

Comparative Politics Speaker Series, Project on Int'l
Affairs, and The Center for Peace and Security Studies

present

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“Persistent Effects of Inter-Religious Contact on Ethnic Tolerance”

The expulsion of Armenians and exchange of Greek populations in the last decades of the Ottoman Empire produced a modern Turkish Republic that was significantly less diverse than its predecessor. Meanwhile, Kemalist nationalism has dictated that any remaining religious or ethnic differences in the Republic be ignored or suppressed. As a result, ethno-religious politics in Turkey have simmered under the surface, rarely openly discussed yet erupting periodically into episodes of tension and violence. Official avoidance of the question of religion and ethnicity in contemporary Turkey has produced few reliable statistics on demography, conflict, or tolerance. The paucity of contemporary data stands in sharp contrast to the Ottoman census, which took careful note of individuals' religious denomination and mother tongue, as well as the relative proximity of different ethnic and religious communities.

Friday, January 27th, 2017
SSB 104 at 12:30 p.m.
Lunch provided