

## **Revisiting Turkish Soft-Power: The Power of Islam or Neo-Ottomanism?**

Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religion (CISMOR), in cooperation with the Research Center for Human Dignity, is organizing a workshop titled “Revisiting Turkish Soft-Power: The Power of Islam or Neo-Ottomanism?” on November 7, 2020.

This workshop examines Turkey's normative influence in its recent history of international relations. Turkey's growing regional presence, especially since 2000s, in the Balkans, Turkic-language areas of the former USSR, and the Middle East has been discussed under the rubric of neo-ottomanism and Islamism. There is also a common assumption that “*Turkey's “soft power” efforts have largely focused on the country's ottoman heritage, which resonates well with African, Balkan and Middle Eastern audiences, but has little appeal in the Asia-Pacific Region*”<sup>1</sup>.

This workshop focuses on the people and countries of “outside ottoman-heritage” with the aim to (re)access Turkey's normative power. This workshop uses the concept of soft-power as an entry point to uncover the ways of thinking about normative influence in international relations. Instead of applying a rigid framework of soft power, we aim to identify the initiatives and practices in each country which include civil society initiatives, cultural diplomacy practices, commercial cultural activities, diaspora communities/networks.

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<sup>1</sup> B. Senem Cevic and Philip Seib eds. *Turkeys's Public Diplomacy* (Palgrave Macmillan 2019), 10.

**CISMOR Research Fellow Workshop by Young Scholars**  
**Revisiting Turkish Soft-Power: The Power of Islam or Neo-Ottomanism?**

**2020.11.7 (Sat) 15:00-16:40 (via ZOOM)**

**15:00 (13:00 Thailand)**

Opening Remarks by Prof. Ada Taggar-Cohen (Director of CISMOR)

**15:05-15:15**

Keynote Speech by Prof. Masanori Naito (Doshisha University)

**15:15- Presentation 1**

Masako Nakaya (Doshisha University)

“The Muslim Network and Philanthropy in Turkey”

**15:30- Presentation 2**

Yasmin Sattar (Prince of Songkla University)

“Turkey's Soft Power towards Southeast Asian Region”

**15:45- Presentation 3**

Kanatbek Beishenaliev (Doshisha University)

“Kyrgyz-Turkey Relationship from the Economic, Political, and Cultural Perspective”

**16:00- Presentation 4**

Ko Iwakura (Kyoto University)

「アゼルバイジャンにおける国家によるイスラーム管理の例外：トルコのイスラームパワー」

(Exception to State Control of Islam in Azerbaijan: Islamic power by Turkey)

**16:15- Discussion**

Iyas Salim (Doshisha University)

**16:25- Q&A Session**

**16:35- Closing Remark**

Prof. Dr. Ada Taggar-Cohen

**Coordinator and Moderator: Naomi Nishi (Doshisha University)**

### **Commentators**

- ✧ Masanori Naito (Professor of Graduate School of Global Studies, Director of Center for Human Dignity, Doshisha University)
- ✧ Iyas Salim Abu-Hajjar (Assistant Professor of Organization for Advanced Research and Education, Research Fellow of Center for Human Dignity, Doshisha University)

### **Presenters**

- ✧ Masako Nakaya, PhD. (Assistant, Organization for Advanced Research and Education, Doshisha University.)
- ✧ Yasmin Sattar, PhD. (Lecturer, Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus.)
- ✧ Kanatbek Beishenaliev (PhD candidate, Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisha University)
- ✧ Ko Iwakura (PhD candidate, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University)

### **Cordinator**

- ✧ Naomi Nishi (Part time Lecturer, Faculty of Law, CISMOR Research Fellow, Doshisha University)

Organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religions (CISMOR)

In cooperation with the Research Center for Human Dignity