

# BUILDING THE TURKISH REPUBLIC THE EARLY DECADES

Commemorating the Centennial

Organized by  
Zeynep Çelik and A. Tunç Şen  
Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies

October 27-28, 2023  
Buell Hall, Columbia University

# PROGRAM

## DAY 1 - OCTOBER 27

- 9:00AM** Registration
- 9:30AM** Opening
- 10:00AM** Panel 1:  
Institutions
- 12:00PM** Lunch Break
- 1:45PM** Panel 2:  
Peoples
- 3:45PM** Coffee Break
- 4:00PM** Panel 3:  
Religion
- 6:00PM** Reception

## DAY 2 - OCTOBER 28

- 9:30AM** Coffee and Snacks
- 9:50AM** Welcome from  
CGC Istanbul
- 10:00AM** Panel 4:  
Foundations
- 12:00PM** Lunch Break
- 1:45PM** Panel 5:  
Arts
- 3:45PM** Coffee Break
- 4:00PM** Panel 6:  
Opposition

# DAY 1

## Opening

9:30AM - 10:00AM

### Welcome

**Neslihan Şenocak**, Director of SSC, Columbia University

### Introductory Remarks

**Zeynep Çelik**, Sakıp Sabancı Visiting Professor, Columbia University

**A. Tunç Şen**, Deputy Director of SSC, Columbia University

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## Panel 1 - Institutions

10:00AM - 12:00PM

**Benjamin Fortna**, University of Arizona

“Education from Ottoman Empire to Turkish Republic:  
Continuity and Change in an Iconic Endeavor”

**Ali Cengizkan**, METU and Bilkent University

“Legacy of the Early Planning Decisions on the Making of  
the Republican Capital: Ankara 1920-1960”

**Feza Günergun**, Istanbul University

“The Aurora of Scientific Research in Republican Turkey:  
Institutions and Actors”

Discussant: **Nükhet Varlık**, Rutgers University

## **Panel 2 - Peoples**

**1:45PM - 3:45PM**

**Ari Şekeryan**, Independent Scholar

“Between ‘Armistice Complex’ and Promises of Civic Nationalism:  
Armenians in Early Republican Turkey”

**Ayşe Ozil**, Sabancı University

“Agency and Society in a Minority Regime:  
Greeks in Early Republican Istanbul”

**Louis Fishman**, Brooklyn College, CUNY

“From Ottoman Jews to Turkish Ones: The Making of a [Disappearing]  
Religious Minority During the First Decades of the Turkish Republic”

Discussant: **Mark Mazower**, Columbia University

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## **Panel 3 - Religion**

**4:00PM - 6:00PM**

**Amit Bein**, Clemson University

“Turkey, Islam, and the Middle East in the Interwar Period”

**Sevgi Adak**, Aga Khan University

“Women, Kemalism, and the State: Revisiting Early Republican  
Gender Policies and Their Implications”

**Markus Dressler**, Leipzig University

“Nationalist Knowledge Production and  
Policies on the Alevi in the Kemalist Era”

Discussant: **Joseph Massad**, Columbia University

# DAY 2

**Welcome**

**9:50AM - 10:00AM**

**İpek Cem Taha**, Director of Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul

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## **Panel 4 - Foundations**

**10:00AM - 12:00PM**

**Ayşe Buğra**, Boğaziçi University

“Social Policy and the Early Republican Perspectives on Development”

**Reşat Kasaba**, University of Washington

“The Masters of the Nation:

The Early Republican State and Turkey’s Peasants”

**Levent Köker**, Gazi University

“Revolutionary Antinomies:

Constitutional Change and Legal Reform in Early Republican Turkey”

Discussant: **Benjamin Fortna**, University of Arizona

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## **Panel 5 - Arts**

**1:45PM - 3:45PM**

**Esra Dicle**, Boğaziçi University

“Theater in People's Houses

and the Construction of the Modern Nation-State”

**Nergis Ertürk**, Pennsylvania State University

“Literary Entanglements Across Turkey and the Soviet Union”

**Savaş Arslan**, Dokuz Eylül University

“Early Cinema in Turkey”

Discussant: **Sibel Erol**, New York University

## **Panel 6 - Opposition**

**4:00PM - 6:00PM**

**Christine Philliou**, University of California, Berkeley  
“Muhalefet and the Transposition of Political Opposition, 1918-1928”

**James Ryan**, Foreign Policy Research Institute  
“Vectors of Dissent: Gender, Race, and Class Politics  
Underneath Kemalist Authoritarianism”

**İlker Aytürk**, Bilkent University  
“Turkish Opposition in Early Republican Turkey:  
The Rise and Fall of the Center-Periphery Thesis”

Discussant: **Ayşe Kadiođlu**, Sabancı University

**For more information, please visit our website:**

<https://sakipsabancicenter.columbia.edu>