

RESEARCH SEMINAR

SRII, Wednesday,

March 27, 2024, 15:00-17.00

Venue: Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul

Istiklal Caddesi 247, P.k. 125 Beyoglu, TR-344 33 Istanbul

Marianna Serveta (Swedish Defence Research Agency)

Turkey and NATO – Domestic political currents and security policy action

By examining the influence of three prominent domestic political currents –Western orientation, nationalism, and Islamism– on Turkey's actions concerning several security policy-related events of significance for NATO, Serveta will reflect on what kind of actor Turkey has been within the alliance in the period spanning from 1952 to 2023. Presenting her recent study results, Serveta will describe how Turkey has progressively developed from being a dedicated ally of NATO to an active ally with its own geopolitical aspirations and increasing autonomy-seeking tendencies. This will lead to a discussion of strategic autonomy in a Turkish context, a topic that Serveta is currently conducting research on.

Paul Levin (Stockholm University)

Why do states change their views on alliances? Turkey, Sweden, and NATO enlargement

During the Cold War, policy makers in neutral Sweden cherished what they called their “freedom from alliances” whereas Turkey was a generally loyal member of the North Atlantic alliance. Now, Sweden has suddenly abandoned its “alliance free” policy in favor of joining NATO, whereas Turkey seeks freedom from the constraints of the alliance of which it remains a member. My book examines the changed Swedish and Turkish views on the Western alliance and whether we should look to domestic politics or the international system for the reasons behind the changes.