



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

**National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**

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ΣΧΟΛΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΩΝ
ΤΜΗΜΑ ΤΟΥΡΚΙΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΩΝ ΑΣΙΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF TURKISH STUDIES AND MODERN ASIAN STUDIES

ΣΕΙΡΑ ΔΙΑΛΕΞΕΩΝ:
ΤΟΥΡΚΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ & ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗ
Συντονίστρια: Αναπλ. Καθηγήτρια Έφη Κάννερ



LECTURE SERIES:
TURKISH SOCIETY AND POLITICS
Convenor: Assoc. Professor Efi Kanner



ετά τη θετική ανταπόκριση του κοινού στη διοργάνωση της σειράς διαλέξεων με θέμα **Τουρκική Κοινωνία και Πολιτική** που το Τμήμα Τουρκικών Σπουδών και Σύγχρονων Ασιατικών Σπουδών του Εθνικού και Καποδιστριακού Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών διοργάνωσε την περσινή χρονιά, οι διαλέξεις αυτές θα συνεχιστούν και το ακαδημαϊκό έτος 2026-27.

Για το λόγο αυτό, το Τμήμα Τουρκικών Σπουδών και Σύγχρονων Ασιατικών Σπουδών έχει προσκαλέσει και φέτος διεθνώς αναγνωρισμένους επιστήμονες διαφόρων ειδικοτήτων, προερχόμενους από τουρκικά και ευρωπαϊκά πανεπιστήμια, αλλά και συγγραφείς και υποψήφιους διδάκτορες. Οι ομιλητές θα θέσουν μια σειρά από ζητήματα που κυριαρχούν στην τουρκική επικαιρότητα, όπως: οι έμφυλες ταυτότητες ως πεδία κρατικής καταστολής, αλλά και κοινωνικής αντίστασης, οι επιπτώσεις της πολιτικής απέναντι στις μειονότητες, τόσο στην καθημερινότητα των τελευταίων, όσο και στην τουρκική οικονομική ζωή, η σχέση λογοτεχνίας και συλλογικής μνήμης, καθώς και η έννοια της «εθνικής προδοσίας» στο τουρκικό πολιτικό λεξιλόγιο.

Μέσα από τις διαλέξεις αυτές που απευθύνονται, τόσο στο ακαδημαϊκό, όσο και στο ευρύτερο κοινό, φιλοδοξούμε να φανεί η σύνδεση των κοινωνικών διεργασιών με τις πολιτικές εξελίξεις στη γείτονα, πράγμα που θα βοηθήσει την ελληνική κοινή γνώμη να αποκτήσει σφαιρικότερη γνώση για την τελευταία.

Due to the warm reception of the lecture series ***Turkish Society and Politics*** that the Department of Turkish Studies and Modern Asian Studies of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens organized last year this lecture series will be offered anew during the academic year 2026-27.

The Department of Turkish Studies and Modern Asian Studies invited for that reason internationally renowned academics of various disciplines coming from Turkish and European universities, as well as writers and PhD candidates. Lecturers will focus on topics which are dominant in the Turkish public debate such as: gender identities as fields of state oppression and social resistance, the impact of minority politics on everyday life and Turkish economy, literature and collective memory, as well as the notion of “national betrayal” in Turkish political vocabulary.

We hope that these lectures which address an academic and wider audience as well will shed light to the interplay of social and political developments in the neighbor country and help Greek public opinion to get a wider knowledge of it.



ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ/PROGRAM

LILITH BARDAKÇI (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

**From the Ottoman Empire to Contemporary Turkey:
A History of Gender and Sexuality Norms,
Transgressions, and Transformation**

Τετάρτη, 4 Νοεμβρίου 2026 /

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 18.00 -20.00

Αίθουσα Χατζηδάκι, ΜΘΕ (Κτίριο Νομικής), Σόλωνος 57/
Hadjidakis Conference Hall, Law School Building, 57,
Solonos Str.

Η διάλεξη αυτή συνδιοργανώνεται από το Τμήμα Τουρκικών Σπουδών και Σύγχρονων Ασιατικών Σπουδών και την Επιτροπή Ισότητας Φύλων της Σχολής Οικονομικών και Πολιτικών Επιστημών/This lecture is co-organized by the Department of Turkish Studies and Modern Asian Studies and the Gender Equality Committee of the School of Economics and Political Science.

ÖZGÜR KAYMAK (MEF University)

The Multiparty Era in Turkey: Minority Rights and the Traces of Their Implementation in Everyday Life

Πέμπτη 26 Νοεμβρίου 2026/

Thursday, November 26, 2026, 18.00- 20.00

Αίθουσα Ηλ. Κρίσπη, Μουσείο Ιστορίας Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών, Θόλου 5, Πλάκα/ El. Krispis Conference Hall, History Museum of the University of Athens, 5, Tholou Str., Plaka.

BAŞAK ERGÜDER (Istanbul University)

The Political Economy of the Decision to Leave: The Emigration of Istanbulite Greeks

Τετάρτη 16 Δεκεμβρίου 2026/

Wednesday, December 16, 2026, 18.00-20.00

Αίθουσα Ηλ. Κρίσπη, Μουσείο Ιστορίας Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών, Θόλου 5, Πλάκα/ El. Krispis Conference Hall, History Museum of the University of Athens, 5, Tholou Str., Plaka.

DEFNE SUMAN (Writer)

Writing in the Blind Spots: Reclaiming Memory and History through Literature in Turkey

Τετάρτη 24 Φεβρουαρίου 2027/

Wednesday, February 24, 2027, 18.00-20.00

Αμφιθέατρο «Α. Αργυριάδης», Κεντρικό Κτίριο ΕΚΠΑ,
Πανεπιστημίου 30 / A. Argyriadis Conference Hall,
University of Athens Central Building, 30,
Panepistimiou Av.

FULVIO BERTUCCELLI (Sapienza University of Rome,
University of Bern)

The Grammar of Betrayal: Paradigmatic Figures and the Boundaries of the Nation in Modern Turkey

Δευτέρα 22 Μαρτίου 2027 /

Monday, March 22, 2027, 18.00-20.00

Αμφιθέατρο «Α. Αργυριάδης», Κεντρικό Κτίριο ΕΚΠΑ,
Πανεπιστημίου 30/ A. Argyriadis Conference Hall,
University of Athens Central Building, 30,
Panepistimiou Av.

ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΕΙΣ/ABSTRACTS

Τετάρτη 4 Νοεμβρίου 2026 /

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 18.00 - 20.00

From the Ottoman Empire to Contemporary Turkey: A History of Gender and Sexuality Norms, Transgressions, and Transformation

LİLİTH BARDAKÇI (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

This presentation examines the historical transformation of gender identities, sexual practices, and sexual norms from the Ottoman Empire to contemporary Turkey, situating these developments within broader processes of modernization, nation-building, and political change. Rather than projecting contemporary LGBTQ+ categories onto the past, it explores historically specific understandings of gender variance, same-sex desire, and sexual relations, attending to the social, cultural, and legal frameworks through which they were negotiated and regulated. The presentation then traces the changing visibility and social positioning of gender-variant communities, including trans women, sex workers, and other marginalized sexual subjects, while examining the tensions between historical continuities and ruptures.

The second part focuses on the emergence and development of LGBTQ+ organizing in Turkey, from early forms of collective resistance and the political mobilizations of the 1980s and 1990s to contemporary feminist, queer, and trans movements. Finally, it analyzes the current political climate, including increasing state repression, restrictions on freedom of assembly and expression, and anti-gender politics,

alongside the resilience of LGBTQ+ communities and their struggles for recognition, rights, and collective survival.

By connecting historical analysis with contemporary political developments, the presentation highlights how gender and sexuality remain central sites of social contestation in Turkey.

Πέμπτη 26 Νοεμβρίου 2026 /

Thursday, November 26, 2026, 18.00- 20.00

The Multiparty Era in Turkey: Minority Rights and Their Implementation in Everyday Life

ÖZGÜR KAYMAK (MEF University)

This lecture examines the major developments and challenges surrounding the implementation of minority rights in Turkey during the multiparty era, beginning in 1950, within a broader historical and socio-political context. Particular attention will be given to key developments affecting non-Muslim minorities, including the events of 6–7 September 1955, the 1964 expulsion of Greek citizens of Turkey, questions concerning property and community foundations, and experiences in the fields of education and language. Drawing on the speaker's research on the everyday lives and experiences of non-Muslim minorities, the lecture will move beyond a purely legal or institutional understanding of minority rights to explore the gap between de jure recognition and de facto experience. It will focus on the distance between formally recognized rights and equality or inequality as experienced in everyday life, as well as the social and psychosocial repercussions of discriminatory citizenship practices. In doing so, the lecture asks how being a minority is

experienced in everyday life, and how historical and institutional processes leave lasting traces in individuals, communities, memories, and practices of belonging.

Τετάρτη 16 Δεκεμβρίου 2026/

Wednesday, December 16, 2026, 18.00-20.00

The Political Economy of the Decision to Leave: The Emigration of Istanbulite Greeks

BAŞAK ERGÜDER (Istanbul University)

This lecture is based on a postdoctoral research project conducted at the Department of Turkish and Modern Asian Studies. The project examined the financial and historical impact of the migration of Istanbulite Greeks (*Istanbul Rums*) to Athens on the economies of both countries following World War II. The lecture primarily focuses on the migration of Istanbulite Greeks after the expulsion of Greek citizens from Turkey in 1964. Drawing on in-depth interviews with Istanbulite Greek immigrants to Athens in the 1970s and 1980s, as well as academics specialising in this group, the lecture considers the impact of migration decisions on capital and skilled labour. The lecture also considers how state policies and historical developments, such as the wealth tax of 1942, the 6–7 September 1955 pogrom, and the 1964 expulsion, impacted the decision to migrate. It focuses on how these events altered the allocation of occupations and property relations between non-Muslims and Muslims, as well as the economic life of Istanbul. It also examines how economic insecurity, economic conditions, occupation, education and future expectations influenced the decision to migrate. Significant aspects of the economic politics of migration include the transformation of the

minority education system in the 1960s and restrictions on the right to education. The emigration of Istanbulite Greeks was shaped by political pressure, as well as by changes in economic life, occupations, educational opportunities, and future expectations.

Τετάρτη 24 Φεβρουαρίου 2027/

Wednesday, February 24, 2027, 18.00-20.00

Writing in the Blind Spots: Reclaiming Memory and History through Literature in Turkey

DEFNE SUMAN (Writer)

This talk explores how novelistic fiction serves as a crucial space for reclaiming lost memory and history in Turkey. Rather than treating history as a static record, literary fiction creates a dynamic, imaginary archive where erased spaces, silent generations, and marginalized lives come back to life through story.

As authors, our task, when writing into historical blind spots, is not to write textbooks or present absolute facts, but to craft imaginative worlds that honor emotional truth. By drawing on rich examples of Turkish fiction, this presentation examines how novelists use multi-layered structures, shifting timelines, and polyphonic character perspectives to capture the messy, non-linear way collective memory actually functions. An old pastry shop, a quiet neighborhood street, or an unsaid family secret becomes the narrative anchor for exploring multi-generational silence and lost topographies. By centering the creative power of storytelling this talk demonstrates how fiction fills the empty pages of official history: restoring human nuance, sensory detail, and personal truth to the blank spaces of the past without stripping away the poignancy of what was lost.

Δευτέρα 22 Μαρτίου 2027/

Monday, March 22, 2027, 18.00-20.00

The Grammar of Betrayal: Paradigmatic Figures and the Boundaries of the Nation in Modern Turkey

FULVIO BERTUCCELLI (Sapienza University of Rome, University of Bern)

Across modern history, the boundaries of national belonging have often been drawn not just through shared values, but through the public naming of the “enemy within.” In the context of modern Turkey, public debates, legal frameworks, and political narratives are shaped by a persistent vocabulary of *ihanet* (betrayal). Rather than taking this recurrence for granted as a mere symptom of political polarization or paranoia, accusations of betrayal function as a boundary-making practice, allowing the state to define its own limits and dictate who truly belongs to the national community. This lecture offers a historical journey through modern Turkey by tracing the political trajectories, trials, and public representations of key paradigmatic figures, the presentation explores how shifting political anxieties repeatedly refashion the image of the traitor. Rather than isolated historical episodes, these cases reveal how old fears, legal provisions, and stigmatizing vocabularies continuously re-emerge to target new figures in changing times. Ultimately, examining these paradigmatic figures provides broader insights into how modern states enforce conformity and continuously redraw the limits of citizenship.