Fourth Turkish Studies Symposium

Islam, Secularism and Democracy in Turkey Today

Thursday, February 28
2:00 – 5:45 p.m.
Lucy Ellis Lounge
1080 Foreign Languages Building
707 S. Mathews Avenue
Urbana, Illinois

Organized and co-sponsored by the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, the Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies Center, and the European Union Center, University of Illinois
Speakers: Biographies

Ahmet Kuru is Assistant Professor of Political Science at San Diego State University, where he teaches Middle East Politics, Religion and Politics, and Comparative Political Systems. He is also a Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion, Columbia University (2008-09). He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Washington, Seattle. His PhD dissertation on “Dynamics of Secularism: State-Religion Relations in the United States, France, and Turkey” was winner of the American Political Science Association’s Aaron Wildavsky Award for Best Dissertation on Religion and Politics, 2007. He has published numerous essays on religion and politics in refereed journals and books.

Sultan Tepe is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Illinois Chicago. She earned her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin (2002). Her fields of interest include comparative politics, democratization, religion and politics, political parties, and politics in the Middle East. She is the author of Beyond Sacred and Secular: Politics of Religion in Israel and Turkey (Stanford University Press, 2008). She has published essays on religious parties in the Middle East, nationalist politics, and democratic movements.

Berna Turam completed her PhD in Sociology at McGill University in 2001. She holds an MA from McGill as well as BAs in Political Science and Sociology from Bosphorus University in Istanbul. Since 2003 she has been Assistant Professor of Sociology and Middle Eastern Studies at Hampshire College, and previously taught at Queen’s University and McGill University. Her research areas are political sociology, religion and politics, Islam and the state, Islamic politics, secularism, democratization, civil society, nationalism, and Islam and gender politics in Turkey and the Middle East in particular. She has published Between Islam and the State: the Politics of Engagement (Stanford University Press, 2007) as well as numerous essays in major journals and book collections.

Ahmet Yukleyen is Croft Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Sociology and Anthropology Department and Croft Institute for International Studies, University of Mississippi. He earned his PhD in Cultural Anthropology at Boston University (2006). He also holds an MA in International Relations from the Graduate School of International Relations at the University of Denver and a BA in International Relations from Bilkent University, Ankara. He has published essays in major academic journals on Turkish communities in Europe and aspects of Islam in Turkey. He co-authored with Ahmet Kuru Secularism, Democracy and Islam in Europe: Muslims in France, Germany, and the Netherlands, Turkish Economic and Social Research Foundation (TESEV) Istanbul (2006).

Program

Thursday, February 28, 2008, 2:00-5:45 p.m
Reception, Bread Company, Goodwin St., Urbana, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

2:00 – 2:10 pm
Opening Remarks
Marilyn Booth, Director, CSAMES

2:10 – 3:50 pm
"Islamic Politics and the Secularist Backlash in Contemporary Turkey"
Professor Berna Turam, Hampshire College

"Islam and Secularism: Turkey between the French and American Models"
Professor Ahmet Kuru, San Diego State University

3:50 – 4:10 pm  Coffee and Tea

4:10 – 5:45 pm
"Faithful (Dis)Obedience? Religious Convictions, Party Ties and Civil Society Groups"  
Professor Sultan Tepe, University of Illinois at Chicago

"Transnational Turkish Islamic Communities"
Professor Ahmet Yukleyen, University of Mississippi

Reception

6:00-7:00 pm
Bread Company, Goodwin St, Urbana,

Cosponsors: Russian and East European Center, European Union Center