



## SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY 2018

### *The new Turkey: domestic cleavages in a changing Middle East*

**Instructor:** Eduard Soler (CIDOB-IBEI)

**Date:** June 20 - 22

**Time:** 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm

**Room:** 24.224 - Mercè Rodoreda Building 24 (Floor 2)

Six years ago Turkey was portrayed as an emerging regional leader and a model for democratisation processes. In 2018 this is no longer the case. This intensive course will provide students with the main keys to understand why Turkish society has been increasingly polarised and which effects this has had on the democratic quality of Turkish institutions and its international reputation. It will also look at the impact of major regional events such as the conflict in Syria, the multiplying regional rivalries and the frustrated hopes for change in the Arab world. With those elements, students will be engaged in a discussion on where is Turkey heading, whether there is a shift of axis in its foreign policy, which are the repercussions for relations with the European Union and which kind of influence will Ankara have on the future of the Middle East.

#### **Session 1. Decoding Turkish domestic politics**

This session is devoted to understand the transformation of Turkey's party system and the consolidation, on the one hand, of the AKP as a hegemonic political force and, on the other, of the emergence of new dissenting voices among the opposition camp. It will explore whether this political balance reflects underlying social transformation. It will also analyse how this has translated in the latest electoral processes in Turkey and will pay particular attention to the motivation, contents and implications of the Constitutional

reform approved after a slim and contested victory in referendum. This session will also try to read the tea leaves of Turkey's politics by discussing how resilient Turkish democracy is and which could be the game-changers in the years to come.

Required reading:

Murat Somer (2016): Understanding Turkey's democratic breakdown: old vs. new and indigenous vs. global authoritarianism, *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*. 16 (4)

[http://home.ku.edu.tr/~musomer/research\\_files/Somer,%20SEBSS%202016.pdf](http://home.ku.edu.tr/~musomer/research_files/Somer,%20SEBSS%202016.pdf)

A selection of articles dealing with current events will be made available one week before the course takes place

## **Session 2. Turkish Foreign Policy 3.0**

One of the characteristics of the AKP rule in Turkey was the effort to re-conceptualise Turkey's Foreign Policy. The so-called "New Turkish Foreign Policy" aimed at improving relations with neighbours, at being more present in international organisations and at diversifying the priorities and alliances. The Arab Spring was seized as an opportunity but Turkey's hopes soon faded away, particularly in Syria. This is one of the drivers of what we can be called a new phase of this foreign policy. Others need to be added to the picture such as Kurdish geopolitics and changes in Turkey's domestic politics (the Erdogan factor). This session will focus in analysing, the interrelation of domestic and foreign policies. More specifically will look at Turkey's positioning regarding regional cleavages (Sunni vs Shia; pro vs anti-West; pro vs anti Muslim Brotherhood) and whether those cleavages overlap with domestic ones.

Required reading:

Keyman, Fuat (2016) "Turkish foreign policy in the post-Arab Spring era: from proactive to buffer state" *Third World Quarterly*, Volume 37, Issue 12, pp. 2274-2287

A selection of articles dealing with current events will be made available one week before the course takes place

## **Session 3. Looking forward: Turkey, Europe and the Middle East**

This session will be devoted to analyze possible scenarios for Turkey's domestic policies, for its relations with the EU and for its policies towards the Middle East. Regarding the first issue, the main focus will be to discuss the impact of forthcoming elections and the challenge of accommodating diversity and dissent. The impact of economic factors will be

also looked at. Regarding the EU, we will outline scenarios of cooperation, conflict and convergence and we will calibrate the impact of Brexit and the politicization of Turkey in European domestic politics. Finally, regarding the Middle East the main focus will be on how Turkish foreign policy will adapt to the evolution of the conflict in Syria and Iraq. Participants will be encouraged to actively contribute to this session and they will be assigned specific responsibilities when preparing this session so that it is as interactive as possible.

Required reading:

Tocci, Nathalie (2017) "Turkey and the European Union: Scenarios for 2023" FEUTURE Papers, Background paper, n. 1. Available in:  
[http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/feuture\\_1.pdf](http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/feuture_1.pdf)

A selection of articles dealing with current events will be made available one week before the course takes place