

Colloquium Series
Sociology of Transnationalization
“Frontiers in Transnational Research”

The Transformation of the Turkish Religious Field under the AKP Rule

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The relationship between the state and religion, as well as the interplay between religion and politics, has been a persistent and contested issue since the establishment of the Republic of Turkey. This debate gained renewed significance with the rise to power of the Islamist-rooted Justice and Development Party (AKP) in 2002. This presentation contributes to the ongoing discussion by examining the expansion and growing influence of official religious institutions, including the Directorate of Religious Affairs (Diyanet), Imam-Hatip schools, and Divinity faculties. It explores how these institutions have been incorporated into the AKP's political rationality and analyzes how this approach diverges from the political rationalities of previous governments. The analysis draws on official policy documents, legislative reforms, statistical data, and relevant academic literature to provide a comprehensive assessment of the evolving relationship between religion and the state under AKP rule, viewed through the lens of political rationality.

Wednesday, 11th June 2025
4.15 – 5.45 pm CEST/UTC+2
ONLINE via ZOOM

Please register until 10th June:
<https://uni-bielefeld.zoom-x.de/meeting/register/6OYIYfkxTsCy6a2J0OLMTg>

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*Mustafa Şen is a Professor of Sociology at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey. He completed his undergraduate studies in the Department of Economics at the Faculty of Political Sciences, Ankara University. He received his PhD in Sociology from METU with a dissertation titled “*Turkish Entrepreneurs in Central Asia: The Case of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.*” His primary

research interests include the sociology of religion, economic sociology, and contemporary Central Asia. His current research focuses on state-religion relations in Turkey and the activities of both official and non-official Turkish Islamic organizations in Europe and Central Asia.

All interested are welcome!