**KADİR HAS UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY SEMINAR**

**Where does Political Psychology in Turkey stand in relation to Societal Issues?:**

**The Role of Political Psychology and Its Research Interests**

**By**

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**Abstract:**

Compared with many countries in the world, the development of political psychology in Turkey has progressed slowly. Most research in Turkey has failed to approach socio-political issues critically. Political psychology enables researchers to approach socio-political issues such as prejudice, discrimination, conflict, massacre, and genocide critically, and to understand the causes, processes and dynamics of these phenomena and how they can be prevented in the first place. In this talk, I will first discuss research areas of political psychology by giving specific examples from the literature. Next, I will discuss the relationship between the societal issues and political psychology in Turkey as well as to question where political psychology stands in respect to these societal issues. In light of these discussions, first, I will present the results of my study on how the Kurdish conflict is being represented in Turkey from a political psychological perspective. Second, I will present the motivations of the Gezi Park protestors from a political psychological perspective. Thus, I aim to provide a discussion platform for students who would like to conduct empirical studies in the political psychology area.

**Bio:** Özden Melis Uluğ is a PhD candidate in Psychology at Jacobs University Bremen in Germany and submitted her PhD dissertation in September, 2015. She holds an MSc degree in Political Psychology from Queen’s University Belfast in Northern Ireland, and a BSc major in Psychology from the Middle East Technical University in Turkey. Her research interests include conflict and peace, collective action and gender.