

Free Speech On Trial in Turkey

Venue: Birkbeck College, Clore Lecture Theatre (CLO B01) Clore Management Building
Torrington Square London WC1E 7JL

Date and time : Tue, 30 Jan 2018 14:30 - 17:30 GMT

Both before and after the state of emergency that followed the botched coup in 2016, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government has shown increasing authoritarian tendencies, rolling back an essentially weak democracy. Now a truly authoritarian regime is in place and instigates multiple attacks against fundamental rights and democratic institutions, such as arbitrary arrests and prosecutions of critical voices, extensive use of emergency decrees, massive purges of the state institutions and the witch hunt against the Academics for Peace, signatories of the Peace petition. As it is generally the case, free speech and academic freedom have been major casualties of this authoritarian drift. Gathering academics, lawyers and human rights defenders, this panel will offer a critical insight into current legal and political developments in Turkey and discuss the way forward in the defence of freedom of expression and academic freedom in the country.

Panel 1 - 14.30 – 16.00 Free Speech under Threat in Turkey: A Legal Approach

Chair: Noémi Lévy-Aksu (Birkbeck College)

Ayse Bingöl (Media Legal Defence): The criminalisation of speech under state of emergency regime.

Bill Bowring (Birkbeck College, Professor of Law): Recent Strasbourg case law on freedom of expression in Turkey.

Oya Aydın (Lawyer): What are the Academics for Peace accused of?

Panel 2 - 16.15 – 17.30 Trial Observation, Legal Intervention and Advocacy

Chair: Mehmet Uğur (University of Greenwich)

Georgia Nash (Article 19)

Sarah Clarke (Pen International)

Hanna Machlin (Index on Censorship)

SCIENCE, TRUTH AND POLITICS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

We would like to invite you to join our webinar “Science, Truth And Politics during the Covid-19 Pandemic: What have we learned?”, organized by Centre for Democracy and Peace Research (CDPR)

In this webinar, three distinguished contributors from the UK, Turkey and Brazil will share their reflections on what we have learned about the tensions between science, truth, and politics during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Speakers

Professor Stephen Reicher, University of St Andrews and member of the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group in Scotland

Professor Feride Aksu Tank, professor of Public Health. She was dismissed from Ege University (Turkey) in 2017 – through a state of emergency decree - for signing the Academics for Peace declaration.

Dr Fernando Antônio Resende, Senior Lecturer and Research Co-ordinator (CNPq) in Media and Cultural Studies at Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF).

Chair: Professor **Mehmet Ugur**, CDPR and University of Greenwich.

Date/Time Friday, 12 June 2020, 6 – 8 pm (UK time)

The **Centre for Democracy and Peace Research (CDPR)** was founded in 2017 in London to support alternative modes of knowledge production and dissemination in the face of rising authoritarianism. CDPR has developed and implemented projects that support the Academics for Peace in Turkey, who have been dismissed and persecuted by the Turkish government for criticising state violence against civilians in Kurdish towns and cities. CDPR works with on-campus academics, off-campus solidarity academies, and civil society organisations globally to enhance resilience in the production and dissemination of critical knowledge.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/science-truth-and-politics-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-what-have-we-learned-tickets-108546948846>

For further information, please contact us at [\[log in to unmask\]](#)

<http://cdpr.org.uk/science-truth-and-politics-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-what-have-we-learned>

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**SCIENCE, TRUTH AND POLITICS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?**

A Centre for Democracy and Peace Research (CDPR) Webinar

Friday, 12 June 2020, 6 – 8 pm (UK time)

We would like to invite you to a CDPR webinar, titled:

Science, Truth and Politics during the Covid-19 Pandemic: What have we learned?

[Registration](#)

Join via Zoom at:

<https://zoom.us/j/96649401837?pwd=bzBhRXBzaFVUSnhLQj9EOGEwSG5MUT09>

Meeting ID: 966 4940 1837 /Password: 4bvfiJZ

Background

Populist and authoritarian regimes across the globe have been busy discrediting independent scientific inquiry and suppressing the production and dissemination of critical knowledge. Higher education and research funding institutions have demonstrated a lack of resilience against, and sometimes complicity with, rising authoritarianism. Then the Coronavirus struck, and science has been invited to the centre-stage to ‘guide’ the response to the pandemic. Is it time to celebrate a re-set in the relationship between science and politics, and between politics and truth? Or is it too soon to be jubilant?

Aim

This webinar aims to address these and several complementary questions that have been brought to the fore by the Covid-19 pandemic. The range of questions includes but not necessarily limited to the following: What is the scope for a re-set in the role of science in good governance during major emergencies? Has science guided the policy response to Covid-19, or has it been used by populist politicians to borrow credibility and increase their power? Do scientists speak up when politicians flout their scientific advice and why? How much trust can

we have in the ‘science-led policy’ discourse? Can we expect a shift away from ‘science as narrow-interest advocacy’ towards ‘science for the collective good’?

Contributors

In this webinar, three distinguished contributors will share their reflections on what we have learned about the tensions between science, truth, and politics during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Professor Stephen Reicher, University of St Andrews (UK), is professor of social psychology working on issues such as group behaviour and individual-social relationships, social determination and social change, and political rhetoric and mass mobilisation, among others. He is currently a participant in the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Behaviours (SPI-B) within the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) in the UK. He is also a member of the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group in Scotland. Professor Reicher and his colleagues (Jolanda Jetten and S. Alexander Haslam of the University of Queensland and Tegan Cruwys of the Australian National University) have just published a book titled: *Together Apart: The Psychology of COVID-19*. This book documents what they have observed over the past few months and demonstrates how insights from the social identity approach can contribute to public debate around the most significant world event of our lifetimes.

Professor Feride Aksu Tanık is professor of Public Health. She was dismissed from Ege University (Turkey) in 2017 – through a state of emergency decree - for signing the Academics for Peace declaration. After her dismissal, she has remained engaged in the production and dissemination of critical knowledge. She works on the right to health, social determinants of health, health inequalities, health policy, and professional autonomy. Recently she has been working on the securitization of pandemics. She is head of the Turkish Medical Association's Ethics Committee, which has released a statement of ethics on disease outbreaks. She has assumed a wide range of responsibilities as a member of the Academy of Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, as president of the International Association for Health Policies in Europe, and as a consultant for the Social and Medical Affairs Committee of the World Medical Association.

Dr Fernando Antônio Resende is Senior Lecturer and Research Co-ordinator (CNPq) in Media and Cultural Studies at Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF). Local Coordinator of Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate in “Cultural Studies in Literary Interzones” (EACEA), and the Joint Research Project “Literary Cultures of the Global South” (Universität Tübingen/DAAD). His work covers the theory and philosophy of communication, narratives of conflicts and diasporic movements, comparative media and documentary studies, and Global South theory. He also studies the impact of geopolitical discursive relations (narratives and conflicts) on the imaged geographies of East/West, including the imagination of Palestine and Africa by Brazil and England.

Chair: **Professor Mehmet Ugur**, CDPR and University of Greenwich.

The contributions will be followed by a Q&A session.

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