RESPOND Project Lecture I:
Coercive Engineered Syrian Mass Migration in EU-Turkey Relations

The lecture aims to propose a framework of migration diplomacy to examine how mass migration features in states’ issue-linkage strategies, in cooperative but also coercive contexts. In this framework, the lecture is based on the research that analyses how Syrian mass migration has been used as a foreign policy tool in the European Union (EU)-Turkey relations. The research argues that – as an opportunist coercer actor – Turkey has been using Syrian mass migration to gain valuable bargaining leverage over EU in a form of “coercive engineered migration (CEM)” (Greenhill, 2010) since the mid-2015. Nevertheless, the way that Turkey has used CEM has been shaped by the main principles and demands of EU externalization in the field of immigration and asylum policy. The lecture aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of EU-Turkey relations in the field of immigration and asylum as focusing on in particular for Turkey’s response to the Syrian mass migration. Through the selected case, the lecture aims to display a strengthened bargaining position for the non-EU countries that are targeted by EU external migration policy as one of the unintended consequence for the EU and to elaborate the preliminary implications.

Dr. N. Ela GÖKALP ARAS (SRII, Senior Researcher, Principle Investigator of RESPOND Multilevel Governance of Mass Migration in Europe and Beyond Project)