

Turkey's Tightrope: Navigating Domestic and International Crosswinds

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A Century after the foundation of the Turkish Republic, many questions remain open and revolve around Turkey's role from many points of view. The last decades' rapid, ever-changing global order overlapped with drastic reforms in Turkey's domestic context. Thus, considering the numerous scenarios where Turkey plays a significant role, the objective of this panel is to discuss the various elements composing this puzzle and the mechanisms at play at different levels, from high and power politics to emotions and ideologies, from state institutions to grassroots subtleties.

For instance, looking at the international dimension, R. Gasco's research aims to understand the pendulum in Turkey's foreign policy behaviour between NATO and Russia in the last decade. Bridging variation of the external front with internal decision-making dynamics is the objective of S. Abrami's historical-political account. The relationship between domestic politics, institutions, and public sentiment is the scope of M. Kucukuzun's analysis of the 2023 Turkish presidential election campaigns on Twitter. K. Tuncel offers an ethnographic case study on negotiations of gender Normativity in Turkey's Everyday Life. Although each of the papers presents its own analytical and methodological approach to specific themes and research questions, the objective of gathering early career scholars from various fields is to "catch the wave" of transdisciplinarity to not only produce a comprehensive assessment of Turkey's sociopolitical dynamics but also to provide new original and complementary tools of investigation that allow to avoid reductionist interpretation of such a peculiar country in a peculiar region as the Wider Mediterranean.

Track Classification: International Studies of the Mediterranean, Middle East & Asia Working Group