



PUBLIC & PROFESSIONAL TALKS, INVITED LECTURES, AND PRESENTATIONS

Murat Somer

TALKS, LECTURES, AND PRESENTATIONS

119. "Polarization and New Authoritarianism in Turkey and Beyond," the University of Osnabrück, January 11, 2018 (Forthcoming)
118. "Polarization and New Authoritarianism in Turkey and Beyond," Uppsala Religion and Society Research Centre (CRS), Uppsala University, November 30, 2017
117. "The Independence Referendum in the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq and Its Consequences," Boğaziçi University and the Turkish Industry and Business Association (Tüsiad) Foreign Policy Forum meeting, Istanbul October 13, 2017
116. "The EU, Turkey and the Kurdish Question," Conference on Turkey-EU Relations, Bilgi University, Istanbul, September 22, 2017
115. "The State of Turkey's Democracy and Western Alliances," Political Science Department, Boston College, September 14, 2017
114. "Toward a More Democratic and Workable Secularism: Insights from Secularities beyond the West" Department of Government, Harvard University, September 11, 2017
113. "Political Elite Conflicts, the Future of Turkish Secularism and Secularities beyond the West," American Political Science Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 31-September 4, 2017
112. "Neo-Populist Polarization and Boundary-Making: The Clash of Democratization versus New Authoritarianism," Politics and Society Workshop, International Relations Department, Özyeğin University, Istanbul, May 17, 2017
111. "Turkey's Protean Formative Rift, Religious and Secular Politics and Benign versus Pernicious Polarization," Workshop on Polarized Polities, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, March 12-14, 2017
110. "Identity, Nationalism and Sovereignty in an Age of Globalization," public lecture, Antalya International University, March 10, 2017
109. "Moderation, State Regulation and Moderate Islam in Turkey," Middle East Studies Association annual conference, Boston, MA, November 17-20, 2016
108. "What's Happening in Turkey?" Georgia State University, November 7, 2016
107. "Return to Point Zero: Turkey's Democratic Breakdown, Remaking and the Turkish and Kurdish Question," Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, September 14, 2016
106. "What Happened to Turkey? Old versus New and Indigenous versus Global Dynamics of Authoritarianism," Department of Government, Harvard University, September 14, 2016
105. "What Happened to Turkey?" Austrian Institute for International Politics (OIIB), Wien, Austria, July 11, 2016.
104. "Political Islam, Secularism and Future of Democracy in Turkey," Center for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz, Austria, June 23, 2016.



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103. "What are the Premises of a Democratic Constitution?" Priority: Democracy (Önce Demokrasi) Initiative conference, Istanbul, June 1, 2016.
102. "Religious and Secular Politics and the Refugee Crisis in Turkey," Guest Speaker in Workshop on the EU Refugee Crisis, Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, April 22, 2016
101. "Conceptualizing Polarization and the Case of Religious-Secular Polarization in Turkey," ISA Polarized Politics Workshop, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, March 14-15, 2016
100. "Milada Dönüş: Ulus-Devletten Devlet-Ulusa Türk ve Kürt meselesinin Üç İkilemi" (Return to Point Zero: From Nation-State to State-Nation, the Three Dilemmas of the Turkish and Kurdish Question), Lecture in Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul, December 21, 2015
99. "Explaining Neo-Authoritarianism: Turkey and Hungary," Annual Conference of the Comparative European Politics Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association, Moscow State University, November 19-20, 2015
98. "Explaining Turkey's Old and New Authoritarianism: Secularism and Democracy, and Domestic and External Dimensions," Symposium on Populism, Majoritarianism and Crises of liberal democracy: Modes of illiberal governance in Comparative Perspective, the Centre for Southeast European Studies and the Consortium for European Symposia on Turkey, University of Graz, October 1-3, 2015
97. "Religious Actors and Democratization in Turkey and Tunisia: Legacy of Secular Modernization and the Challenges of Building a Democratic Center," Workshop on Religious Actors in the Fourth Wave of Democratization, European Consortium for Political Research Session, Nijmegen, Netherlands, June 30-July 3, 2015
96. Speaker in Roundtable on the Dynamics of Kurdish Question in Turkey and the Middle East, Association for the Study of Nationalities annual conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 23-25, 2015
95. "The Dynamics of New Authoritarianism: Comparative Mechanisms of Turkey's Authoritarian Turn," Session on Political Systems in Central and Eastern Europe and Southern Europe: Comparative Politics," European Consortium for Political Research Conference, University of Warsaw, Poland, March 29-April 2, 2015
94. "Theory-Informed or Theory-Producing: How to Study Turkey as a Theory-Relevant Crucial Case," Symposium on Turkish Studies from an Interdisciplinary Perspective, Joint Symposium by Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies and Institute for Turkish Studies, Stockholm, May 14, 2014
93. "What Do Turkey, Egypt and Tunisia Have in Common? Religious and Secular Elite Disunity, Popular Uprisings and Democratization," Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual Conference, April 24-26, 2014
92. "Religious and Secular Elite Cooperation and Institution Building: Critical Junctures and Value Divisions," Religion, Law and Society Seminar at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, February 11, 2014



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91. "Democracy, Security and Identity in Turkey's Kurdish Peace Process," Public Lecture, Stockholm University, January 28, 2014
90. "Turkey at Crossroads," Linköping University Foreign Affairs Association, Sweden, November 20, 2013
89. Discussant, Islam in Europe through the Balkan Prism Conference organized by European University Institute and University of Sarajevo, University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, October 24-26, 2013
88. "What Do Turkey and Egypt Have in Common: Religious and Secular Elite Disunity, Popular Uprisings and Democratization," Higher Seminar Series, Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies, October 22, 2013
87. "Islam, Secularism and Democracy in Albania and Turkey," (with Arolda Elbasani), 20th International Conference of Europeanists," University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 25-27, 2013
87. "Kürt sorununun çözüm süreci ve PKK'nın silah bırakması bağlamında TDP," (Turkish Foreign Policy in the Context of the Peace Process and the Kurdish Question), Symposium on 'Güncel Gelişmeler Işığında Türk Dış Politikası: Zorluklar ve Fırsatlar' (Turkish Foreign Policy in Light of Current Developments: Challenges and Opportunities), Antalya International University, Antalya, Turkey, May 10, 2013
86. "Does Democratization Take Strong Leaders, Identities Or Institutions? The Turkish Experience, Moderation & The Middle East," Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS) Open Lecture Series, Stockholm, Sweden, April 30, 2013
85. "Is Islam the Solution?: Comparing Turkish pro-Islamic and pro-Secular Thinking and Policies toward Ethnic Minorities," 18th Annual Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention Columbia University, New York, NY, 18-20 April 2013
84. "The Three Dilemmas of the Kurdish Question toward a Possible Solution: Identity versus Institutions," Bilkent University Political Science Department, POLS TALKS, March 29, 2013
83. "Is Islam the Solution?: Comparing Turkish pro-Islamic and pro-Secular Thinking and Policies toward Ethnic Minorities" (with Beyza Büyüker), The Fourteenth Mediterranean Research Meeting organized by the **European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies** and **Mersin University**, Mersin, Turkey, March 20-23 2013
82. "28 Şubat Post-Modern Darbe," (February 28 Postmodern Coup), Panel in Koç University, Istanbul, February 28, 2013
81. "Turkey's Middle East Policy, Democratization and the Kurdish Question," Georgetown University Institute of Turkish Studies and Okan University Center for Eurasian Studies Joint Workshop, "Turkey's Changing Foreign Policy Paradigm Following the Arab Spring" Okan University, Tuzla, Istanbul, December 14, 2012
80. "Tunisia and the Arab Uprisings: Two Years On," KUGlobalAid Talk Series, Koç University, December 3, 2012



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79. "Religious and Secular Elite Cooperation, Reconstruction of A Country's Center and Democratization: Turkey and the World," Lecture at Şehir University, Istanbul, November 21, 2012
78. "Taking Stock: Ten Years of AKP Rule in Turkey," Politics Department and the Alexander Hamilton Center for Political Economy, New York University, November 16, 2012
77. "Religious and Secular Elite Cooperation and Democratization in the Muslim World," Lecture in Georgetown University, Washington, DC, forthcoming, November 9, 2012
76. Speaker in roundtable on "Turkey: A Long-term Solution to the Kurdish Question," Foreign Service Institute, Washington, DC, forthcoming, November 8, 2012
75. "Muslim and Secular Actor Cooperation and Democratization in Muslim Countries," Middle Eastern Congress on Politics and Society, October 11 2012, Sakarya University, Sakarya
74. "The Kurdish Question in New Turkey," (in Turkish) Bilgi University, Istanbul, May 11, 2012
73. "Moderation, Religious Politics and Democratization: Theory and Evidence from Turkey and the Arab Spring," Annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University, New York (NY), April 20, 2012
72. "Democratization in Turkey in an Age of Arab Uprisings," Lecture in Chicago Loyola University, Chicago (IL), April 17, 2012
71. "Muslim and Secular Elite Values and the Management of Ethnic Conflict," Eurasian Peace Science Conference, Koç University, Istanbul, January 14, 2012
70. "The Democracy Paradox in A Rising Regional and Economic Power, Turkey: Secular and Religious-Conservative Elite Values," (in Turkish) Global Studies Center, Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul, October 11, 2011
69. "Constitutionalism in Turkey and the United States: Comparative Perspective On Building . Democracy," St. Johns University, Staten Island (NY), September 15, 2011
68. "Turkish Domestic Politics After the Elections: What's Next?" Annual Conference on Turkey, Middle East Institute, Washington, D.C., June 23, 2011
67. "Moderation and Democracy: Comparing Religious and Secular Values in Turkey," Middle East Social Science Study Group, Yale University, New Haven (CT), May 5, 2011
66. "Muslim Politics, Moderation and Democratization: Lessons from Comparing Religious and Secular Values in Turkey," Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion, Columbia University, New York (NY), April 20, 2011
65. "Explaining Moderation, Political Islamism, and Democratization: Theorizing from the Turkish Case" Northeast Middle East Politics Workshop Fifth Annual Meeting - Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University, Providence (RI), March 11-13, 2011
64. "Islamic and Secular Values, Moderation and Democracy: Empirical and Theoretical implications of the Turkish Case," Democracy and Development Seminar, Princeton University, Princeton (NJ), February 16, 2011



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63. "Religious and Secular Values and Democratization: the Kurdish Question, Nationalism and Beyond," Symposium on Turkey, Middle East Studies Center, Florida State University, Tallahassee (FL), February 11, 2011
62. "Changing Values, Interests or Both? Turkish Politics, Foreign Policy and Western Relations in A Changing World," Public Lecture, Florida State University, Tallahassee (FL), February 10, 2011
61. "Turks and Kurds in Post-US Iraq," Middle East Studies Association annual meeting, San Diego (CA), November 18-20, 2010
60. "Islamic-Conservative and Pro-Secular Values and the Management of Ethnic Diversity and Conflict," Workshop on Islam and Secularism in Contemporary Turkey, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, Palo Alto (CA), November 15-16, 2010
59. Speaker in the Seminar on "Turkey as a Rising Power," Norwegian Institute Of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, June 9, 2010
58. "Battle of Frames: Interpreting Turkey's post-2007 Critical Juncture of Democratization and the World," Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies, Northwestern University, Chicago (IL), May 17, 2010
57. "Values, Elites, and Political Parties: Turkey and the AKP between Liberal And Illiberal Democracy," Conference on Islamist Political Parties in the Arab World; Processes of Political Participation and Policy Influence, International Development Center, Ottawa, Canada, May 13-14, 2010
56. "Secular and Religious-Conservative Values and Democracy," Symposium on New Conservatism and the Right along the 'Turkish-EU Axis,' Bosphorus University, Istanbul, December 18, 2009
55. "Explicit and Banal, Secular and Religious Nationalisms and Turkey's Kurdish Question," Middle East Studies Association annual meeting, Boston (MA), November 22, 2009
54. "Secularism in Turkey and the World," Conference on Secularism, Arbil, Iraq, October 17-18, 2009
53. "What Does the Kurdish Opening in Turkey Entail? Political and Comparative Perspectives," Middle East Institute, Washington, D.C., October 1, 2009
52. "Religious and Secular Elite Values and Liberal Democracies: Lessons from Turkey," Seminar on Turkey in the Modern World, co-sponsored by the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge (MA), September 23, 2009
51. "Democracy (For Me): Religious and Secular Beliefs in Turkey and Liberal Democracy," Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, Boston College, Boston (MA), September 22, 2009
50. "Democracy (For Me): Religious and Secular Beliefs and Social and Political Pluralism in Turkey," Sabanci Brookings International Research Award Workshop, Sabanci University, Istanbul, May 27, 2009



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49. "The Janus-Faced Relation of Religious Actors and Human Security: Islamic and Secular Values in Turkey," the Luce Symposium on Religion and Human Security, University of Washington, Seattle (WA), May 6-8, 2009
48. "Islam, Nationalism, and Democracy in Turkey's Post-2007 Kurdish Conflict," Middle East Studies Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., November 24, 2008
47. "The Search for 'Twin Tolerations' Between Islamic and Secularist Actors and Institutions In Turkey," Lecture, Ghent University, Belgium, November 6, 2008
46. "Turkey: AKP and Democratization in Turkey," Symposium on Current Trends in Political Parties organized by the International Development Research Institute, Beirut, Lebanon, October 14-15, 2008
45. "Turkish Politics: Secularism and Democracy in A Changing World," Lecture, Society for International Development, Ottawa, Canada, June 11, 2008
44. "Religious Non-State Actors and Secular Democracy: Evidence from Political Islam in Turkey," Luce Symposium on Religion and Human Security, University of Washington, Seattle (WA), May 8-9, 2008
43. "Political Islam, Social and Political Diversity, and Turkey's EU Membership," Conference on Diversity and European Integration, Florida International University, Miami (FL), April 1-2, 2008
42. "Moderation and Sustainable Secular Democracy: Lessons from Political Islam in Turkey," International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco (CA), March 25-29, 2008
40. "Sustainable Democratization and Secularism: Lessons from Political Islam in Turkey," Conference on Islamists and Democrats, The American University of Cairo, Egypt, March 15-16, 2008
39. "Değişen Türkiye'de Kimlik, Laiklik ve Demokrasi" (Identity, Secularism and Democracy in Turkey in Transformation), Voyvoda Caddesi Toplantıları (Voyvoda Street Meetings), Osmanlı Bankası Center of Archives and Research, Istanbul, February 6, 2008
38. "Turkey's Kurdish Conflict in the Aftermath of the 2007 Elections: Structural, Political, and Ideational Challenges," Workshop on Turkish Elections-2007, Sabancı University, Istanbul, November 30, 2007
37. "The Development of Political Islam and Democracy in Turkey," seminar on Political Party Development and Democracy in the Middle East, International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada, November 21, 2007
36. "Constituency Values and Sustainable Democratization of Political Islam: Insights from Turkey," Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 16-17, 2007
35. "Value Change and Sustainable Moderation of Political Islam: Theory and Evidence from Turkey," Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC), Tampa (FL), November 2-4, 2007



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34. "When is Democratization Sustainable? Lessons from Political Islam in Turkey," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago (IL), August 30 - September 2, 2007
33. Chair and Discussant in panel on "Security and Terror" in International Conference on "Dismantling Security," Koç University, Istanbul, June 1-2, 2007
32. Organizer and Speaker in the International Workshop on "Islamist Parties and Constituencies, Domestic and External Mechanisms, and Democratization, Koç University, Istanbul, May 25-26, 2007
31. "Moderate-Moderate Cooperation and the Kurdish Question," 12th World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University, New York (NY), March 14, 2007
30. "Turkey's Internal Faultlines and EU Relations" Lecture at the University of Helsinki, November 13, 2006
29. "Turkey and the New Iraq," 1st Annual Conference on the Middle East, Işık University, Istanbul, November 2, 2006
28. "The Future of Turkey's Kurdish Conflict: Domestic and External Dynamics, and Lessons from Scotland," Institute of Governance, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, September 14, 2006
27. Speaker in session on "Political Party Evolution" at the Workshop on "Democratic Transitions in Europe and Latin America: What Relevance for The Arab World?," Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE) and Club de Madrid, Madrid, March 24-25, 2006
26. "Identity Politics, Liberal Nationalism, and Europeanization," Conference on Europeanization and Transformation: Turkey In The Post-Helsinki Era, Koç University, Istanbul, December 2, 2005
25. Speaker in the panel on "Development and Its Impact on Southeastern Anatolia," Conference on Turkey: Culture, Change, and Development, Cornell University, Ithaca (NY), October 1, 2005
24. "Defensive vs. Liberal Nationalism, Democratization, and Turkey's Kurdish Question," Center for Government and International Affairs (CGIS), Harvard University, Cambridge (MA), September 28, 2005
23. Speaker in the panel on "Understanding the Role of External Actors," 7th International Security Conference on "Democratization and Security in the Wider Middle East," ARI movement, Istanbul, June 24, 2005
22. Moderator in the Working Group "Youth and Multiculturalism: the Case and Lessons of the EU & Turkey" in the Open World Initiative (Evian Group)'s three day conference at Koç University, Istanbul, April 1-2, 2005
21. "Turkish Identities in the Process of Approaching the EU," Lecture for visiting graduate students from the German National Academic Foundation, Koç University, Istanbul, March 17, 2005
20. "Effective Mixing, Civil Discourse, and Violent Disintegration: Theory And Comparative Evidence toward an Explanation," (with Ebru Erdem) Midwest Political Science Association



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- National Conference, Chicago (IL), (presented in absentia due to conflict in travel arrangements), April 15-18, 2004
19. "Resurgence And Remaking: Civil Beliefs, Domestic And External Security, And The Turkish Mainstream Discourse On Kurds," Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, March 17-20, 2004
 18. "Muslim Democrats in the Making? Explaining Turkey's AKP," Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, March 17-20, 2004
 17. "Turkey's Kurdish Conflict and the Emerging Iraq: A Theoretical Inquiry with Policy Implications," 2003 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference: Contemporary Affairs & Future Prospects, the University of Utah, Salt Lake City (UT), October 16-18, 2003
 16. "Private Identities and Public Expressions: Domestic and External Security and the Public Discourse on Turkish Kurds," Central and Eastern European International Studies Association (CEEISA/ISA) conference, Budapest, Hungary, June 26-28, 2003
 15. "Political Economy of Islam and Democracy: Notes on the Turkish Experience," Globalization and Multiple Modernities: Joint Workshop attended by Carleton, Koç, Trent and York Universities, International Relations Department, Koç University, Istanbul, June 23, 2003
 14. Chair and Discussant, Panel on "Turkish Citizens in the Making," Middle East Studies Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., November 23-25, 2002
 13. Selected Participant in the conference on "Mass Killing: A Micro Perspective," Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University, Palo Alto (CA), May 24-26, 2002
 12. "The Political Economy of Ethnic-Religious Conflict," Lecture, International Updates Lectures Series, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle (WA), April 17, 2002
 11. "Ethnic Kurds and Democratic Transition: History and Future Possibilities in Turkey," International Studies Association annual meeting, New Orleans (LA), March 24-27, 2002
 10. "Ethnic Conflict in Low-Trust Societies: The Role of Long-Term Institutions," Western Political Science Association annual meeting, Long Beach (CA), March 22, 2002
 9. Selected participant in the conference on "Macroexplanations of Mass Murder," Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University, Palo Alto (CA), January 18-19, 2002
 8. "Ethnic Conflict in Low-Trust Societies: How Can Economic Institutions Help during Transition?" Middle Eastern Economic Association Panel, Allied Social Sciences Association annual meeting, Atlanta (GA), January 4-6, 2002
 7. "Oil, Economic Freedom, and Human Rights: Is There A Link?" Discussant, Middle Eastern Economic Association Panel, Allied Social Sciences Association annual meeting, Atlanta (GA), January 4-6, 2002



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6. "The Political Economy of Ethnic Polarization," Macedonian President's Cabinet Training Program, Global Education Services and Jackson School of International Studies, University Inn, Seattle (WA), December 4, 2001 & February 7, 2002
5. "Ethnic Kurds, Private and Public Beliefs, and Democratic Transition in Turkey," Middle Eastern Studies Association annual meeting, San Francisco (CA), November 18-20, 2001
4. "Domestic Ethnic Norms and Integration with International Markets: The Case of Turkey," Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas (NV), March 15-17, 2001
3. Chair and Discussant, Current Topics in International Political Economy Panel, Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas (NV), March 15-17, 2001
2. "Diversity vs. Unity: The Dynamics of Ethnic Polarization," the poster session of the Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics at the annual meeting of the American Economics Association, Boston (MA), January 7, 2000
"The Limits of Diversity: Lessons from Turkey and the Former Yugoslavia," The Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics conference, San Diego State University, San Diego (CA), June 14, 1999