

OVERVIEW

Straddling Europe and Asia, Turkey occupies a unique location between East and West and its cultures represent a unique blend of Eastern and Western civilizations. Historically, the region comprising modern Turkey has overseen the birth of major civilizations such as the Hittite, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Today, Turkey is a democratic, secular, constitutional republic with a Muslim majority population. The complexity of the relationship between Islam and democracy, between East and West, in the world today, makes Turkey an especially important place. At the same time, the opportunities for meaningful contact and cooperation among civilizations brought the Governments of Turkey and Spain to focus on “alliance” rather than “clash” of civilizations. Hence, the “Alliance of Civilizations” now under the auspices of the United Nations was established in 2005 at the initiative of the Governments of Spain and Turkey.

The overarching theme of the conference is the “Alliance of Civilizations,” with its emphasis on peaceful coexistence and dialogue between East and West, North and South, and across religious and cultural differences. We welcome you to Kennesaw State University for this important conference on the Alliance of Civilizations, Jan 29-31, 2009. Papers, panels, and plenary speakers will address the themes of the conference from a wide range of disciplines, fields and specializations. As you also know, this conference is part of the Year of Turkey at Kennesaw State University. If your personal and/or professional travels bring you to the Atlanta area, then you may want to join us for a Year of Turkey program. See program listing at <http://www.kennesaw.edu/yearofturkey/>.

A brief note to presenters: We plan to publish papers presented at this conference and lectures during the Year of Turkey as a Special Edition of the Journal of Global Initiatives. This is a peer-reviewed journal. To ensure consideration and possible inclusion in this volume, presenters are to send their revised papers to reach the Editor-in-Chief no later than March 1, 2009. Papers are to be submitted electronically, as email attachment, in Word or RTF format, to aadebayo@kennesaw.edu.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Conveners & Contacts

Akanmu Adebayo	aadebayo@kennesaw.edu
Isa Afacan	iafacan@istanbulcenter.org
Vivian Bonilla	vbonill1@kennesaw.edu
Barry Morris	bmorri27@kennesaw.edu
Daniel Paracka	dparacka@kennesaw.edu
Thomas Uthup	uthup@un.org

PROGRAM

Thursday, January 29, 2009

3-6:00 PM	Tour of Atlanta (Optional) Tour buses depart from the hotels
6:00 PM	Registration Opens
6:30 PM	Opening of the Exhibition "Turkey: Where Civilizations Meet" Light Reception for Conference Delegates Social Sciences Building Atrium

Friday, January 30, 2009

8:00 AM	Registration and Refreshments Social Sciences Building Atrium
----------------	---

9-10:30 AM Opening Ceremony SO 1021

Welcome Address

Daniel S. Papp, President, Kennesaw State University

Message from Istanbul Center

Tarik Celik, Executive Director

Message from Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

To be delivered by Honorable Cuneyt Yuksel, Member of Turkish Grand National Assembly

Message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

To be delivered by Thomas Uthup, Research Manager, UN Alliance of Civilizations

Greetings from UN Alliance of Civilizations High Representative President Jorge Sampaio

To be delivered by Thomas Uthup, Research Manager, UN Alliance of Civilizations

Message from U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson

To be delivered by Barry Morris, Director of Cabinet Strategic Projects, KSU

Video Address from Turkey

Honorable Mehmet Aydin, State Minister and Alliance of Civilizations Co-Chair

Plenary Address

Honorable Suat Kiniklioglu, Member of Turkish Grand National Assembly

10:30-11 AM Break SO Atrium

11-12:30 PM Concurrent Session #1

Session 1A Room SO 1021

The Alliance of Civilizations: Theoretical Frameworks #1

Chair & Discussant: Barry Morris, Director of Cabinet Strategic Projects, KSU

Presenters:

Mohiaddin Mesbahi, Florida International University, "International Relations Theory and the Challenges of the Civilizational Paradigm"

Alparslan Acikgenc, Faith University, Turkey, "The Progressive Perception of Islam in Turkey: A Hermeneutical Approach to Alliance of Civilizations"

Edward Keene, Georgia Institute of Technology, "Mapping the Boundaries of International Society in the Nineteenth Century: Expansion or Stratification?"

Pinar K. Tremblay, UCLA, "Sharing More Than Just the Prophet: Changing Turkish Policy Towards Muslim Countries"

Session 1B Room SO 1020A

Migration

Chair & Discussant: Dan Paracka, Director of International Services and Programs, KSU

Presenters:

Abdelmadjid Amrani, Batna University, Algeria, "The Philosophy of the Turkish Muslim Immigration to the West: From dialogue to alliance of civilizations"

Juliette Tolay, University of Delaware, "The Turkish Linkage between Europe and the Rest of the World: Theorizing transit migration"

Hasan Aydin, University of Nevada, "Key Dynamics of Assimilation among First Generation Turkish Immigrants Residing in Romania"

12:30-2:00 PM Lunch SO Atrium

2:00-3:30 PM Concurrent Session #2

Session 2A Room SO 1021

Foreign Policy

Chair & Discussant: Metin Heper, Bilkent University

Presenters:

Omer Taspinar, US National War College and Brookings Institution, "Turkey's New Activism in the Middle East: Neo-Ottomanism and the Kurdish challenge"

Hasan Kosebalaban, Lake Forest College, "Alliance of Civilizations as the New Turkish Foreign Policy Doctrine"

Ramazan Kilinc, Michigan State University, "Bargaining Identities: Explaining Turkey's Foreign Policy Discourse of 'Alliance of Civilizations'"

Session 2B Room # SO 1020A

Women and Gender Issues

Chair & Discussant: Sandra Bird, KSU

Presenters:

Zeynep Akbulut Kuru, University of Washington, "The Headscarf Ban and its Effects on Women's Subjectivity"

Gul Celkan, Eastern Mediterranean University, Turkey "Turkish Women: in the Past, Present and the Future"

Hassina Hemamid, Batna University, Algeria, "Headscarf Ban and the Alliance of Civilizations"

Session 2C Room SO 1020B

Chair & Discussant: Akanmu Adebayo, Kennesaw State University

Presenters:

The Alliance of Civilizations: Theoretical Frameworks 2

Murat Doral, Kennesaw State University, "From the Alliance of Economies to the Alliance of Civilizations: Turkey's Importance and Contribution"

Umut Uzer, Harvard University, "Turkey as a Catalyst for the Alliance of Civilizations"

Naim Kapucu, University of Central Florida, Vener Garayev, University of Central Florida, & Tolga Arslan, University of Georgia, "Global Response to Terrorism & Crises: Alliance of Civilizations"

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Break SO Atrium

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Concurrent Session #3

Session 3A Room SO 1021

Religious Education

Chair & Discussant: Alparslan Acikgenc, Vice President, Fatih University

Presenters:

Ahmet Kuru, Columbia University, "Religious Education and the Secular State: The Turkish Experience"

Alan Godlas, University of Georgia, "Educating Emotional Intelligence: A Bridge between Mosque and State"

Victoria Clement, Western Carolina University, "Cross-cultural Contributions: Turkish Educational Networks in Central Asia"

Session 3B Room SO 1020A

The Turkish Experience of Alliance of Civilizations

Chair & Discussant: Honorable Suat Kiniklioglu, Member of Turkish Grand National Assembly

Presenters:

Juliette Tolay, University of Delaware, "The missed dialogues of the Euro-Turkish relationships"

Gokhan Bacik, Fatih Univeristy, Turkey, "The Turkish Thesis: Dialogue among Civilizations and "Linguistic-Operational Corridors"

Nilgun Anadolu-Okur, Temple University, "Through an Epic Journey East Meets West: Homage to Istanbul's Multinational History"

Session 3C Room SO 1020B

Identity

Chair & Discussant: Honorable Cuneyt Yuksel, Member of Turkish Grand National Assembly

Presenters:

Vicki Birchfield, Director of the EUCE at the Georgia Institute of Technology, "Comments on the Turkish Experience with EU Accession Negotiations and Prospects for Eventual Membership"

Michael McGaha, Pomona University, "The Problem of Turkish Identity in the Novels of Orhan Pamuk"

Sam Cherribi, Emory University, "Turkish Delight or the Stickiness of the European Union?"

7:00-9:00 PM Dinner and Plenary Address SO Atrium

Dinner

Greetings from KSU

Lendley Black, Provost, KSU

Introduction of Plenary Speaker

Isa Afacan, Director of Academic Affairs, Istanbul Center

Plenary Address

"Prospects for U.S.-Turkish Relations under Obama Administration"

Ambassador Mark Parris, Formerly U.S. Ambassador to Turkey

Reflections on Plenary Address

Honorable Suat Kiniklioglu, Member of Turkish Grand National Assembly

Q & A Session

Saturday, January 31, 2009

8:30 AM Registration and Refreshments

Social Sciences Building Atrium

9:00-10:30 AM Plenary Address SO 1021

Theme: "Turkey at the Crossroads of Cultures"

Introduction of Panelists

Barry Morris, Director, Cabinet Special Projects, KSU

Plenary Panelists:

Mustafa Akyol, Deputy Editor, Hurriyet Daily News

Abdulhamit Bilici, Executive Director, Cihan News Agency

Metin Heper, Dean of Faculty of Economics, Administrative, and Social Sciences, Bilkent University

Q & A Session

10:30-11:00 AM Break SO Atrium

11-12:30 PM Concurrent Session #4

Session 4A Room SO 1021

Religion and Peace

Chair & Discussant: Ahmet Kuru, Columbia University

Presenters:

Metin Heper, Bilkent University, "Liberal Islam in Turkey"

Asma Afsaruddin, University of Notre Dame, "Tolerance and Co-Existence: Islamic Tradition and Ottoman Practices"

Joshua W. Walker, Princeton University, "Turkey's Imperial Legacy: Understanding Contemporary Turkey through its Ottoman Past"

Session 4B Room SO 1020A

Religion and Interfaith Harmony

Chair & Discussant: Peter Cohen, Clemson University

Presenters:

Joshua N. Weiss, Abraham Path Initiative, Harvard University, "The Abraham Path Initiative"

Ted Masburn, University of Mobile, "Building Bridges and Crossing Barriers"

Florian Pohl, Emory University, "Religion, Violence, and Inter-faith Harmony: Islamic Education in Indonesia"

12:30-1:45 Lunch and Plenary Address SO Atrium

Lunch

Plenary Address

"Turkey and the EU"

Honorable Cuneyt Yuksel, Member of Turkish Grand National Assembly

Q & A Session

1:45-3:15 PM Concurrent Session #5

Session 5A Room SO 1021

Religion, Identity and Multiculturalism

Chair & Discussant: Ted Mashburn, University of Mobile

Presenters:

Richard Penaskovic, Auburn University, "M. Fethullah Gulen's Blueprint for World Peace"

Lisa DiCarlo, Babson College, "From Millet to Multiculturalism: Reflections on Turkishness in the 21st Century"

Recep Senturk, Fatih University, "Open Civilization: Civilizational Pluralism in the Ottoman Practice"

Session 5B Room SO 1020A

Media and Perception

Chair & Discussant: Abdulhamit Bilici, Executive Director, Cihan News Agency

Presenters:

Ali H. Aslan, Today's Zaman, Turkey, "The Role of the Media"

Radwan Ziadeh, The Carr Center for Human Rights at Harvard University, "Islamophobia, New Media and the Dialogue between Civilizations"

Turan Kayaoglu, University of Washington, Tacoma, "Combating Defamation of Religions: A Step Forward for International Human Rights and Dialog of Civilizations"

3:15-3:30 PM Closing Remarks

4:00 PM Tour of Atlanta (Optional) Buses depart from hotels

Note to Presenters: We plan to publish papers presented at this conference (along with lectures delivered at KSU during the Year of Turkey) as a Special Edition of the *Journal of Global Initiatives*. This is a peer-reviewed journal; all papers will undergo blind review before they can be accepted for publication. To ensure consideration and possible inclusion in this Special Edition, presenters are to send their revised papers to reach the Editor-in-Chief no later than March 1, 2009. Papers are to be submitted electronically, as email attachment, in Word or RTF format, to aadebayo@kennesaw.edu.

About the Keynote Speaker

Ambassador (Ret.) Mark R. Parris

Mark R. Parris is Counselor to the Turkey Project at the Brookings Institution, where he is a Visiting Fellow. A retired career diplomat, he served as U.S. Ambassador to Turkey from 1997 to 2000.

Prior to his service in Turkey, Ambassador Parris held senior positions responsible for U.S. policy toward the Middle East and former Soviet Union. As Principal Deputy Assistant of State for Near East Affairs and then Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Near East and South Asian affairs, he oversaw U.S. efforts to contain Iraq and Iran and participated in top-level negotiations involving Israel and its Arab neighbors. As Deputy Chief of Mission in Tel Aviv he witnessed the first intifada, the first Gulf War, and the Madrid Peace Conference. As Director of Soviet Affairs during President Ronald Reagan's second term, he organized and served as note-taker for President Reagan's first four summit meetings with Mikhail Gorbachev. Earlier assignments included Moscow, Lisbon and the Azores.

After retiring from the Foreign Service in 2001, Ambassador Parris worked as Senior Foreign Policy Advisor in the Washington office of Baker Donelson, a law firm. He has remained active in matters relating to Turkey, serving as Chairman of the Board of the American Friends of Turkey, as the founding Chairman of the Advisory Board of the American Turkish Council, as Counselor to the Turkish Research Program of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and as Director of the "Turkey 2007" project at the Brookings Institution. Ambassador Parris's articles on Turkey and U.S.-Turkish relations have appeared *inter alia* in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, International Herald Tribune and Washington times.

NOTES

NOTES

8

8