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## TURKEY: ISIS AND THE MIDDLE EAST

**Wednesday, September 24**

**1:30-3:30 PM**

**McShain Lounge**

**(McCharty Hall)**

**Georgetown University**

***Opening Remarks:***

**Dr. Gonul Tol**, Executive Director,  
Center for Turkish Studies, Middle East Institute

***Moderator:***

**Dr. Sinan Ciddi**, Executive Director,  
Institute of Turkish Studies

***Panelists:***

**Dr. Denise Natali**, National Defense University  
**Dr. Kadir Ustun**, SETA Foundation at Washington, D.C.  
**Mutlu Civiroglu**, Journalist and Kurdish affairs analyst

*RSVP is requested*



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# SPEAKERS



**Dr. Gönül Tol** is the founding director of the Middle East Institute's Center for Turkish Studies. She is also an adjunct professor at George Washington University's Institute for Middle East Studies. She received her Ph.D. degree in Political Science from Florida International University where she was a graduate fellow at the Middle East Studies Center. She previously worked at the U.S. Representative Office of the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TUSIAD). She was also an adjunct professor at the College of International Security Affairs at the National Defense University.



**Dr. Sinan Ciddi**, Executive Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies, and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, gained his Ph.D. in Political Science from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in June 2007. He was previously an instructor at Sabancı University between 2004-2008 and completed his Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the same institution between 2007-2008. He published a book titled *Kemalism in Turkish Politics: The Republican People's Party: Secularism and Nationalism* (Routledge, January 2009) focusing on the electoral weakness of the Republican People's Party.



**Dr. Denise Natali** holds the Minerva Chair at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University (NDU), where she focuses on the political economy of Iraqi federalism and regional energy sector politics. Dr. Natali has lived and researched extensively in the Kurdish regions of Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and Syria, and authored numerous publications on Kurdish politics, economy, and identity, including *The Kurdish Quasi-State: Development and Dependency in Post-Gulf War Iraq* (Syracuse University Press, 2010) and *The Kurds and the State: Evolving National Identity in Iraq, Turkey and Iran* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2005).



**Dr. Kadir Ustun** is the Research Director at the SETA Foundation at Washington, D.C. He also serves as an Assistant Editor of Insight Turkey, an academic journal published by the SETA Foundation. Dr. Ustun holds a PhD in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies from Columbia University and a Master's degree in History from Bilkent University. Dr. Ustun has taught courses on history, politics, culture, and art in the Islamic World as well as Western political thought at Columbia University and George Mason University. His research interests include civil-military relations, social and military modernization in the Middle East, US-Turkey relations, and Turkish foreign policy.



**Mutlu Civioglu** is a Washington DC based journalist and Kurdish affairs analyst focusing on Syria and Turkey. He has closely been monitoring the Kurdish People's Protection Union (YPG) fight against ISIS and other jihadist groups. His publications appear in various media outlets including BBC, CNN, Vice and Al Jazeera. He regularly writes for Turkish daily Radikal on recent developments from Rojava Region in Syria. Civioglu is frequently interviewed by TV channels in Turkey, Iraqi Kurdistan and others on US, Turkey and Syria.