

The Turkey Studies Research Cluster

of the Davis Humanities Institute

presents

# The Aporias of Urban Protest in Istanbul

## *How Middle Class Revolt Undermines Itself*

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Wednesday, April 23  
4 PM

273 Social Sciences and Humanities  
Building

To reach the lecture venue, please take the  
elevators located to the right (east) of the  
Center for Science and Innovation Studies  
<[http://innovation.ucdavis.edu/contact/csis-  
map/view](http://innovation.ucdavis.edu/contact/csis-map/view)> to the lower level.



Tuğal studies the role of religion in political projects, with particular attention to how the interaction between religion and politics shapes everyday life, urban space, class relations, and national identity. He is the author of *Passive Revolution: Absorbing the Islamic Challenge to Capitalism* (2009), which is based on an ethnographic study of a poor and conservative district in Istanbul. Situating the ethnography within the development of capitalism in Turkey, he demonstrates how Islamic movements have mobilized the poor and marginal intellectuals, later to integrate them into secular, market-oriented politics.

**Abstract:** The Gezi Revolt was one of the major uprisings in Turkish history. Its novelty – the heavy urban and middle class character – marked both its strengths and limits. The revolt politicized not only a whole new generation, but also brought to attention many marginalized issues. At the same time, its exclusive character consolidated the governing party's hold over Turkey and pushed it further to the right. An analysis of contradictory middle class dispositions allows us to appreciate the contributions as well as the downsides of this transformative event.

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