



**İSTANBUL AREL
UNIVERSITY**



**FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT**



International and Regional Political Studies Congress - 2025

REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

08 FEBRUARY 2025

Microsoft Teams - Online

Congress Program



**For
Congress
Webpage**

Opening Remark – Introduction
(09:30 am-10:00 am - İstanbul Time)

Opening Speech by Assoc. Prof. Ali Bilgin Varlık, *Istanbul Arel University*

Session-I: The New Geopolitics of Central Asia and the Caucasus

(10:00 am-12:15 pm İstanbul Time)

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Ali Bilgin Varlık

Changing Strategic Geography of Eurasia and Central Asian Strategic Chessboard

Assist. Prof. Javed Zafar, Karabuk University, Türkiye

Understanding “the Regional Security of Central Asia” in the Contemporary World

Prof. Dr. Quaisar Alam, Noida International University, India

Prof. Dr. Yazdani Hasan, Noida International University, India

Research Scholar Mohammad Shahid, Noida International University, India

Research Scholar Indu Yadav, Noida International University, India

Security Alliances in Regional Integration: Analyzing Strategic Opportunities and Underlying Risks

PhD Assad Mehmood Khan, Minhaj University Lahore, Pakistan

Analysing the “New Great Game and the Geopolitical Dynamics” of Central Asia

Research Scholar Mohammad Shahid, Noida International University, India

Prof. Dr. Quaisar Alam, Noida International University, India

Prof. Dr. Yazdani Hasan, Noida International University, India

The Evolution of the Organization of Turkic States in the AK Party Era

PhD Ömer Kocaman, Organization of Turkic States, Deputy Secretary General, Türkiye

The Challenges against the Organization of Turkic States

Can Demir, National Defence University, Türkiye

Turkey, Russia, and Iran: A Comparative Analysis of Foreign Policies in the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

Research Assist. Doğuş Sönmez, Kadir Has University, Türkiye

The Evolution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO): Challenges and Opportunities for Central Asian States

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gökem Atsungur, American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

Drivers and Obstacles of Regional Integration in Central Asian Region

Assist. Prof. Qasem Osuli Odlu, Allameh Tabatabaie University, Iran

Lunch Break

(12:15 pm-12:45 pm İstanbul Time)

Session-II: Regional Dynamics of Central Asia and the Caucasus

(12.45 pm-15.00 pm İstanbul Time)

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Bülent Durgun

Armenian Diaspora and its Future in the Context of Transnational Nationalism

Assist. Prof. Gökhan Ak, İstanbul Topkapı University, Türkiye

War in Ukraine and South Caucasus – An Opportunity for a Strategic European Union?

Prof. Dr. Bogdan Ştefanachi, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania

Defining Afghanistan Region

Fellow, Mirwais Balkhi, Wilson Center, Washington D.C, USA

Pathology of Iran's Cultural Diplomacy in the South Caucasus: Parties New Opportunities and Challenges

Assist. Prof. Hiran Mokhayer, Islamic Azad University, Iran

Assist. Prof. Farid Soltangeys, Azerbaijan Shahid Madani University, Iran

Strategic Barriers in Iran's Foreign Policy Toward Azerbaijan

Afsane Danesh, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran

Russia's Risk Potential in Key Geostrategic Regions and Deterrence Response Solutions

Brig. (R) Rifat Ullah Rifat, Minhaj University Lahore, Pakistan

Futures Studies and Analysis of Israel's Cultural Diplomacy Objectives in the South and North Caucasus

Assist. Prof. Hiran Mokhayer, Islamic Azad University, Iran

Assist. Prof. Farid Soltangeys, Azerbaijan Shahid Madani University, Iran

Examining the "Political Dynamics of Kazakhstan" in the Globalized World

Prof. Dr. Quaisar Alam, Noida International University, India

Prof. Dr. Yazdani Hasan, Noida International University, India

Research Scholar Mohammad Shahid, Noida International University, India

Research Scholar Indu Yadav, Noida International University, India

New Great Game in Energy in Central Asia since the Beginning Ukraine War

Ebrahim Rezaei Rad, Islamic Azad University, Iran

**Session-III: Cultural, Educational and Technological Dimensions
of Central Asia and the Caucasus**

(15:30 pm-17:00 pm Istanbul Time)

Moderator: Prof. Dr Aşkın İnci Sökmen Alaca

**Soft-Power Diplomacy through Stamps: Politico-Cultural Narratives in Central Asia
and the Caucasus**

PhD Assad Mehmood Khan, Minhaj University Lahore, Pakistan

**Deciphering the Dynamics of Technological Advancements in the Contemporary
Central Asian Discourse**

Research Scholar Mohammad Shahid, Noida International University, India

Prof. Dr. Quaisar Alam, Noida International University, India

Prof. Dr. Yazdani Hasan, Noida International University, India

Future of Higher Education in South Asian Region: Needs and Challenges

PhD Muhammad Nasir Khan, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan

**Policy, Curriculum, and Teacher Education: Drivers of Regional Integration
in Central Asia and the Caucasus**

Assist. Prof. Kiram Hashmi, Institute of Business Management, Karachi, Pakistan

**Digital Innovations and their Prospects for Boosting Regional Integration
in Central Asia and the Caucasus**

PhD Ana Yousefian, Islamic Azad University, Iran

Closing Remark

Assoc. Prof. Ali Bilgin Varlık

(17:00 pm-17:30 pm Istanbul Time)