East Programme, Middle East Technical University, Ankara

***"Turkey's Syrian Quagmire"***

**Dr. Christopher Phillips**, Lecturer in the International Relations of the Middle East, Queen Mary, University of London

***"The Impact of the Syrian Civil War on Turkey-Syria-Iran Relations"***

**Professor Özden Zeynep Oktav**, Yıldız Teknik University, İstanbul

**Chair: Dr. Rebecca Bryant**, A.N. Hadjiyannis Senior Research Fellow, European Institute, LSE

**17:40 – 18:10**      **Coffee Break**

**18:10 – 19:40**      **Session II: *Iraq, Iran, and the Regional Kurdish Question***

**Paper Titles and Speakers:**

***"The Arab Spring and Turkey-Iran Relations, 2011-2014"***

**Dr. Süleyman Elik**, Assistant Professor of International Politics, Istanbul Medeniyet University

***“Turkey and the KRG in a Rapidly Changing Middle Eastern Political Setting”***

Dr. Marianna Charountaki, Post-doctoral Fellow, Reading University, UK

***“Turkey's New Little Brother: the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Turkish Foreign Policy”***

Professor Gareth Stansfield, Professor of Middle East Politics, University of Exeter, and Director of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies

**Chair:** Associate Professor Rıfat Barış Tekin, Marmara University, İstanbul and Visiting Fellow, LSE

**19:40 – 20:00      Closing Remarks**

**This event is free and open to all with no ticket required.**

**Seating will be based on first come first served.**

For further information about the LSE Contemporary Turkish Studies and its seminars and other activities, please contact:

E-mail: [euroinst.turkish.studies@lse.ac.uk](mailto:euroinst.turkish.studies@lse.ac.uk) or Tel: +44 (020) 7955 6067

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/ContemporaryTurkishStudies/Home.aspx>

To find your way to the Clement House (CML Building), please refer to the LSE map below:



## Speaker Biographies:

**Marianna Charountaki** is a post-doctoral fellow at Reading University (UK). Her research interests range from international relations and foreign policy analysis to the international relations of the broader Middle East. She is the author of the book *The Kurds and US Foreign Policy: International Relations in the Middle East since 1945* (Routledge, 2010), which has also been translated into Kurdish and Arabic.

**Süleyman Elik** is Assistant Professor of International Politics at Istanbul Medeniyet University, the Faculty of Political Science/International Relations. After receiving his PhD from Durham University (UK), Dr. Elik was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Durham University's School of Government and International Affairs and Energy Institute. He is the author of *Iran-Turkey Relations, 1979-2011: Conceptualising the Dynamics of Politics, Religion and Security in Middle-Power States*, (London: Routledge, 2011).

**Özden Zeynep Oktav** is Professor at Yıldız Technical University, where she has been teaching for fifteen years on Turkish Foreign Policy and the Middle East, specifically Syria and Iran. She is the author of three books, *Limits of Relations with the West: Turkey, Syria and Iran* (Beta, 2008); *Changing Dynamics of the Persian Gulf: Iran-USA-Saudi Arabia Relations* (Beta, 2011); and *Turkey in the 21st Century: Quest for a New Turkish Foreign Policy* (Ashgate, 2011); as well as numerous book chapters and articles. Prof. Oktav was a visiting scholar at Cambridge University in 2011 and is currently conducting research as a visiting scholar at St. Andrews University during the 2013-14 academic year.

**Christopher Phillips** is Lecturer in the International Relations of the Middle East at Queen Mary, University of London. His research focuses on the role of identity in the politics and international relations of the Middle East, focussing primarily on Syria, but with complementary research on Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon. He also examines the regional and international reaction to the ongoing Syria Civil War, and how it is reshaping Middle Eastern politics. He has written for The Guardian, Huffington Post and various other publications and appeared on BBC Newsnight, Radio 4's Today Programme, BBC News, Al-Jazeera, Sky News and Channel 4 News. His first book, *Everyday Arab Identity: The Daily Reproduction of the Arab World* was published by Routledge in 2012.

**Gareth Stansfield** is Professor of Middle East Politics at the University of Exeter, and Director of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies. He is also a Senior Associate Fellow of the Royal United Services Institute.

**Özlem Tür** is an Associate Professor of International Relations and the Chair of the Middle East program at Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. Her main expertise includes the Arab-Israeli conflict and Turkey's relations with the Middle East (especially Syria, Israel and Lebanon). Her publications include *Turkey-Syria Relations – Between Enmity and Amity* (London: Ashgate, 2013, co-edited with Raymond Hinnebusch); "Turkey and Israel in the 2000s" (*Israel Studies*, 2012); "Political Economy of Turkey's Relations with the Middle East" (*Turkish Studies*, 2011), "Turkish-Syrian Relations in the 2000s – Where are we Going?" (UNISCI 2010), *Turkey – Challenges of Continuity and Change* (London: Routledge, 2005, with Meliha Altunışık). Dr. Tür is also the editor-in-chief of the scholarly journal *Ortadoğu Etütleri* (Middle Eastern Studies).