

Populism and Islamism: Two faces of the crisis at the Istanbul Seminars

6th Istanbul Seminars 2013

Philosophers bridge the Bosphorus

Close encounters across all divides

Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations in partnership with İstanbul Bilgi University

16-22 May 2013 | İstanbul Bilgi University

Santral Campus - Conference Room: E1-301

Kazım Karabekir Cad. No: 2/13 - İstanbul

The Sources of Political Legitimacy

From the Erosion of the Nation-State to the Rise of Political Islam

The economic crisis and populism are eroding the social basis of old democracies in Europe, while unemployment and Islamist radicalism threaten the newly-born democratic experiences in Arab countries. Both north and south of the Mediterranean the debate is about the sources of political legitimization and the decline of the national state. The 2013 Istanbul Seminars, organised by Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations, now in their 6th edition, will gather philosophers, political analysts and sociologists on the Bosphorus for a week to debate a number of key issues. How can social cohesion be guaranteed during a recession? Will Europe be able to overcome a lack of democratic legitimisation? How can post-Arab Spring tensions be overcome? Can religion become a source of legitimisation? Is Turkey the new soft-power, able to guarantee a democratic future for the Muslim world?

Arab, American, Israeli, Turkish and European intellectuals, invited by Reset-Dialogues, will debate the crisis experienced by political Islam when in power, the post-uprising period, Egypt and Tunisia, as well as the Syrian conflict (Faisal **Devji**, Fahmy **Howeidy**, Stathis **Kalyvas**, Hamadi **Redissi**, Nader **Hashemi**, Amr **Hamzawy**, Murat **Borovali** and Cemil **Boyras**, Abdullahi **An-Na'im**).

Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin will open a session on the Israeli exception and bi-nationalism; Karen **Barkey** and Luigi **Mascilli Migliorini** will address the subject of political legitimisation from a historic perspective. Michael **Walzer**, in a video-link from Princeton will hold a keynote address on the subject "Is a democratic revolution with a religious renaissance possible?" He will discuss this with Lisa **Anderson**, Radwan **Masmoudi**, Seyla **Benhabib** and Nora **Fischer Onar**. Giuliano **Amato**, Ivan **Krastev**, Cengiz **Aktar** and Alessandro **Ferrara** will debate the risk of European disunity, while Meyda **Yeğenoğlu**, Aykan **Erdemir**, Fuat **Keyman** and Asaf Savaş **Akat** will speak about Turkish-European-Middle Eastern relations.