



Turkey's Political Leaders: Authoritarian Tendencies in a Democratic State – *Book Launch*

Dr Tezcan Gümüş in Conversation with Dr David Tittensor, Melbourne University
Thursday 1 June: 5 pm for 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm AEST at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

In [*Turkey's Political Leaders: Authoritarian Tendencies in a Democratic State*](#) (Edinburgh University Press, April 2023) Dr Tezcan Gümüş examines the role of the political leaders in Turkey's democratic system. He argues that the leaders' values, beliefs and practices underwritten by authoritarianism have resulted in the tenuous existence of democracy, oscillating between simply enduring and failure during the periods they occupied the seats of political power.

With the Turkish election taking place on 14 May, what are the implications of the outcome? How will this reflect the way in which Turkish democracy is influenced as an institution? What lessons and insights can be learned from the role that political leaders play in the survival or failure of democracy?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Tezcan Gümüş in conversation with Dr David Tittensor, as he discusses his recently published book. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at the event.



Dr Tezcan Gümüş' research interests lie in contemporary Turkish politics, politics of the Middle East and the role of elites in democratisation and democratic breakdowns. He has taught courses on politics and international relations at the University of Melbourne and the Australian Catholic University, presented his research at international conferences and authored extensive articles on Turkish politics. His PhD thesis, examining the role and culture of political elites in Turkey, was awarded the 2020 Australian Political Studies Association award. He holds a PhD from Deakin University along with a BA (Deakin University), BA Honours and a Master of International Relations

(University of Melbourne).



Dr David Tittensor is a Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies in the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne. He is author of 'The House of Service: The Gülen Movement and Islam's Third Way' (Oxford University Press, 2014) and co-author (with Adam Possamai) of 'Religion and Change in Australia' (Routledge, 2022). He has also co-edited (with Fethi Mansouri) 'The Politics of Women and Migration in the Global South' (Palgrave, 2017), and is a Series Editor for 'Muslims in Global Societies' (Springer). His research interests are transnational Muslim movements, Turkish politics and society, and religion and development with a focus on Islam.

[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

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