



Call for Applications

Research Lab: Constitutional Politics in Turkey II

Prof. Dr. Silvia von Steinsdorff, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Prof. Dr. Ece Göztepe, Bilkent Üniversitesi, Ankara

Research Lab: Constitutional Politics in Turkey II

Contemporary forms of democratic backsliding involve political actors who come to power through democratic elections with a strong democratic rhetoric and a promise of political and economic empowerment of the masses. Once they are in power, however, they try to consolidate their power by eliminating constitutional limitations and democratic opposition through legal and constitutional reforms.

The **Research Lab: Constitutional Politics in Turkey II** focuses on this general phenomenon of democratic backsliding, which is also defined with terms such as autocratic legalism, constitutional regression or new authoritarianism with a particular focus on its development in Turkey. Funded by Stiftung Mercator as part of the programme “Blickwechsel: Contemporary Turkey Studies”, the Research Lab aims to understand the political, legal and social developments during the last two decades in Turkey with a particular attention to law and constitution.

The Research Lab provides researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds and at different career levels with financial support and institutional affiliation. The common ground is the interest in the topic “Constitutional Politics in Turkey”, but researchers are welcome to approach their research question from different disciplinary and methodological perspectives.

Whom do we fund?

The Research Lab now invites applications for short-term funding from researchers who want to receive financial support for their MA thesis or partial support for their PhD project or post-doctoral research. We specifically invite applications from researchers addressing the following topics:

- Transformation of the Turkish State under the Rule of Law (Rechtsstaat) (Practices of Jurisprudence, Legal Changes, State of Emergency)
- Constitutional Amendments and Referenda
- Regime Change from Parliamentary to Presidential System
- The Constitutional Court (Constitutional Justices, Court Rulings, Court Packing)
- Law and Dissent
- Law and Social Change
- Vigilantism, Extralegal Violence and Social Control

Also encouraged are comparative studies, especially comparisons with Eastern Europe/Russia, as well as historical comparisons.



What do we expect?

Researchers are obliged to contribute to the ongoing work in the Research Lab. This means:

- (1) Producing a written academic output (article, thesis chapter or other) by the end of the funding period.
- (2) Presenting their research to audiences (e.g. students, other researchers, the public) at the respective research venue (Humboldt/Berlin or Bilkent/Ankara) in the course of Research Lab meetings, or in a public lecture/seminar in Berlin.

What do we offer?

We provide financial support and institutional affiliation with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and/or Bilkent University for a maximum duration of six months as well as membership in the Research Lab "Constitutional Politics in Turkey II", funded by Stiftung Mercator. The amount of funding will be granted based on level of education, current place of residency/research and proposed research project.

How to apply?

Please hand in:

- . Curriculum vitae, including a list of publications;
- . University diploma;
- . An abstract sketching how you want to approach the topic (no longer than five pages), including a preliminary bibliography and a detailed research and time plan indicating the different research steps during the funding period and the requested budget;
- . A sample of scholarly work (maximum 20 pages from an article, conference paper, thesis/dissertation chapter, or seminar paper).
- . Please also indicate your current financial status (employment and university affiliation, if applicable)

The application should be submitted via e-mail as **one** PDF file in English sent to u.wozniak@hu-berlin.de.

Next deadline for submitting applications is June 30, 2018.

Contact Information

Urszula Woźniak (u.wozniak@hu-berlin.de)
Further information on the Blickwechsel programme:
<http://www.blickwechsel-tuerkei.de/en/index.php>

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Department of Social Sciences
Research Lab: Constitutional Politics
in Turkey II
Comparative Political Sciences and
Political and Political Systems of
Eastern Europe, Unter den Linden 6,
10099 Berlin, Germany