

CALL FOR PAPERS
IDEAS AND INTELLECTUALS:
ALTERNATIVE HISTORIES OF TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY

June 2, 2026, 9:00–17:00
Istanbul Policy Center, Karaköy

This one-day workshop brings together scholars of Turkish foreign policy to examine the influence of ideas and intellectuals, with the primary goal of developing alternative narratives in the field. Historically, Turkish foreign policy scholarship has been dominated by conventional, state-centric, and event-based accounts. This workshop seeks to move beyond these traditional frameworks by focusing on the ideational and intellectual currents that have shaped Turkish foreign policy across different eras. We invite both junior and senior scholars to contribute alternative histories that demonstrate how intellectual debates and actors have influenced policy foundations, decision-making, and diplomatic strategies. We especially welcome contributions that bridge intellectual history with foreign policy, empirical studies of intellectual works, and research on “intellectual practitioners” within the diplomatic corps. To ensure a comprehensive discussion of Turkish foreign policy, abstracts will be selected to balance various periods within the Republican era. This workshop is intended as the first step toward a joint publication, such as a special journal issue or an edited volume.

Suggested topics include (but are not limited to):

- Case studies on intellectuals as foreign policy entrepreneurs or practitioners,
- Ideational foundations of Turkish foreign policy and their alternatives,
- Empirical studies based on intellectual works concerning the history of Turkish foreign policy,
- Comparative studies on the ideational frameworks relevant to the history of Turkish foreign policy,
- Case studies on specific think tanks, intellectual groups, or circles,
- Research on the intersection of intellectual history, political thought, and Turkish foreign policy,
- Methodological approaches to studying ideas and foreign policy with a specific aim to construct alternative histories of Turkish foreign policy.

Please send abstracts (300–350 words) to the convenors, Assoc. Prof. Hazal Papuççular and Prof. Alper Kaliber, via ipc@sabanciuniv.edu, with the conference title in the subject line. Submissions should also include a short biography (50–100 words).

The workshop will be held at Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) in Karaköy, Istanbul. To facilitate dialogue, all papers will be circulated among participants prior to the event. Each paper will be assigned a discussant.

TIMELINE:

Abstract Submission: February 20, 2026

Notification of Acceptance: March 1, 2026

Full Draft Submission Deadline: May 15, 2026

Workshop: June 2, 2026