International Conference
Politics and Society in Contemporary Turkey: State, Constitution and Media
May 4-5, 2017
at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Organized by
Felix Petersen, Ertuğ Tombuş, Maria Haimerl and Zeynep Yanaşmayan
May 4-10.00 - 17.00
Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences, Room 144, Luisenstraße 56

09.30 - 10.00: Registration
10.00 - 10.30: Welcome and Introduction

PART I

The Failure of Popular Constitution Making in Turkey (2011-2013)

In the first two panels we address the failed constitution making attempt that was carried out in the years 2011-2013. We will focus on the process and the subjects that were debated in Turkey by that time. And we will advance an interpretation of the process that situates the Turkish case in the broader discussion of authoritarian constitutionalism. This panel will prepare the ground for the following discussions.

10.30 - 13.00: Panel 1

Deal-Breakers: What went Wrong? Constitution Making in a Divided Society
Felix Petersen, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Zeynep Yanaşmayan, Max-Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
Discussant: Oya Yeğen, “Research Lab Constitutional Politics in Turkey”/ HU Berlin

The Participation of Civil Society in the Constitution Making Process
Erin Mc Grath, University of Maryland
Discussant: Ertuğ Tombuş, The New School for Social Research

The Constitution Making Process and Turkey’s Media Field
Altuğ Akın, Izmir University of Economics
Burcu Yaman, Freie Universität Berlin & Izmir University of Economics
Discussant: Zeynep Yanaşmayan, Max-Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

13.00 - 14.00: Lunch break
14.00 - 16.30: Panel 2

*The Debate on How to Amend the Constitution*

Oya Yeğen, “Research Lab Constitutional Politics in Turkey”, HU Berlin

*Discussant: Maria Haimerl, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

*Counter-Majoritarian Institutions and the Making of the Turkish Constitution*

Maria Haimerl, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

*Discussant: Altuğ Akın, Izmir University of Economics*

*Inventing the People: Comparing Constitution Making Processes in Turkey*

Ertuğ Tombuş, The New School for Social Research

*Discussant: Felix Petersen, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

18.00 - 20.00

*Evening Panel: Politics in Turkey after the Referendum*

*Main-Building, Hörsaal 2097, Unter den Linden 6*

This part of the conference will be open to the public, and we will begin our discussion with a panel of experts.

Fuat Keyman, Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) and Sabancı University

Ersin Kalaycıoğlu, Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) and Sabancı University

Senem Aydın-Düzgit, Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) and Sabancı University

Metin Gürsan, Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) and Sabancı University

Moderator: Ertuğ Tombuş, The New School for Social Research

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May 5-10.00 - 16.00
Main-Building, Room 2103, Unter den Linden 6

PART II

Media, Culture and (Geo)politics in New Turkey

In these two panels we will focus on the changes in the Turkish media landscape over the course of the past decade. The first panel presents insights into changes and continuities in Turkey’s media landscape, putting special emphasis on national identity, religion and political activism. The second panel discusses recent developments relating to media and politics in and beyond Turkey (Syrian refugee crisis, coup attempt etc.).

10.00 - 12.30: Panel 1

Resisting the Turkish State: Kurdish Nationalism and Pressures on Local Broadcasting
Ece Algan, Loughborough University London and California State University

When Religion Meets the “Popular”: Religious Broadcasting in Turkey
Burak Özçetin, Kadir Has University

Political Use of Twitter in Post-Gezi Environmental Protests
Burak Doğu, Izmir University of Economics/ NYU

Discussant: Carola Richter, Freie Universität Berlin

12.30 - 13.30: Lunch break

13.30 - 16.00: Panel 2

Media and Political Polarization in Post-Migration Contexts: Views from Sweden and Turkey
Miyase Christensen, Stockholm University and KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Sisyphus Labor on Two Fronts: Sense-Making and News Making in Turkey after the Failed Coup Attempt
Altuğ Akın, Izmir University of Economics

Branding Turkey: Promotional Strategies in an Era of Geopolitical Change in Europe and the Middle East
Bilge Yeşil, College of Staten Island (CUNY)

Discussant: Betül Yarar, Universität Bremen