

May 10 2016

Dr Katerina Dalacoura workshops on Contemporary Turkish Discourses on Culture in IR

Blog editor

In the context of her British Academy project on 'Alternative Universalisms? Contemporary Turkish Discourses on Culture in International Relations', Dr Katerina Dalacoura co-organised two workshops, one in Ankara, Turkey, and the other in Washington DC. Both were funded by the International Relations Department of LSE.



Dr Katerina Dalacoura

ANKARA, TURKEY:

A workshop on 'Alternative Universalisms? Contemporary Turkish Discourses on Culture in International Relations', co-organised by Katerina Dalacoura (BA, LSE), Baskent University (Professor Menderes Cinar) and TOBB University (Dr Burak Ozpek), took place at TOBB University on 29 March 2016.

Participants: Ihsan Dagi, Middle East Technical University, Ali Balci, Sakarya University, Michelangelo Guida, 29 Mayıs University, Gokhan Bacik, Ipek University.

The workshop investigated contemporary Turkish conceptions of culture in International Relations. It explored intellectual trends which go beyond conventional categories of 'East/Islam' versus 'West' and investigated the possibility of alternative universalist understandings of culture. Contemporary thought was placed in the context of Turkey's intellectual, political, social and geo-political history. The impact of ideas on foreign policy was also an important aspect of the workshop.

The presentations were rich and the discussion went well. The event was well-attended and the discussion that followed the presentations was engaged and focused. Comments from the audience and colleagues were positive.



L to R: Ihsan Dagi, Michelangelo Guida, Ali Balci, the Chair: Professor Ihsan Sezal, Gokhan Bacik

WASHINGTON D.C.:

A workshop on '*The Idea of Culture and Civilization in Contemporary Turkish Politics: Public Debate, Policy and Foreign Relations*', co-organised by Katerina Dalacoura (BA, LSE) and the Wilson Center (Professor Henri Barkey) took place at the Wilson Center on 20 April 2016.

The workshop explored new ideas among Islamist and secular intellectuals in contemporary Turkey and enquired whether novel understandings exist about the relationship between Islam and modernity, East and West, and the position of Turkey

itself within them. The conference also investigated the impact of these understandings on public debate domestically in Turkey and on its foreign policy, specifically its relations with the United States and Europe, Russia, and the Middle East.

There were nine presentations in all, which took place in three panels. The event was well-attended (35 people in each panel) and the presentations were followed by a spirited discussion. [Full details of the programme can be found here.](#)



L to R: Brian Silverstein (Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of Center for Turkish Studies at The University of Arizona), Berna Turam (Associate Professor of Sociology and International Affairs at Northeastern University), Katerina Dalacoura (British Academy Mid-Career Fellow, and Associate Professor in International Relations, LSE), Gunes Murat Tezcur (Jalal Talabany Chair of Kurdish Political Studies and Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Central Florida)

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