

ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΠΟΔΙΣΤΡΙΑΚΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ
ΤΜΗΜΑ ΤΟΥΡΚΙΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΩΝ ΑΣΙΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

Σειρά διαλέξεων: Τουρκική κοινωνία και πολιτική

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Women's Struggle for Rights is Never Ending

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20.00**

Αμφιθέατρο «Ι. Δρακόπουλος» /I. Drakopoulos Conference Hall

The interwar period in Turkey was a time of radical transformations. In 1923 a Republic was proclaimed ending the centuries old Ottoman Empire and the *Sharia* law which forbade the participation of women in the public space. Women and their social status were central to the reform agenda of the young republic. Secular laws indeed made a radical change in women's lives providing them with civil and political rights. However, discriminatory mentality, institutional structures and practices resisted to change as witnessed by the remaining biases in the secular civil and penal codes. Women's struggle for emancipation gained momentum after 1980's and especially in the 90's focused on the demand for abolishing those biases in the law. The struggle finally achieved its goal in 2001 when the said laws were amended in favor of gender equality. However now, more than two decades after this achievement and when the 100th year of the Republic is being celebrated, women are faced with a backlash putting secularism and women's gained rights in jeopardy. This bears witness to the fact that women's rights

are always fragile and that struggle for gaining and keeping them is a never ending process.

Fatmagül Berktaş is Professor Emerita of political science and women's studies in Istanbul University and a feminist writer/activist who is involved in human rights, women's rights and democratization issues. Her main research areas are gender and religion, history of political thought and political theory, especially Hannah Arendt's political thought. She is the author of works such as *Women and Religion - A Comparative Study* (1998), *Tarihin Cinsiyeti* [The Gender of History] (2003), *Dünyayı Bugünde Sevmek, Hannah Arendt'in Politika Anlayışı* [Loving the World in the Present: Hannah Arendt's Understanding of Politics] (2012), *Düşünme Etiği* [Ethics of Thinking] (2021).