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.

Supported by

Stiftung Mercator
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 Études 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

Magdanela 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

13:00 - 14:30  Lunch Break

14:30 - 16:00  Session II

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
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 Aydin Düzgit - Istanbul Bilgi University
Ayfer Bartu Candan - Boğaziçi University
Ayhan Kaya - Istanbul Bilgi University
Fuat Keyman - Istanbul Policy Center

Chair: Pınar 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 Özacan** - 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     | Elif Gözler - University of Exeter  
*Turkey’s New Constitution Making Attempt and the Participation of Minority Organizations during the Public Consultation Process* | Chiara Maritato - University of Turin  
*Reassessing Turkish Social Assistance in the Light of Religious Female Engagement: Female Preachers (vaizeler) between Spiritual and Social Support* |
|              |                | Ayşegül Kars Kaynar - Middle East Technical University, tbc  
*Political Trials and Second Jurisdiction of the State: Normalcy of the Exception* | Hikmet Kocamaner - Brandeis University  
*Governing the Family through Religion in Contemporary Turkey: Secularism, Presidency of Religious Affairs, and Family Guidance and Counseling Offices* |
|              |                | 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?* | Esin Düzel - University of California  
*Becoming “Beautiful” in Diyarbakir: Changing Moral and Political Landscapes in Post-Conflict Kurdistan* |
|              |                | Chair  
Kerem Altıparmak - Ankara University | Chair  
Esra Özyürek - London School of Economics |

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<td>16:15 - 16:45</td>
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</table>
| 16:45 - 17:45| Concluding Panel | Kerem Altıparmak - Ankara University  
Suraiya Faroqui - 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 |

**Chair:** Kerem Altıparmak - Ankara University