

**Conflict Transformation in the South Caucasus:
Political Transitions and Alternative Approaches to the Peace
Panel Discussion**

**12:30-15:30 Saturday, January 5, 2019
Beykoz University
Campus of Undergraduate Programs, Conference Room
(Muhtar Sokak No: 3 Kavacık)**

AGENDA

12:30 Reception

13:00 Welcome

13:15-14:15 Session 1:

Two Modalities of Foreign and Domestic Policy in Turkey
Dr. Ömer Turan, İstanbul Bilgi University

Russia and Georgia 2008-2018 – Escapism for the Sake of Peace?
Dr. Dmitry Dubrovski, Moscow Higher School of Economics

Perceptions in Azerbaijan of the Impact of Revolutionary Changes in Armenia towards the Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Process
Zaur Shiriyev, International Crisis Group

Moderator: Dr. Pınar Sayan, Beykoz University

14:30-15:15 Session 2:

Meet the New Normal: Community-Driven Clean Energy Partnership to Develop Regional Cooperation Between Turkey and Armenia
Yaprak Aydın, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University (co-author Suren Sargysyan)

Beyond NGOs: Decolonizing Peacebuilding and Human Rights
Sona Dilanyan, Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation (co-authors Aia Beraia, Hilal Yavuz)

Moderator: Dr. Şirin Duygulu Elcim, İstanbul Şehir University

15:15 Closing Remarks

About the Authors

Yaprak Aydın holds an MA degree in Cultural Studies from Goldsmiths, University of London. She is currently a research assistant in the Sociology Department of the Onsekiz Mart University in Çanakkale, Turkey and carrying a study on regional development and acculturation in TR22 provinces in the South Marmara region of Turkey. She also collaborates with local civic initiatives to develop and implement interregional projects on sustainability, renewables, and rurality.

Sona Dilanyan has worked for a number of NGOs focusing on peacebuilding, including the Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation and the Hrant Dink Foundation. Her research interests focus on the South Caucasus and Turkey, particularly the intersections of conflict and gender. She has co-authored the article “Gender and Sexuality in the Discourses of the Nation-State in Conflict Contexts” published in the 2017 (2) volume of the Caucasus Edition. She holds a BA degree in Arabic Studies from Yerevan State University and an MA degree in Cultural Studies from Sabancı University.

Dr. Dmitry Dubrovskiy is Associate Professor at the Department of Social Science, Higher School of Economics (Moscow) and Associate Research Fellow, Center for Independent Social Research (St. Petersburg). He worked as a Research Fellow in the Russian Museum of Ethnography and the European University in the St. Petersburg Ethnic Studies Program. He is a member of the Human Rights Council of St. Petersburg and lecturer and founder of the Human Rights Program, Smolny Department of Liberal Arts and Science. Dr. Dubrovskiy lectured at Harriman Institute at Columbia University, teaching courses on Human Rights in the Post-Soviet Space and worked at Kennan Institute of Advanced Russian Studies, Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies, Columbia University, Bard College, and National Endowment for Democracy. He was also a Galina Starovoitova Fellow in 2007-2008, Kone Fellow in 2010, Reagan-Fascell Fellow in 2015, and Scholars Rescue Fund Fellow from 2015 to 2017. His research interests include hate speech and hate crime, human rights in post-Communist countries, academic rights, and freedoms. He earned his BA in History at St. Petersburg State University, an MA in Ethnography at the European University of St. Petersburg, and a PhD at the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology after Peter the Great.

Zaur Shiriye has more than ten years of experience in academia and think-tanks, specializing in security, conflict resolution, and foreign policy in the South Caucasus. Prior to joining the International Crisis Group in February 2018, he was an Academy Associate with the Russia and Eurasia Program at Chatham House. He has been active in expert level Track 2 meetings on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict since 2008, and most recently, served as coordinator of the PeaCE program, aimed at strengthening and re-engaging Azerbaijani civil society and youth from geographic areas affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in peacebuilding activities. He was a Senior Research Fellow at ADA University and Leading Research Fellow at the Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) in Baku, the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies in Istanbul, and International Strategic Research Organization in Ankara. He is a frequent contributor to several journals and magazines, including Eurasianet, CACI Analyst, and Eurasia Daily Monitor. He also has editorial and journalistic experience in Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Dr. Ömer Turan is an Associate Professor at Istanbul Bilgi University, Department of International Relations. He received his PhD from the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Central European University. His academic interests include social theory, historical sociology, intellectual history, Turkish politics, and anthropology of compulsory military service. He co-authored the book *Raison d'Etat and 1915: The Construction of the 'Armenian Question' Narrative in Turkey* with Güven Gürkan Öztan (İletişim Yayınları, 2018) and co-edited the volume *The Dubious Case of a Failed Coup: Militarism, Masculinities, and 15 July in Turkey* with Feride Çiçekoğlu (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019). He has published articles in various journals including Focaal: the European Journal of Anthropology, Philosophy and Social Criticism, International Review for the Sociology of Sport, Birikim, and Toplum ve Bilim. He is also a board member of the History Foundation (Tarih Vakfı).