RESPOND Project Lecture III:
Migration, Heritage and Populism in Europe

This lecture aims to reveal the ways in which five populist parties in Europe (AfD in Germany, FN in France, PVV in the Netherlands, M5S in Italy, and Golden Dawn in Greece) employ the fear of Islam as a political instrument to mobilize their supporters and to mainstream themselves. The study is conducted through a discourse analysis of the speeches and manifestos of the aforementioned parties. Following the depiction of each political party, the lecture displays some of their electoral posters to be able to explicate their common tropes with regards to the use of the past and heritage as well as their Islamophobic, migrant-phobic, and diversity-phobic discourses. The main premise of the lecture is to claim that these parties have recently generated a civilizational discourse in order to expand their electorate and to become mainstream political actors.

Ayhan Kaya is Professor of Politics and Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics of Interculturalism at the Department of International Relations, Istanbul Bilgi University; Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence; and a member of the Science Academy, Turkey. Kaya was previously a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, Florence, Italy, and adjunct lecturer at the New York University, Florence in 2016-2017. He previously worked and taught at the European University Viadrina as Aziz Nesin Chair in 2013, and at Malmö University, Sweden as the Willy Brandt Chair in 2011. Kaya is recently working on a manuscript about the populist political style in Europe. Kaya was actively participated involved in FP7 projects, and now he is involved in two different Horizon 2020 research projects on populism and Turkey-EU relations.

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