

2016/2017

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Letter from the director

In the last four years, both SUITS and Turkey have seen a lot of changes. What has not changed is SUITS' commitment to independent research that crosses disciplinary boundaries and to communicating our expertise to a broad audience. Indeed, as Turkish politics have become increasingly contentious and the already significant divides in Turkish society have become deeper still, the need for independent and non-partisan scholarship has grown correspondingly.



"One of my most important duties is to safeguard this space for independent and high-quality scholarship."

- Paul T. Levin

It is increasingly important for international institutions of higher education to support independent scholarship on Turkey. Organisations such as Scholars at Risk, the Scholars Rescue Fund, and the Council for At-Risk Academics all report a dramatic escalation in the number of applications for support by academics from Turkey, who no longer feel free to conduct independent and critical scholarship in their native country.

SUITS is a place where independent research on Turkish affairs is allowed and protected even if it is critical - we do not have any "editorial line" or policy agenda. As SUITS' Director, one of my most important duties is to safeguard this space for independent and high-quality scholarship. Critical thinking and scholarship is absolutely essential for good policy making and healthy and well-informed democratic deliberation.

HIGHLIGHTS

Two panel discussions on Turkey's referendum



Folkmoströningen i Turkiet: debriefing med valobservatörer

In the first event on 26 April, SUITS and FBA (Folke Bernadotteakademin) cohosted a panel discussion with the election observers Lars Lagergren and Robert Hall which Paul Levin and had Ülkü Holago as moderator. They discussed the process of election monitoring and discussed the OSCE report critical of conditions leading up to the vote.



Turkey's pivotal referendum: what comes next...

The event on 27 April focused on the implications of the referendum and the future of Turkey with Jenny White as moderator. Paul T. Levin expanded on the details of the referendum and its implications for the EU. Cengiz Çandar spoke about activism; Egemen Bezci addressed the military and security aspects of the decision; and Michael Sahlin spoke about potential ramifications internationally.

MEET OUR VISITING RESEARCHERS

**Berna Ekal Simsek**

POSTDOCTORAL VISITING RESEARCHER

received her PhD in Social Anthropology and Ethnology with an ethnographic analysis of public women's shelters in Turkey. During her PhD work, she also investigated how the murders of women were portrayed in contemporary Turkish media. During her residency at SUITS, funded by the Swedish Institute, she will examine the institutionalization of gender equality policies, comparing Sweden and Turkey.

**Egemen Bezci**

VISITING DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

is completing his PhD from the University of Nottingham examining intelligence cooperation between the US and the UK and how this cooperation has impacted smaller states. His dissertation work, with a fellowship from the Swedish Institute, combines comparative politics, international history, and security studies to complicate and refine our views on cooperation, competition, and their aftermaths in the Near East.

**Chiara Maritato**

POSTDOCTORAL VISITING RESEARCHER

holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Turin (Italy). In her dissertation, she investigated the redefinition of Turkish secularism through the institution of female preachers (vaizeler) employed by the Turkish Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyanet). At SUITS she is researching the activities carried out by Diyanet's female preachers within the Turkish Muslim communities in Sweden.

SUITS IN THE MEDIA**ESSAYS AND ARTICLES**

[Interregnum in Turkey-EU Relations](#) by Egemen Bezci in *Moshe Dayan Center analysis*

[Turkey: between "traitors" and "heroes"](#) by Jenny White in *Osservatorio balcani e caucaso transeuropa*

[Ankara, l'alleato con riserva](#) by Cengiz Candar in *LiMes Rivista Italiana Di Geopolitica*

[A New Turkey? Implications of the Failed Military Coup and Subsequent Political Coup](#) by Cengiz Candar in *CIRSD Horizons*

[The CIA and a Turkish coup](#) by Egemen Bezci in *War On The Rocks*

[The new Turkey after the coup](#) by Jenny White in *Oriental Business* (China)

[What is the new Turkey?](#) Jenny White in *Orange News* (China)

[Turkey's Erdogan unnerves West with Putin visit](#) by Michael Sahlin in *BBC News*

[Democracy is Like a Tram](#) by Jenny White in *Turkey Institute* (London)

PRINT INTERVIEWS

in Aftonbladet, Bloomberg, Boston Herald, Caijing Magazine (China), Dagens Nyheter, De Standaard (Netherlands), Deutsche Welle (Netherlands), Diken, Expressen, Financial Times, The Globe and Mail (Canada), The Globe Post, Grasswire, Göteborgs-Posten, Ming Pau News (China), The New York Times, Slate Magazine, SR Ekot, Svenska Dagbladet, The Times (London), Trend News Agency (Baku, Azerbaijan), Tyden (Czechia), USA Today, Washington Post, WhoWhatWhy

RADIO/PODCAST INTERVIEWS

on FM 90.5 Busan: Morning Wave in Busan (South Korea), Radio Anch'io, Radio Sweden, Sveriges Radio, Share Radio (London)

TV INTERVIEWS

Aktuellt, ARD (Germany), BBC Arabic, CNN, Dagens Juridik, Expressen TV, France 24, i24 News Channel (Israel), SVT (Nyheter, Frikktion, Gomorron Sverige), TV4 (Nyheter, Nyhetsmorgon), ZDF (Germany)

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PAST EVENTS - 2016/2017**Research Seminars**

- **"Trust and belonging in EU-Turkey relations"**, Lucia Najšlová, Assistant Professor at the Department of European Studies, Charles University, Prague (May 2017) **pictured below*
- **"The KGB and Central Asian Jihadists: Soviet Concerns about Turks, Afghans, and Revolutionary Muslims in Central Asia, 1918-1989."** Michael Fredholm, Head of Research and Development at IRI (April 2017)
- **"The Future of the Turkey-EU Refugee Deal"**, Gerald Knaus, Founding Chairman of European Stability Initiative (ESI) (September 2016)
- **"Investigating the Postcolonial Features in Iranian Short Stories"**, Nafiseh Moradi, Ph.D. student in Persian Literature and Language at Alzahra University, Tehran and visiting researcher at Stockholm University (June 2016)



The core mission of the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS) is to contribute to a broad and well informed understanding of Turkey and Turkish affairs in academia, civil society, government, and the private sector in Europe as well as the rest of the world.



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