

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

**'Reluctant migrants' in pursuit of 'just-in-case
citizenships': The accounts of highly skilled
Turkish-Australians in Sydney**

6 June 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm
Room: EZ.G.22 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

Since the beginning of 2000s Turkey has been experiencing a major democratic backsliding and a rise of authoritarianism under the reign of Justice and Development Party (AKP). The political and social transformations of the last two decades have fostered feelings of dissent and frustration among those disenchanted by the regime, triggering an outflux of migration amidst a group of educated, secular white collars from affluent classes who feel their ways-of-life are being threatened. While many of these migrants are seeking refuge in EU countries, in milieu of this broader flow, the dynamics of Turkish migration to Australia have also been affected. In this talk, I map out some nuances of this contemporary outflow of migration from Turkey and reflect on the experiences of highly skilled Turkish migrants in Sydney. I first discuss the socio-political conjuncture in Turkey and explore how this setting has triggered a surge of emigration. Then, I shift my focus to my ethnography and unpack some key findings. Developing the concepts of 'reluctant migrant' and 'just-in-case citizenship' as analytical tools, I probe into the ways in which contemporary highly skilled Turkish-Australians are negotiating their migratory experiences.

Biography

Gökçen Karanfil is a Professor in the Faculty of Communication at Izmir University of Economics in Turkey. His academic interests focus on media theory, media sociology, transnational media and Turkish migration. He received his PhD from ANU in 2007, studying the impact of satellite television on Turkish-Australians. He is currently an honorary visiting Professor at the Institute for Culture and Society, carrying out research on highly skilled Turkish migrants in Sydney.

Presenter: Gökçen Karanfil

Discussant: Greg Noble

Chair: Melissa Phillips

Research Alignment:
Borders & Migration

**NEXT SEMINAR:
13 JUNE**