THE ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER-SABANCI UNIVERSITY-STIFTUNG MERCATOR INITIATIVE

cordially invites you to a seminar

**After the Paris Treaty: Anti-coal Struggles in Turkey**

convened by

**Hande Paker**
(2015/16 Mercator-IPC Fellow)

Speaker

**Bengi Akbulut**
(Political Economist, Member of Political Ecology Working Group and Ekoloji Kolektifi)

**Thursday, March 31, 2016**

10:00 - 12:00

**Istanbul Policy Center, 2nd Floor**

(Minerva Han, Bankalar Caddesi No: 2, Karaköy)

The global climate justice movement is growing as the effects of climate change begin to take a toll on a variety of geographies. Especially in the aftermath of the COP21 and the agreement on the Paris Treaty, which delegitimized fossil fuel investments substantially, the climate justice movement has chosen the year 2016 to organize a massive global outcry against such investments. With a focus on keeping fossil fuels in the ground, simultaneous protest events are planned around the world to raise awareness of the issue. At the same time, there is a trend towards “divestment” in which major corporations have started pulling out of coal investments. However, while a new anti-coal scene is being set globally, Turkey is locked into a carbon intensive growth path, with 87 new thermal power plants planned.

Although climate change is not a popular concern in Turkey, these thermal power plants do raise local concerns and often lead to local mobilization. This event aims to understand if and how these local movements relate to climate change/the climate justice movement. How can the issue of climate change, a seemingly abstract, global, and distant problem, be localized? The discussion will address the question of whether local movements can have an impact on more climate-friendly policies. Finally, the idea of the commons will be discussed to explore its potential as a new frame of politics in the context of climate justice.

The event will be held in English. There will be no translation.