

Keynote Speaker



Prof. Dr. Sinan Canan

Founder and Author, AçıkBeyin

Prof. Dr. Sinan Canan graduated from the Biology Department at Hacettepe University's Faculty of Science and completed his master's degree in the Histology and Embryology Department and his Ph.D. in the Physiology Department at Ondokuz Mayıs University Faculty of Medicine. From 2004 to 2015, Canan worked as a faculty member at various medical schools. Between 2016 and 2023, Canan served as a faculty member in the Psychology Department at Üsküdar University's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, also chairing the Neuro-Marketing Master's Program. In 2017, Canan established AçıkBeyin, an education and research center in Istanbul, where he continues to work on neuroscience-based personal and corporate training development. Additionally, he shares his insights through the AçıkBeyin YouTube Channel and the television program Sinan Canan ile AçıkBeyin aired on NTV.



Dr. Lale Şıvgın Dünder

Strategic Communication Officer,
Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye

Dr. Lale Şıvgın Dünder graduated from the Communication and Design Department at Bilkent University and earned her master's degree in International Relations from Galatasaray University. Dünder completed the "Leadership in the 21st Century" program at Harvard University and received her Ph.D. from Ankara University's Institute of the History of the Turkish Revolution. Throughout her career, Dünder has held roles as a producer, editor, reporter, presenter, and commentator on various television channels, including serving as a prime news anchor and manager. She also provided communication consultancy for international organizations. From 2010 to 2021, Dünder worked as a faculty member at Başkent University's Faculty of Communication, Department of Radio, Television, and Cinema. Since 2021, Dünder has been serving as the Strategic Communication Officer at the EU Delegation to Türkiye.



Ahmed Arpat

Anchor, NTV

Ahmed Arpat graduated from the Faculty of Business Administration at Marmara University. His journalism career began in 1997 while he was still in university, working at the Kanal D News Center. Over the years, Arpat served as a reporter for Kanal D, Show TV, and then Kanal D again, covering some of the most significant events of the time both domestically and internationally. Arpat reported live from the field, later transitioning from field reporting to studio anchoring. In 2011, he began hosting "Bugün" (Today) a news-based program on TRT Türk, notable for integrating current social media discussions, a first of its kind at the time and at same year, joined NTV. Starting with the news broadcast at nights, his journey at NTV expanded to include various news segments, exclusive interviews, and special broadcasts. Arpat has also provided live updates during extraordinary events. Currently, Ahmed Arpat anchors the "Öğle Bülteni" (News Broadcast) on NTV and hosts the program "Siyasi İşler" (Political Affairs) every Tuesday, facilitating discussions on current political issues.



Prof. Dr. Emre Erdoğan

Faculty Member, Department of International Relations,
Istanbul Bilgi University

Prof. Dr. Emre Erdoğan is a faculty member at Istanbul Bilgi University's Department of International Relations. Erdoğan holds a PhD in Political Science from Boğaziçi University. His research areas include political participation, public opinion, youth and children's well-being, othering, polarization, and populism. Erdoğan serves as the General Editor for Istanbul Bilgi University Press and as the editor of REFLEKTİF: Social Sciences Journal. Erdoğan has participated in numerous international projects, such as "Infodemic Education," "RDM EDU 3.0: Combating Media Disinformation in Türkiye," and "RESAID: Building Social and Cognitive Resilience Against Information Disorders." He is a co-author of various books, including: "Infodemic and Information Disorders: Concepts, Causes, and Solutions", "Dialogues in a Fishbowl: Dimensions of Polarization in Türkiye", "Reflections from the Mirror of 'Us': Identity and Othering Among Türkiye's Youth". Prof. Dr. Emre Erdoğan's work significantly contributes to understanding contemporary socio-political challenges in Türkiye and beyond.



Ömer Faruk Görçin

Director of *Verification Line*, Anadolu Agency

Ömer Faruk Görçin completed his primary education at Oruçgazi Primary School and graduated from Galatasaray High School. He pursued his higher education in International Relations at Galatasaray University. In 2013, Görçin began his journalism career at Sabah Daily in the field of foreign news. After nearly seven years of reporting and editorial roles, Görçin left in 2019 to work as a freelance journalist. During this period, he contributed articles and produced content for various international platforms, including CNN and Middle East Eye. In 2020 and 2021, Görçin worked as a foreign news and politics editor for the main news program of Atv. Since February 2022, Görçin has been part of Anadolu Agency, where he established the Verification Line (Teyit Hattı) and currently serves as its director.



Timur Altop

Country Manager, YouTube Türkiye

Timur Altop is a media industry veteran with over 25 years of experience. He currently serves as the Country Manager for YouTube Turkey, having previously held leadership positions at Fox Networks Group and Warner Music Group. Timur is a co-founder of Endeavor Turkey and has also worked as a TV producer for Turkish television. He was born in New York, completed his education in Washington, D.C., and resides in Istanbul with his wife and two children.



Prof.Dr. Pinar Uyan Semerci

Dean of the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences,
Istanbul Bilgi University

Prof. Dr. Pinar Uyan Semerci is a faculty member in the International Relations Department at Istanbul Bilgi University. Since 2007, Semerci has served as the director of the Migration Studies Application and Research Center at the same institution. Since 2017, Semerci has also held the position of Dean of the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences. Her academic research areas include political philosophy, comparative politics, social policy, and methodology in social sciences. Prof. Dr. Pinar Uyan Semerci has led multiple research projects and published works on topics such as justice, rights, citizenship, human development, the capability approach, poverty, migration, youth, collective identity formation, othering, polarization, child labor, and the well-being of children.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Akin Ünver

Faculty Member, Department of International Relations,
Özyeğin University

Dr. Akin Ünver is an Associate Professor in the Department of International Relations at Özyeğin University, specializing in conflict studies, computational methods, and digital crisis communication. As of 2024, Ünver is coordinating the DE-CONSPIRATOR project under HorizonEU, a collaboration involving 15 universities and research labs across Europe. This project addresses information manipulation in Europe caused by foreign sources. Ünver is a member of the Carnegie Endowment's Digital Democracy Network and serves on the TikTok MENA-T Security Advisory Council. Previously, he worked as a Research Fellow at Oxford University's Centre for Technology and Global Affairs and as a Senior Researcher at the Alan Turing Institute on the GUARD (Global Urban Analytics for Resilient Defense) project. Akin Ünver is the author of *Defining Türkiye's Kurdish Question: Discourse and Politics Since 1990* (Routledge Middle East Politics Series). Additionally, he is the organizer of the Computational Social Science Summer Institute (SICSS) in Istanbul and the founder of the Istanbul Twitter Developers Community.



Ezgi Toprak

Editor, *teyit.org*

Ezgi Toprak graduated from the Department of Press and Publishing, Faculty of Communication Sciences at Anadolu University. She began her career with internships at Milliyet Daily and CNN Türk, and later worked as an editor and production coordinator at various production companies. Toprak has conducted fact-checking training for national and international organizations, including the European Union Delegation, UPG, Newslab Türkiye, Uğur Mumcu Investigative Journalism Foundation, and the Journalists' Association. In 2022, Toprak participated in the Digital Sherlock Program organized by the Atlantic Council in Brussels, where she enhanced her expertise in verification practices and the use of fact-checking tools at an international level. Since December 2019, Ezgi Toprak has been examining suspicious claims, producing analyses and files to combat misinformation, and working as an editor at Teyit. She also contributes to the preparation and presentation of Teyit's video content.



Selçuk Tepeli

News Anchor, NOW TV

Selçuk Tepeli is a journalist with over 20 years of media experience on both national and international scales. He was the chief editor of Habertürk Daily until mid-2018 and continued to lead Habertürk News Network, one of Türkiye's largest television newsrooms, until 2020. Before that, Tepeli served as the editor-in-chief of Newsweek's Turkish edition and Aktüel magazine. Throughout his career, Tepeli has led award-winning teams, interviewed prominent Turkish and international figures, and followed more than 40 official presidential trips to various countries. He also provided political commentary on Turkish news channels and hosted current affairs programs. Tepeli has diverse experience across media platforms, including print, digital, and television. He studied Political Science at Marmara University in Istanbul, and took courses at Science Po Rennes in France, focusing on 'Public Action and Territories in Europe'. He further enriched his academic background with courses such as Paradoxes of War at Princeton University and The Geopolitics of Europe at Science Po Rennes. Since September 2020, Selçuk Tepeli has been presenting the daily news bulletin on NOW TV, which has become the most-watched news program across all national broadcasts in Türkiye.



Yunus Çağlar

Director, *Doğrula.org*

Yunus Çağlar, a journalism graduate, began his career in 2010 as a reporter at İhlas News Agency. In 2015, Çağlar continued as a reporter for Yeniyüzyıl Daily, eventually managing the economic news department of another newspaper for four years. Beyond traditional journalism, Çağlar partnered with various companies and startups to provide social media and digital publishing solutions. Since February 2021, Yunus Çağlar has been serving as the founder and director of Doğrula.org, an organization focused on fact-checking and combating misinformation.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elif Posos Devrani

Faculty Member, Department of Culture and Communication,
Turkish-German University

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elif Posos Devrani completed her undergraduate studies in Political Science and International Relations at Boğaziçi University. She then pursued her master's and doctoral degrees at Galatasaray University. Devrani worked as a visiting researcher and lecturer at the Media and Communication Studies Center at the University of Bremen. With a postdoctoral research fellowship from DAAD, she conducted research on mediatization and media literacy at Heidelberg University and Ludwig Maximilian University. Since 2015, Devrani has been serving as a faculty member at the Department of Culture and Communication in the Faculty of Culture and Social Sciences at Turkish-German University. Her research focuses on new media, media literacy, digital parenting, and digital inequality. Recently, she conducted studies on Digital Classrooms during the Pandemic and Digital Parenting in Türkiye. Devrani has published works on 21st-century competencies, digital inequality in education, media literacy approaches at global and local levels, and the relationship between technology and society.



Barçın Yinanç

Journalist-Foreign Policy Analyst, T24

Barçın Yinanç is a journalist specializing in Türkiye's foreign policy and international relations. Yinanç writes analysis and opinion pieces for T24 news portal and other publications. Her articles in English have been published in various platforms, including TürkiyeinDepth and Türkiye Analyst. She is also a commentator on news channels. Yinanç began her career in 1990 in Ankara, where she worked as a diplomatic correspondent for 15 years. She then moved to Istanbul and started working for CNN Türk. Up until September 2020, Yinanç also published columns as the Opinion Editor for Hürriyet Daily News, which is published in English. Yinanç has been invited as a speaker or moderator at numerous meetings organized by United Nations agencies (such as UNDP), the German Marshall Fund, Chatham House, and the Warsaw Security Forum. She is a member of various organizations, including the Association of Diplomatic Correspondents, the Scientific Committee of the Paris Bosphorus Institute, the Berlin Istanbul Initiative, the Global Relations Forum, and the Center for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM). Additionally, she is a member of the Women Foreign Policy Platform.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cihangir Tezcan

Head of the Department of Cybersecurity,
Middle East Technical University (METU)

Assoc. Dr. Cihangir Tezcan holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the Middle East Technical University (METU), and both his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Cryptography. Tezcan currently serves as the Head of the Department of Cybersecurity at METU and the Director of the Cyber Defense and Security Application and Research Center. Before joining METU, Tezcan worked as a research assistant at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland, where he conducted his doctoral research, and as a postdoctoral researcher at the Ruhr-University Bochum (RUB) in Germany. His research areas include cryptography, cybersecurity, cryptanalysis, blockchain and cryptocurrency technologies, artificial intelligence, disinformation, parallel programming, and algebraic geometry.



Resul Kunt

Editor, *Doğruluk Payı*

Resul Kunt completed his undergraduate studies in Political Science and International Relations at Istanbul University. He began his graduate program at the European Studies Institute of Marmara University. During this period, Kunt worked on a project for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and also gained experience in the private sector. Since 2021, Kunt has been continued his journey at Doğruluk Payı as an editor, after starting as a volunteer at the same institution.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Özdemir

Head of the Management Information Systems Department,
İstinye University Board Member,
Artificial Intelligence Policies Association

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Özdemir received her undergraduate degree in Mathematics from Yıldız Technical University. She completed two master's degrees at Istanbul University, one in Mathematics Education and the other in Informatics. Özdemir earned her Ph.D. in Informatics from Istanbul University. For her postdoctoral research, Özdemir worked as a researcher at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. She later continued her work in artificial intelligence at MIT's CSAIL. Özdemir currently serves as the head of the Management Information Systems Department and leads the Data Science Department at İstinye University. She is also the founder of Usight Software and Artificial Intelligence Technologies. In 2016, Özdemir won the "Human Development Research Award" from Koç University's UNESCO Chair for her machine learning model. In 2020, she was recognized with the "AI Awareness Leadership Award" by CIO Türkiye, and in 2021, she received the "AI in the field of Social Benefit" award from the International Accessible Computing Platform. Özdemir has led many national and international projects focused on data science and artificial intelligence, contributing to books, articles, and patents published on both national and international platforms.

