institute social

Invitation - Only International Roundtable Conference

SHATTERING COORDINATES

NEW WORLD ORDER AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FROM EAST ASIA TO WEST ASIA

21 NOVEMBER 2026

Istanbul, Türkiye

Working program for Organizers, Speakers and Participants

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SHATTERING COORDINATES

Shattering Coordinates is a global roundtable initiative developed by Institute Social to convene focused conversations across different regions on the forces reshaping societies, knowledge, and world order. Drawing on perspectives from the humanities and social sciences, the initiative examines shifts in global power balances alongside social transformation, education, political economy, technological change, cross-border mobility, and the future of international institutions. From a decolonial perspective, it also questions established hierarchies of knowledge and asks how different societies, intellectual traditions, and historical experiences can contribute to understanding emerging global transformations.

SESSION FOCUS

New World Order and Its Implications from East Asia to West Asia

The first event of the Shattering Coordinates roundtable initiative, titled "New World Order and Its Implications from East Asia to West Asia" explores the ongoing transformation of the global order. This event addresses key issues such as shifting power dynamics, renewed great-power competition, regional conflicts, technological change, demographic shifts, migration, and debates over the intellectual foundations of international relations. To discuss these issues beyond conventional regional boundaries, this event brings together scholars and institutional representatives from across Eurasia. Rather than treating West Asia merely as an arena of great-power competition, this event explores regional agency, societal transformation, civilizational debates, China's expanding engagement, and new forms of academic knowledge production and institutional cooperation.

FORMAT

ONE-DAY ROUNDTABLE	Four invitation-only roundtables plus one 30-minute report presentation, with approximately 30–35 experts. Each roundtable runs for 90 minutes, allowing brief 5–7 minute opening interventions followed by extended moderated discussion. The objective is to maximize exchange rather than conventional paper delivery.

LEAD COORDINATION

Lead coordinator	Position / responsibility
İpek Coşkun Armağan	*General Coordinator, Institute Social; Member, Council of Social and Youth Policies*
Sun Degang	*Professor and Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Fudan University*
Yaşar Sarı	*Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Ibn Haldun University; Director, Haydar Aliyev Center for Eurasian Studies*
Selçuk Aydın	*Assistant Professor & Coordinator of Asian Studies Program, Boğaziçi University*
Zhiqiang Zou	*Research Fellow, Institute of International Studies and Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Fudan University & Visiting Scholar, Boğaziçi University*

PROGRAMME

09.00 - 09.30	**Welcoming**
09.30 - 09.45	**Opening Remarks**
09.45 - 11.15	**Roundtable I** **Rethinking World Order:** Beyond the Established Theories
11.15 - 11.30	**Coffee Break**
11.30 - 13.00	**Roundtable II** **Social Transformation in an Age of Uncertainties:** Demography, Identity and Social Resilience
13.00 - 13.15	**Coffee Break**
13.15 - 13.45	**Report Presentation** Turkish Studies in Asia & Asian Studies in Türkiye
13.45 - 15.00	**Lunch**
15.00 - 16.30	**Roundtable III** China - Central Asia-West Asia Relations in a Changing Global Order
16.30 - 17.00	**Coffee Break**
17.00 - 18.30	**Roundtable IV** Constructing New Narratives: Knowledge Production, AI, and Global Political Economy
18.30 - 18.45	**Closing Remarks and Announcement of Follow-up Outputs**
18.45 - 20.00	**Dinner**

PROGRAMME

21 NOVEMBER 2026

Istanbul, Türkiye

09.00 - 09.30 — **Welcoming**

09.30 - 09.45 — **Opening Remarks**

09.45 - 11.15 — **Roundtable I**

Rethinking World Order:
Beyond the Established Theories

Moderator

Yusuf Erim
Editor-at-Large and Türkiye Analyst, TRT World
Türkiye's foreign policy, regional geopolitics, diplomacy and strategic communication.

Speakers

Sun Degang
Professor and Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Fudan University
Middle East international relations, China-Middle East relations, major-power strategies and Belt and Road cooperation

Murat Yeşiltaş
Director of Foreign Policy Studies, SETA; Professor, Social Sciences University of Ankara; Member, Council of Security and Foreign Policies
International security, geopolitics, defence studies, terrorism and Turkish foreign policy

Süleyman Elik
Professor, Department of International Relations, Istanbul Medeniyet University
International relations, regional politics and security studies

Emil Dzhuraev

Senior Lecturer, Political Scientist, OSCE Academy in Bishkek; Fellow, Crossroads Central Asia

Central Asian politics, political regimes and democratization, constitutional development and regional geopolitics

Flavius Caba-Maria

President, Middle East Political and Economic Institute (MEPEI)

Middle East geopolitics, Iran, China–Middle East relations, Europe–Middle East relations and global political-economic transformation

Yu Zhen

Associate Professor, School of Marxism, Xiangtan University; Visiting Scholar at Fudan University

Middle Eastern politics, GCC studies, China–the Middle East relations

Key Questions

- How adequately do established theories explain contemporary transformations in world politics?
- Are concepts developed under Western hegemony sufficient for understanding an increasingly plural and contested international order?
- How can Chinese, Islamic, Indian, Russian and other intellectual traditions contribute to debates on world order?
- What conceptual vocabulary is needed to understand emerging forms of multipolarity, regionalism and civilizational plurality?

Potential Institutional Focus: International Relations theory, global order, non-Western IR, multipolarity and knowledge production.

PROGRAMME

11.30 - 13.00 | **Roundtable II**

Social Transformation in an Age of Uncertainties: Demography, Identity and Social Resilience

Moderator

Fırat Kimya
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University
Comparative political thought, Middle East and European politics, political economy.

Speakers

İpek Coşkun Armağan
General Coordinator, Institute Social; Member, Council of Social and Youth Policies
Education policy, sociology of education, youth and family policy

Umut Uzer
Professor of International Relations and Sociology, Istanbul Technical University
Intellectual history, nationalism and Middle East politics

Vasiliy Kuznetsov
Deputy Director, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences; Head, Center for Arab and Islamic Studies
Arab politics, Middle East transformations, political identity and Maghreb studies

Junbo Jian
Professor and Director, Center for China-Europe Relations, Fudan University
China–Europe relations and comparative regional cooperation

Abdulfatah Said Mohamed
Assistant Professor, College of Islamic Studies, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
Peace mediation, conflict transformation, humanitarian action, sustainable development, Islamic social finance and international cooperation

Orkhan Valiyev
Associate Professor and Head, Department of Political Science and Philosophy, Khazar University
Nation-building, nationalism, political philosophy, political epistemology, South Caucasus and the Turkic world

Key Questions

- How are demographic change, migration, urbanization, ageing and youth dynamics reshaping states, societies and political communities?
- As the international order changes, how should we understand the relationship between civilizational identity, social cohesion and political belonging?
- What makes societies resilient in periods of war, economic pressure, technological disruption, displacement and rapid cultural change?
- How are education, family structures, youth, migration and social policy becoming strategic questions in the transformation of world order?

Potential Institutional Focus: Demography, migration, education, youth and family policy, civilizational change, social cohesion, social resilience and comparative social transformation.

PROGRAMME

13.15 - 13.45 | **Report Presentation**

Turkish Studies in Asia and Asian Studies in Türkiye: Mapping a Two - Way Academic Field (Introducing two reports by Institute Social)

Moderator

Zhiqiang Zou

Research Fellow, Institute of International Studies and Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Fudan University; Visiting Scholar, Boğaziçi University

Middle East, Türkiye studies, China–West Asia relations, global governance and Middle Eastern political economy.

Speakers

Selçuk Aydın

Assistant Professor & Head of Asian Studies Program, Boğaziçi University

Political economy, security studies, Middle East politics, decolonization and world order

Alaeddin Tekin

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Social Sciences University of Ankara

Southeast Asian history, Malay world, manuscripts, Asian history and Ottoman–Asian diplomatic history

Murat Yaş

Assistant Professor, Institute of Islamic Economics and Finance, Marmara University; Researcher, Institute Social

Asian studies, institutional mapping, financial markets, Islamic finance and Türkiye–Asia academic networks

Presentation Focus

- How are Turkish studies developing across Asian universities, research centers and archives?
- What is the current institutional landscape of Asian studies in Türkiye, and where are the main gaps in language training, archives, networks and research capacity?
- How can universities and research institutions build a two-way platform for joint projects, researcher mobility, publications and graduate training?
- What practical institutional map could connect Turkish studies in Asia with Asian studies in Türkiye over the next five years?

Format: two short presentations followed by focused discussion — 30 minutes total.

PROGRAMME

15.00 - 16.30

Roundtable III

China - Central Asia - West Asia Relations in a Changing Global Order

Moderator

Altay Atlı
Lecturer, Koç University
Political economy, Asian economies, and comparative studies of China, and Türkiye.

Speakers

Tolga Bilener
Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Galatasaray University; Director, Galatasaray University Strategic Research Center (GSÜ-SAM)
China and East Asia, foreign policy, diplomacy and strategic studies

Yaşar Sarı
Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Ibn Haldun University; Director, Haydar Aliyev Center for Eurasian Studies
Central Asia, Caucasus, Russia, energy geopolitics, Eurasia and foreign policy analysis

Xin Qiang
Professor and Deputy Director, Center for American Studies, Fudan University
US–China relations, American studies, Asia-Pacific studies, global politics and security

Saodat Umarova
Assistant Professor, Department of International Economics, University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED)
Trade facilitation, industrial cooperation in Central Asia, economic integration, sustainable development and gender studies

Gabit Zhumatay

Professor, School of Law and Public Policy, Narxoz University

Central Asia, Turkish Eurasianism, nation-building, colonialism/postcolonialism and great-power competition

Jiegen Zhang

Associate Professor and Director, Pakistan Study Centre, Fudan University

South Asian politics, Pakistan, regional security and China–South Asia relations

Key Questions

- How should China–Türkiye and China–West Asia relations be understood beyond bilateral diplomacy?
- What opportunities and constraints are emerging in trade, connectivity, infrastructure, technology, academia and cultural relations?
- How do developments in the Middle East, Central Asia and Eurasia affect the future of China's relations with Türkiye and the wider West Asian region?
- How can regional actors deepen economic cooperation with China while preserving strategic autonomy and diversified external relations?

Potential Institutional Focus: China–Türkiye relations, China–Middle East relations, Belt and Road, connectivity, trade, geoeconomics and Eurasian studies.

PROGRAMME

17.00 - 18.30

Roundtable IV

Constructing New Narratives: Knowledge Production, AI, and Global Political Economy

Moderator

Osman Zeki Gökçe
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University
Political economy, energy politics, method and comparative politics

Speakers

Nadia Abu-Zahra
Professor, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa
Migration and mobility, refugees and statelessness, colonialism, social policy, human rights and the Middle East

Wei Zongyou
Professor, Center for American Studies, Fudan University
US foreign and security policy, US–China relations, American politics and Asia-Pacific studies

Sadık Ünay
Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Istanbul University
International political economy, globalization, development, multipolarity and Turkish political economy

Xiaoyu Wang
Associate Research Fellow, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Fudan University
Middle East Economy, China–Middle East relations

Mustafa Metin Başbay
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Boğaziçi University
Global political economy, development studies, Islamic economics

Key Questions

- Who produces and legitimizes knowledge about China, Türkiye and the Middle East—and through which conceptual frameworks and institutions?
- How might AI reproduce existing epistemic hierarchies, or create opportunities for more plural forms of knowledge production?
- How do migration, mobility, identity documentation and decolonial perspectives challenge dominant narratives of citizenship, belonging and state power?
- How can institutions across China, Türkiye, the Middle East and Eurasia build sustained research networks while navigating new forms of academic cooperation and competition?

Potential Institutional Focus: Knowledge production, AI, decolonization, migration and mobility, global policy, media, publishing, research networks and academic cooperation.

18.30 - 18.45 **Closing Remarks & Follow-up Outputs**

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