

**Between Rapprochement and Rejection:
Identity and Culture Drivers in the Europe-Turkey Relations**

Conference and PhD Workshop

Austrian Cultural Forum and Koc University, 14- 15 September 2018

CALL FOR PAPERS

Europe and Turkey share a long history between rapprochement and rejection. This conference and PhD workshop aim at examining the main identity and culture drivers that have shaped the relationship between various European actors and Turkey or the Ottoman Empire since the early 19th century.

Whether Turkey is considered as part of Europe or not often varies in the context of political cooperation or tension. These dynamics of inclusion and exclusion also manifest themselves as an ideological power struggle in the realm of culture. As EU-Turkey relations have worsened over the last years, simplistic, ahistorical and essentialized understandings of Turkish and European identities and cultures have become more prevalent among both the respective elites and publics.

At this juncture, we invite young scholars in political science, international relations, history, cultural studies, sociology, and other relevant fields to reflect specifically on the identity and cultural dimension of the relations between Turkey and Europe. We are especially interested in papers that explore some of the following themes and questions:

1. *Cultural interactions as a vehicle for mutual understanding and convergence:* Both the EU and Member States and Turkey are independently and collaboratively running a number of cultural projects that aim to promote their cultures and foster greater understanding. An increasing number of Turkish-European cultural figures in music, literature, film, and fine arts are successfully hybridizing Turkish and European cultures and appealing to audiences in both cultural contexts. To what extent and in what ways are these cultural interactions effective in changing negative perceptions or promoting positive images? How is the European or Turkish ‘Other’ depicted in literature or arts in both contexts? (How) Are they affected by the changing political climate in EU-Turkey relations?
2. *Civil society and people-to-people links:* Since the start of Turkey’s membership negotiations, civil society and people-to-people links between Turkey and Europe have further developed through targeted funding programs and educational and professional exchanges like Erasmus. How have these links affected identity and cultural perceptions at the individual level? To what extent do they remain resilient in the context of the political downturn?
3. *Politics of history and memory:* The identity and cultural dimension of EU-Turkey relations is rooted in a long historical context of varied political, military, economic, and social interactions between Ottoman Empire (Turkey) and European countries. Select events from this complex and tightly interwoven history are often represented in distorted ways to justify divergence and conflict in EU-Turkey relations. How is history and memory mobilized by political actors in pursuit of certain agendas in EU-Turkey relations? What factors shape patterns of remembrance

and forgetting? How can historicity and historical approaches contribute to our understanding of EU-Turkey relations?

4. *Populism and Elite Discourse*: The current impasse in EU-Turkey relations has coincided with the rise of nationalist/ populist political parties and movements in both Europe and Turkey. What have been the effects of this political trend on the discursive structures of identity representations employed by elites? What are prevalent metaphors and other linguistic tools, and how do they vary across national and ideological lines?
5. *Convergence and Divergence in Public opinion*: Eurobarometer as well as some other cross-national surveys provide data on changing patterns of identification in Europe and Turkey. We are interested in papers that focus on questions that measure attachment to identity and certain values and trace the changes in Europe and Turkey over time.

The PhD workshop is organized as part of the H2020 Project FEUTURE (The Future of EU-Turkey Relations: Mapping Dynamics and Testing Scenarios) and will be held in conjunction with a conference on 14 September 2018, organized with EUNIC (EU National Institutes for Culture) at the Austrian Cultural Forum in Yenikoy, featuring expert speakers, a policy challenge session, and the presentation of FEUTURE project results. Updated information about the conference program and workshop will be made regularly available at <http://kocjeanmonnet.ku.edu.tr>.

Application Procedure and Timeline: Recent PhDs (within the past 3 years) and students currently enrolled in PhD programs are invited to apply. 250 word abstracts should be submitted to fcelik17@ku.edu.tr by **Tuesday, 15 May 2018**. Selected participants and the full conference program will be announced by 1 July 2018. The selected participants will be required to submit their full papers by 7 September 2018. Following the conference and the PhD Workshop, selected papers will be published as part of the FEUTURE PhD Online Paper Series.

Participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements and take part in the full 2-day program (conference + PhD workshop, 14-15 September 2018). Limited travel support is available for participants based outside of Istanbul.