



INSTITUTE FOR CRITICAL SOCIAL THEORY

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

Old Building of Faculty of Business Administration  
Göztepe Campus  
Marmara University,  
Kadiköy, Istanbul

### July 8:

9:30-10am: Check in

10am: Opening Ceremony

10:30-12: Session 1A.

**Power, Politics, and the Theocratic**, moderated by **Dustin J. Byrd**

*“Russia as the Red Katechon Or Russian-style Post-secularism - The Synergies of a Far-Right Theopolitical Figure as an Empty Signifier and a Quasi-Religious Theomachist Archive”*

Grigori Khrislavski – University of Erfurt

*“Beyond the Secular State: Abrahamic Traditions and the Ethics of Global Governance”*

Deina Abdelkader – University of Massachusetts Lowell

*“Beyond Compliance: Rethinking Power, Restraint, and Civilian Governance in an Age of Global Uncertainty”*

Maria Kortam – Beyond Compliance Consortium – University of York

10:30-12am: Session 1B.

**Post-Colonialism, Post-Islamism, and Genocide**, moderated by **Sharmin Sadequee**

*“Expanding Post-colonial State Theory in Environmental Governance: Capital, Nature, and Subaltern Contestation in Pakistan”*

Junaid Babar – University of Cambridge

*“Progressive Post-Islamism as a Reformist Modernity: The Anti-Capitalist Muslims in Türkiye”*

Nazil Gül Deniz Claeys – University of Alberta

*“Decolonizing Trauma in a Time of Global Uncertainty: Religion, Memory, and Palestinian Resilience under Genocide”*

Hasan Obaid – Vision Center for Political Development-Istanbul

## **12-12:30: Break**

## **12:30-2pm: Session 2A.**

### **Religion, Globalization, and the Problem of Artificial Intelligence, moderated by Naser Ghobadzadeh**

*“Religion and the Temptation of Globalization: Brazilian Pentecostal Missionaries in Romania”*

Laurentiu Tanase – Bucharest University/ICST

*“Artificial Intelligence: A New God or a New Tool on the Path to God – Global and Ukrainian Cases”*

Yaroslav Yuvsechko – Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion

*“Signs, Symbols, and Horizons”*

Martha Raquel Gonzales – Institute for Critical Social Theory

## **12:30-2pm: Session 2B.**

### **Critical Theory and the Arts, moderated by Fatma Kaya**

*“Ludomusicology, Popular Concerts, and Critical Theory”*

Aivaras Ivanaukas – Vilnius University

*“The Shit of the Composer: Compositional Ethics in the Age of Immediacy”*

James Waide – Royal Northern College of Music

*“Decolonial Resistance in an Age of Monsters: Reclaiming Sacred Epistemologies from Western Fiction through Muhammad Iqbal’s Khudi and Sufi Tawīl” (ONLINE)*

Siraj Shehbaz – Lincoln University College

## **2-3:30 Lunch**

## **3:30-4:30: Plenary Address & Q&A – Seyed Javad Miri**

## **4:30: Adjourn**

Excursion: 7pm – [Mevlevi Sufi Sema at Hodjapasha Culture Center \(Optional\)](#).  
For this excursion, you need to reserve your tickets through the link above.

---

## **July 9:**

**9:30-10: Check in**

**10-11:30: Session 3A.**

### **Secularism, Race, and the Politics of Islamophobia**

Sharmin Sadequee – Agnes Scott College

Dustin J. Byrd – The University of Olivet/ICST

Khaled al-Qazzaz – Institute for Religious and Socio-Political Studies

**10-11:30: Session 3B.**

### **Decolonizing Critical Theory:**

#### **Epistemologies of Crisis from Muslim World and the Global South**

Ramazan Aras – Ibn Haldun University

Heba Raouf Ezzat – Ibn Haldun University

Alev Erkilet – Ibn Haldun University

Tesnim Khriji Chirchi – Ibn Haldun University

**11:30-12: Break**

**12-1:30pm: Session 4A.**

### **Critical Theory, Identity, and the Critique of Society, moderated by Dustin J. Byrd**

*“Mediated Being and Non-Identical Thought”*

Domas Junelis – Vilnius University

*“Beyond Morbid Symptoms”*

Lauren Langman – Loyola University

*“Erich Fromm and Martin Buber: An Encounter”*

Maor Levitin – International Herbert Marcuse Society

## 12-1:30pm: Session 4B.

### **Exclusivity, The Great Replacement, and Predictive Theory, moderated by Martha Raquel Gonzales**

*Humanity-Orientation as Critical Theory: Inhabiting the Human Interval Beyond Exclusionist Paradigms” (ONLINE)*

Mohammad Omar Farooq – United International University – Bangladesh

*“Critical Social Theory and debunking the Great Replacement narrative for understanding the Plight and Securing Sustainable Repatriation of the Rohingya”*

Mahbubur Rahman – North South University – Bangladesh

*“Thinking with Ibn Khaldun about the Future: Islamic History and Predictive Theory”*

Adnan Husain – Queen’s University

## 1:30-3:00 Lunch

## 3-4:30: Session 5A.

### **War and Imperialism: Iran in Focus, moderated by Michael Naughton**

*“Imperial Ignorance and the Production of Unknowing: An Ethnographic Account of the Minab School Massacre”*

Helyeh Doughty – University of Tehran

*“The Making of Religious Sovereignty: Critical Reflections on Ideology, Hegemony, and Political Theology in Post-Revolutionary Iran”*

Naser Ghobadzadeh – American University in Bulgaria

*“Revisiting the Concept of Imperialism based on Erich Fromm’s Social Theory of Necrophilia”*

Seyed Javad Miri – Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies-Tehran/ICST

## 3-4:30: Session 5B.

### **Past and Future Challenges, moderated by Mahbubur Rahman**

*“We know, but we do not know Change: Disembodied Knowledge and the Future of the Humanities”*

Fatma Kaya – Dicle University

*Decolonizing Knowledge Production in Islamic Finance: Failure, Continuity, or Transformation*

Murat Yaş – Marmara University – Institute of Islamic Economic and Finance

*Al-Ishtibak: Toward a Theory of the Second Breach*

Ali Harfouch – Independent Scholar

## **4:30: Adjourn**

**Excursion: [Bosphorus Dinner Cruise and Turkish Night Show \(Optional\)](#)**

**For this excursion, you need to reserve your tickets through the link above.**

---

## **July 10: Istanbul Excursions**

Meeting point & Time: TBA

**Morning Tour:** Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Hagia Eirene Church, Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome, Basilica Cistern.

- Please be aware than some venues have entrance fees while others are free.

Lunch (Independent)

**Afternoon Tour:** Turkish and Islamic Art Museum and/or Istanbul Archaeological Museums (just suggestions).