



SRII AUTUMN LECTURE

September 18, 2018, 19:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoglu – Tünel)

Professor

Diğdem Soyaltın

Altınbaş University

Good Governance and Fight against Corruption in Turkey:

Corruption has been a pervasive problem for Turkey for long years. Yet, a decisive anti-corruption policy was formulated only after the EU and other external doors started to challenge problem of corruption more prominently in the aftermath of the 2001 financial crisis. Facing increasing pressure, the incumbent governments mostly formed by the Justice and Development Party (*Turkish acronym, AKP*) responded to the EU's demands for change and expanded the legal framework with regard to the fight against corruption. However, the legal measures have hardly changed the level of corruption in the country. This outcome is at least partly due to the decoupling of formal institutions and behavioral practices. Yet, the legal change with regard to combatting corruption has also been selective. The incumbent government gave special priority to the fight against petty corruption permeating the public sector while high-level corruption has been mostly left untouched. The overall argument is illustrated by comparing external promotion of anti-corruption norms and provisions in civil administration, public finance management and public procurement in Turkey. Providing a comprehensive, empirical account of Turkey's fight against corruption, the cross-sectoral analysis of the author shows how Turkey's political elites, bureaucratic state elites, and structural administrative factors have shaped the direction and content of institutional change in the Turkish public sector when it comes to anti-corruption norms and practices. This research aims to contribute the literature on Europeanisation and external good governance promotion and to the academic and policy debate regarding the "politics" of anti-corruption reforms in Turkey.

Admission only after registration to event@sri.org.tr !