

International Conference

**Contemporary Turkey at a Glance II:**

**Turkey Transformed? Power, History, Culture**

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

Venue: **Istanbul Bilgi University, santralistanbul 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 been 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 Düzgit - 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**

*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** - Özyeğin 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***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