



Seminar

İNAN ÖZDEMİR TAŞTAN

Barbro Klein Fellow, SCAS.
Independent Scholar, Ankara

*Discursive Strategies of the "Slanted Media"
in the Justification of Turkey's Withdrawal
from the Istanbul Convention*

Tuesday, 11 May 2021, 2:15 p.m.

Due to the precautions imposed by the current Corona pandemic,
the Thunberg Hall will be closed to the public until further notice.

You are therefore invited to join the seminar via Zoom instead:
<https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/61036172539>

S W E D I S H
COLLEGIUM
for ADVANCED STUDY

www.swedishcollegium.se

ABOUT İNAN ÖZDEMİR TAŞTAN

İnan Özdemir Taştan is a Peace Academic from Turkey who was dismissed from her post at Ankara University in 2017 for signing a petition entitled “We will not be a party of this crime!”. She received her PhD in 2013 from Ankara University Institute of Social Sciences, writing her thesis on the rhetoric of radical left movements in Turkey in the 1970s. After completing her PhD, she offered courses on public relations, political communication and research methods.

She has taken part in several research projects focusing on political campaigns and media. Her recent publications have focused especially on the electoral speeches of political leaders and their perception of democracy; the increasing religionization of politics in Turkey; political debates on Syrian immigration; radical media and resistance under AKP governments. She has published several papers and book chapters in the area of media studies. Moreover, she is the co-author of the books *Seçimlik Demokrasi* (2018) (Voting Democracy) and *Vaatten Duaya, Anayasadan Kur'an'a: Siyasette Dinselleşme* (2019) (From Promise to Prayer, Constitution to Koran: Religionization of Politics). Her most recent work is “A Report on Academic Freedoms in Turkey in the Period of the State of Emergency” (with Aydın Ördek, 2020), which is based on the results of a large-scale survey with academicians and students in Turkey. She sits on the editorial board of *Kültür ve İletişim/culture&communication* and was its editor during the period 2018-2020.

At SCAS, Özdemir Taştan will be working on the state of the media in the post-truth era and under conditions of rising authoritarianism. More specifically, focusing on Turkey as a case, she will analyze the discursive strategies of “slanted” media in the justification and legitimation of government policies.

ABSTRACT

A significant part of the national media in Turkey is under the control of the government, either directly or indirectly. These media outlets, known as “pool media” or “slanted media”, appear to be propaganda apparatus that legitimize and defend the government’s policies and determine the boundaries of what can be discussed or talked about. At this point, the TV debates attract particular attention. Political TV debates are supposed to form a kind of “agora” that gathers different segments of society, experts and/or ordinary people to discuss leading issues of the political agenda and thus contribute to the formation of public opinion in modern democracies. However, the TV debates in pro-Government media in Turkey, which make up almost all of the national broadcasts, have turned into highly exclusionary pseudo discussions as the debates could only be conducted within the limits allowed by the government, both in terms of the debate topics and the guests involved. Therefore, these TV debates have become an indicator of the issues that may be subject to discussions and how these discussions can be carried out. In this seminar, I will focus on how President Erdoğan’s decision to withdraw Turkey from the Istanbul Convention was discussed in TV debates. Through my study of the Turkish case, I will discuss the situation of the media in an authoritarian regime on the one hand and the perspective of the male authoritarian governments on women’s rights on the other.